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UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

NOTICES

Calendar

- 1 July, *Wednesday*. Scarlet Day. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m. (General Admission).
 2 July, *Thursday*. Scarlet Day. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m. (General Admission).
 3 July, *Friday*. Scarlet Day. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m. (General Admission).
 4 July, *Saturday*. Scarlet Day. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m. (General Admission).
 14 July, *Tuesday*. Discussion by videoconference at 2 p.m. (see below).

Discussions (Tuesdays at 2 p.m.)

14 July

Congregations (at 10 a.m. unless otherwise stated)

1, 2, 3 and 4 July (General Admission)
 23, 24 and 25 July

Discussion on Tuesday, 14 July 2026

The Vice-Chancellor invites members of the Regent House, University and College employees, registered students and others qualified under the regulations for Discussions (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 111) to attend a Discussion by **videoconference** on Tuesday, 14 July 2026 at 2 p.m. The following items will be discussed:

1. Report of the Council, dated 23 June 2026, pursuant to Special Ordinance A (ii) 7 (divestment from fossil fuel and arms companies) (*Reporter*, 6830, 2025–26, p. 572).
2. Report of the Council, dated 30 June 2026, on changes to the senior administrative offices (p. 583).
3. Report of the Council, dated 30 June 2026, on the removal of references to the University Chest in Ordinances (p. 587).

Those wishing to join the Discussion by videoconference should email Discussions@admin.cam.ac.uk providing their CRSid (if a member of the collegiate University), by 10 a.m. on the date of the Discussion to receive joining instructions. Alternatively contributors may email their remarks to Discussions@admin.cam.ac.uk, by no later than 10 a.m. on the day of the Discussion for reading out by the Proctors,¹ or may ask someone else who is attending to read the remarks on their behalf.

In accordance with the regulations for Discussions, the Chair of the Board of Scrutiny or any ten members of the Regent House² may request that the Council arrange for one or more of the items listed for discussion to be discussed in person (usually in the Senate-House). Requests should be made to the Director of Governance and Compliance, on paper or by email to UniversityDraftsman@admin.cam.ac.uk from addresses within the cam.ac.uk domain, by no later than 9 a.m. on the day of the Discussion. Any changes to the Discussion schedule will be confirmed in the *Reporter* at the earliest opportunity.

For general information on Discussions see the *Reporter* website at <https://www.reporter.admin.cam.ac.uk/discussions>.

¹ Any comments sent by email should please begin with the name and title of the contributor as they wish it to be read out and include at the start a note of any College and/or Departmental affiliations held.

² <https://www.scrutiny.cam.ac.uk/> and https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/regent_house_roll/.

Leslie Stephen Lecture: Change of date

The Vice-Chancellor gives notice that Professor Lyndal Roper is no longer able to lecture on Thursday, 29 October 2026 as previously announced (*Reporter*, 6801, 2025–26, p. 78). Following approval of Grace 2 of 7 May 2026 (*Reporter*, 6823, 2025–26, p. 456) this lecture is now due to be given on Monday, 1 February 2027 at 5.30 p.m. Further details will be published later.

Health-related policies

11 June 2026

The Council and the General Board have approved revised versions of the Sickness Absence Policy (renamed the Health and Attendance Policy), the Managing Stress and Promoting Wellbeing at Work Policy (renamed the Work-related Stress Policy) and the Disability and Employment Policy. The revised policies place a stronger emphasis on early intervention and provide enhanced guidance to support managers in addressing health-related absence and are online at <https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/policies-procedures-z>.

Consultation on proposals for changes to senior administrative offices: Notice in response to Discussion remarks and other feedback

25 June 2026

The Council has received the remarks made at the Discussion on 26 May 2026 on its consultation report proposing changes to the distribution of the duties currently assigned to the Registry and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) (*Reporter*, 2025–26: 6823, p. 447; 6827, p. 516). It has also received 11 contributions by email, a summary of the discussion at the all-staff meeting on 11 May 2026, and the remarks made at the Discussion on 2 June 2026 (*Reporter*, 6828, 2025–26, p. 475). This response aims to address the main points raised about the report from all four sources. It wishes to thank all those who took the time to share their thoughts on the proposals.

The majority of contributors supported the three-pillar model in which there would be three senior administrators of equal standing – the Registry, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and the Academic Secretary – all reporting to the Vice-Chancellor as Chair of the Council and the General Board. The plan to integrate operations functions under the COO was generally welcomed. Several contributors raised concerns about diminishing the role of the Academic Secretary, weakening the advocacy for academic priorities by subordinating the role to one otherwise focused on governance and regulatory matters. Further, commentators noted that the three roles reflected recognisable skillsets found in the higher education sector, providing an existing pool of candidates from which to recruit. They also noted the alignment of the Registry and the Academic Secretary roles with the bicameral committee structures under the Council and the General Board. The Council is persuaded that a framework supported by academic, operational and governance leads will provide a more balanced representation of those perspectives on University business and therefore has recast its proposals to support the three-pillar model. The remainder of this response assumes that this is the model that the Council will now follow.

Several commentators asked for more information about how the proposals would work in practice. Some found the charts confusing. The proposal's main purpose is to redistribute the duties of the two existing roles of the Registry and the Chief Financial Officer to manage existing workload more effectively and coherently, after assessing current priorities and where need is greatest. As a peer of the Registry and the COO, the Academic Secretary will be able to give voice to academic priorities. That work will be undertaken in consultation with the Secretaries of the Schools, as now. Similarly, the COO will work closely with the Academic Secretary and the School Secretaries to determine the operational resources needed to deliver academic objectives in ways that ensure coherence of data and avoid duplication of activity. What remains are the current responsibilities of the Registry and some parts of the role of CFO that do not fit within the role of Director of Finance, for redistribution between the COO and the revised Registry role. With the Academic Division removed from the Registry's remit, the Registry role becomes that of a University Secretary, widely found within other higher education institutions.

Some commentators expressed a concern about weakening financial oversight without a Chief Financial Officer. Under the Council's proposals, the Director of Finance would report to the COO and a new team would be set up to advise the COO on investments. The Council and the current CFO are of the view that a strong COO appointment would be sufficient to support the University's financial strategy. In particular, the Council notes that the governance structures supporting financial decision-making are now more mature, with robust support from the Press and Assessment Board, the Property Board and the Finance Committee, and a revised approach for Phase 2 of the North West Cambridge development, through a joint venture with a commercial partner, to mitigate the risks identified during Phase 1. Furthermore, the borrowing of additional long-term funds at low interest rates in 2018 and the careful investment of those funds means there is now negligible risk of needing to identify funds to contribute to the repayment of the bond originally raised to fund Phase 1. The position across the University's various pension schemes has also now stabilised. Finally, while the Director of Finance will report to the COO, they will also continue to have a direct relationship with the Finance Committee, the Audit Committee, the Planning and Resources Committee and (as appropriate) with the Council, ensuring a strong continuing voice for finance.

The proposals do not aim to make significant changes to the existing partnerships between the Pro-Vice-Chancellors, providing academic leadership in particular areas of University activity, and the Directors of professional service teams (including but not limited to UAS Divisions) who provide expertise in those corresponding areas. The Council recognises that the teams led by these Directors are variously focused on operations, provision of services, strategy, or a combination of those functions. The proposals also do not intend to make changes to the remits or reporting lines of existing committees¹ nor to the current structures for the management of operations and the development of strategy across the University, whether within the UAS, UIS or in the Schools and other academic units. However, they do envisage that the COO, the Registry and the Academic Secretary would have responsibility for reviewing existing arrangements and suggesting new, more efficient ways of working in their respective areas of activity, in consultation as appropriate. These discussions might then in turn lead to changes to those arrangements. This is expected to be particularly fruitful for the holistic embedding of sustainability across all operations.

¹ This includes the Information Services Committee, where the only change proposed is to add the COO to its membership in place of the Registry.

Several contributors, mostly from University Information Services (UIS), identified a risk of weakening academic governance and prioritising administrative needs by bringing UIS within the Unified Administrative Service (UAS). The Council does not consider UIS becoming part of the UAS to be a ‘relegation’, as those who signed the request for the Topic of concern described it. It also suggests the use of this term could be considered disrespectful towards the staff of the UAS. Within the University there are units whose primary function is to carry out teaching and research and there are others whose primary function is to facilitate that teaching and research. UIS and the existing Divisions of UAS are both in that second group. The Council acknowledges that some of UIS’s activity involves working closely in partnership with academic staff, for example, Research Computing Services designs, deploys and runs high-performance digital infrastructure for the University, but that level of expertise is also to be found in the UAS, for example, in the outputs of the Cambridge Centre for Teaching and Learning in the Academic Division.

The Topic of concern called for a suspension of the plans for the relocation of UIS under the COO alongside parts of UAS, to allow time for the development of a digital strategy. Several contributors presented an alternative view, supporting the relocation of UIS as a means to improve coordination across professional services. Others noted that effective governance, engagement and leadership, rather than organisational location alone, determine academic alignment, and the urgent need for a digital strategy. The Council shares the view that it should not delay recruitment of a COO, who can support the Director of UIS in developing and implementing that strategy.

The Council notes the suggestion that the Health, Safety and Regulated Facilities Division might be better located within the Academic Division or as part of the Registry’s revised remit. Having considered those options, the Council continues to favour its colocation with the Human Resources and Estates Divisions under the COO, given that all three Divisions intersect on the safety of staff and physical infrastructure in the pursuit of the University’s academic mission.

Several commentators noted a risk of creating another unmanageable role by transferring a substantial part of the Registry’s workload to the COO. The Council is aware of this risk, but it notes that the remit of the COO would be a much more coherent and operations-focused role than the role currently assigned to the Registry, and that the Directors of the individual Divisions would continue to be the main drivers of change in their areas of activity, with the support and input of the COO and the relevant Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

Some contributors noted an overlap between the role of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Resources and Operations and the COO and queried what the implications might be. In 2024, the Council recruited a Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Resources and Operations to address a need for a greater focus on prioritisation and operational effectiveness. The appointment of a COO will build on Professor Philpott’s work as part of a transition to ‘business as usual’. Professor Philpott supports (and was instrumental in devising) the Council’s proposals as set out in the consultation report. The Council routinely reviews the portfolio of each Pro-Vice-Chancellor when there is a vacancy, to reflect current needs. There will therefore be an opportunity for the Council to consider whether any changes need to be made to the portfolio of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Resources and Operations once a COO is in place.

The consultation report notes a proposed change to enable the Council to allow or direct that any duty of the Registry is performed by an officer or a postholder, rather than only by an officer. One specific point queries whether that change is appropriate. The University’s Statutes already give the Council the ability to fill an unestablished post of Acting Registry during a vacancy in the substantive office. The Council wishes to have the flexibility to choose the right person to undertake such a duty based on their skills and experience rather than on the terms under which they are employed.

The Council notes that there are no plans to change the current reporting lines of the Directors of the University’s Development and Alumni Relations and its Communications and External Affairs teams.

The Council is publishing a Report (p. 583) seeking approval for revised amendments to the University’s Statutes and Ordinances.

VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Vacancies in the University

A full list of current vacancies can be found at <https://www.cam.ac.uk/jobs>.

Assistant Teaching Professorship in Psychology in the Department of Psychology (fixed term); tenure: two years from 1 September 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter; informal enquiries: Dr Lee de Wit, Deputy Head for Undergraduate Education (email: lhd26@cam.ac.uk); closing date: 23 July 2026; further details: <https://www.cam.ac.uk/jobs/assistant-teaching-professor-fixed-term-pj50113>; quote reference: PJ50113

The University actively supports equality, diversity and inclusion and encourages applications from all sections of society. The University has a responsibility to ensure that all employees are eligible to live and work in the UK.

REPORTS

Report of the Council on changes to the senior administrative offices

The COUNCIL begs leave to report to the University as follows:

1. This Report proposes amendments to the University's Statutes and Ordinances to redistribute responsibility for the line management of enabling services between the Registry and a new office of Chief Operating Officer (COO). The main aims of these changes are to create two more manageable and more coherent roles, and to bring together enabling services under the COO to offer opportunities for greater coordination and integration of those services. These proposals have been revised and refined in response to comments received during a consultation earlier this term (*Reporter*, 6823, 2025–26, p. 447).

2. The Council has published its response to the helpful feedback received in a separate Notice (p. 581), which should be read in conjunction with this Report. It now presents for approval a three-pillar structure to manage services and functions that support teaching and research in the furtherance of the University's academic mission, with the Academic Secretary becoming a peer of the Registry and the COO. The Council wishes to acknowledge the important work of the University's professional services staff in supporting operations and strategy, and providing enabling services.

3. The amendments:

- retain the office of Registry in Statute;
- move the duties of the Registry to Special Ordinance and split them between the Registry and the COO, and recognise the Academic Secretary as their peer, with the Registry and COO under the direction of the Council, and the Academic Secretary under the direction of the General Board, through the Vice-Chancellor;
- enable the Council to delegate the duties of the Registry, COO and Academic Secretary to officers or postholders (currently there is only authority for the Council to delegate the duties of the Registry to officers);

5. The Council recommends:

- I. That the Statutes of the University be amended as follows, and that these amendments be submitted to His Majesty in Council for approval.

By amending Statute C VI (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 20) to read as follows:

THE REGISTRARY

1. Provision shall be made by Special Ordinance for the appointment of the Registry, for the determination of the duties and responsibilities of the holder of that office and for the appointment of an Acting Registry during a vacancy in that office.

2. There shall be under the direction of the Council administrative officers in categories determined by Ordinance and postholders. So far as the Council may allow or direct, any duty of the Registry may be performed by such an officer or postholder.

- II. That the amendments to Ordinances as set out in Annex A be approved.

30 June 2026

DEBORAH PRENTICE,
Vice-Chancellor

GAENOR BAGLEY

MATTHEW COPEMAN

DANIELA DE ANGELIS

JO DEKKERS

JOHN DIX

ALEX HALLIDAY

HEATHER HANCOCK

ELLA MCPHERSON

SCOTT MANDELBRÖTE

EWA MAREK

SALLY MORGAN

ALAN SHORT

PIETER VAN HOUTEN

ANDREW WATHEY

GARTH WELLS

STEPHEN WILSON

ANNEX A

If Recommendation II is approved, the following amendments to Ordinances will be made:

(a) By amending Special Ordinance C (iv) (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 79) to read as follows:

*The Registry, Chief Operating Officer and Academic Secretary
(Special Ordinance under Statute C VI)*

1. (a) The Registry and the Chief Operating Officer shall be appointed by the Council and placed under its direction through the Vice-Chancellor.

(b) The Academic Secretary shall be appointed by the Council after consultation with the General Board and placed under the direction of the General Board through the Vice-Chancellor.

(c) None of the holders of the offices of Registry, Chief Operating Officer and Academic Secretary shall be a member of the Council or the Board of Scrutiny.

2. (a) So far as the Council may allow or direct, any duty of the Chief Operating Officer may be performed by an officer or postholder.

(b) So far as the General Board may allow or direct, any duty of the Academic Secretary may be performed by an officer or postholder.

3. During a vacancy in the office of Registry (or Academic Secretary or Chief Operating Officer), the Council may appoint an Acting Registry (or Acting Academic Secretary or Acting Chief Operating Officer, as the case may be) upon such terms of remuneration as it thinks fit.

4. It shall be the duty of the Registry

(a) to act as the principal governance officer of the University, and the head of the University's administrative staff supporting governance, legal affairs and policy;

(b) to keep a record of the proceedings of the University, and to attend for that purpose all Congregations of the Regent House and such other public proceedings of the University as may be specified by Statute or Ordinance or by the Council;

(c) to act as Secretary to the Council;

(d) to receive reports of Boards, Syndicates, and other bodies, and to deal with them as required by Statute or Ordinance;

(e) to be responsible for maintaining a register of members of the University, and keeping records of matriculations and class-lists, and of degrees, diplomas, and other qualifications;

(f) to edit *Statutes and Ordinances* and the *Cambridge University Reporter*;

(g) to issue such certificates as may be required in accordance with Statute A II 8;

(h) to witness the affixing of the Common Seal, or appoint deputies to do so, and to carry out related duties as set out in Statute A II 13(c);

(i) to issue such certificates as may be required in accordance with Statute J 11;

(j) to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by Statute or Ordinance or by the Council.

5. It shall be the duty of the Chief Operating Officer

(a) to act as the principal operations officer of the University, and the head of the University's administrative staff supporting other operations not within the remit of the Academic Secretary under Section 6(a);

(b) to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by Statute or Ordinance or by the Council.

6. It shall be the duty of the Academic Secretary

(a) to act as the principal academic planning officer of the University, and the head of the University's administrative staff supporting academic planning and education and research operations;

(b) to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by Statute or Ordinance or by the General Board.

(b) By inserting references to the Academic Secretary and the Chief Operating Officer in the following after the references to the Registry:

Special Ordinance A (i) (a)(i) (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 67)

Schedule G (i) 1 (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 106)

Regulation 4 of the Ordinance for the Nomination of Members of the Council in Class (e) (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 119)

Regulations 1 and 5 of the Ordinance for the Order of Seniority of Graduates (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 176)

Regulation 4 of the Ordinance for Academical Dress (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 177)

Regulation 3 of the Ordinance for Addresses to the Sovereign and Formal Letters to Other Universities (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 181)

Ordinance for Emeritus Officers (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 674)

(c) In the Ordinance for the Unified Administrative Service (Staff of the University Offices) (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 693)

(i) by amending Regulations 1, 2, 3, 6(c) and 7(a) to read as follows and retaining existing footnotes:

1. The staff of the University Offices shall form a Unified Administrative Service which shall be under the supervision of the Council and shall comprise the following Divisions split between (i) Operations, (ii) Academic Planning and Related Operations, and (iii) Governance and Legal:

Operations

Estates Division

Finance Division

Health, Safety, and Regulated Facilities Division

Human Resources Division

Information Services Division

Investment Oversight and Appraisal Office

Academic Planning and Related Operations

Academic Division

Governance and Legal

Governance and Compliance Division

Legal Services Division

2. (a) Under the provisions of Special Ordinance C (iv), within the Unified Administrative Service the head of Operations shall be the Chief Operating Officer, the head of Academic Planning and Related Operations shall be the Academic Secretary, and the head of Governance and Legal shall be the Registry.

(b) Under the direction of the Council, the Chief Operating Officer, the Academic Secretary and the Registry shall manage their staff within University Offices and their staffing, funding, space, and other resources provided to the Offices by the Council. It shall be the duty of the Chief Operating Officer, the Academic Secretary and the Registry to ensure that arrangements for the quality assurance of the services provided by the Offices are presented to the Council and are implemented as agreed by the Council. The Chief Operating Officer, the Academic Secretary and the Registry shall make such reports on the work of the University Offices to the Council as that body may require.

(c) The Chief Operating Officer, or a University officer appointed by the Chief Operating Officer, shall be the Establishment Licence Holder for facilities regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

3. With the exception of the Academic Division, within each Division of the Unified Administrative Service there shall be the University office of Director (or such other title as may be determined from time to time by the Council) who shall be head of the Division and whose duties shall include the management of the Division, under the overall responsibility of the Registry or the Chief Operating Officer.

- [6.] (c) (i) the Chief Operating Officer if the appointment is in an Operations Division, the Academic Secretary if the appointment is in the Academic Division or the Registry if the appointment is in a Governance and Legal Division (or a deputy appointed by the relevant officer);
- (ii) the Director of the Division in which the appointment is to be made (except where it is the Director of the Division who is to be appointed or reappointed);

- [7.] (a) Appointments and reappointments to the offices of Director, Deputy Director, Assistant Director, Principal Assistant Registry, Principal Assistant Operating Officer, Principal Assistant Planning Officer, Principal Assistant Treasurer, Senior Assistant Registry, Senior Assistant Operating Officer, Senior Assistant Planning Officer and Senior Assistant Treasurer shall be made by the Standing Appointments Committee on the recommendation of an Appointing Committee, the membership of which shall be approved by the Chair of the Standing Appointments Committee, which shall consist of the Registry if the appointment is in a Governance and Legal Division, or the Academic Secretary if the appointment is in an Academic Planning and Related Operations Division, or the Chief Operating Officer if the appointment is in an Operations Division (or a deputy appointed by the relevant officer), the Director of the Division in which the appointment is to be made, an appropriate senior academic-related officer, a senior academic with experience and interest in what the role of the office entails, and a member of the Standing Appointments Committee in class (b).
- (ii) in Regulations 4 and 8 by inserting ‘, Assistant Operating Officer, Assistant Planning Officer’ after ‘Assistant Registry’, in Regulation 8 by inserting ‘, Academic Secretary and Chief Operating Officer’ after ‘the Registry’, and in Regulation 11 by inserting ‘, Academic Secretary and Chief Operating Officer’ after ‘the Registry’ in two locations.
- (d) By rescinding the Ordinance for University Information Services (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 672).
- (e) By replacing references to the Registry with references to the Chief Operating Officer in the following Ordinances:
 Regulation 1(b)(ii), University and Staff Joint Board (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 127)
 Regulation 1(g), Information Services Committee (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 138).

ANNEX B

If Recommendation II is approved, the following changes to Notices and Regulations not in Ordinance would also be made:

- (a) In the Notice on Appointing arrangements for certain academic-related offices (reproduced in *Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 675), in paragraph 3 by replacing references to ‘the Registry’ with references to ‘the Registry, the Academic Secretary or the Chief Operating Officer, as appropriate’, and in the Schedule to paragraph 9 by replacing the paragraph about the Head of the institution for an office established in an institution under the supervision of the Unified Administrative Service with ‘The Chief Operating Officer’.
- (b) In the Notice on University maternity leave and other family-related leave policy (reproduced in *Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 679, as amended with effect from 1 October 2024) by revising the first paragraph to read as follows:
 A University officer who intends to take maternity leave shall give notice of that fact by the fifteenth week before the expected week of childbirth, through the Personnel Consultant assigned to the officer’s institution, to the Chief Operating Officer.
- (c) In the Financial Regulations (reproduced in *Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 1056), in paragraphs 6.4 and 7.1 by inserting references to the Academic Secretary and the Chief Operating Officer in the bulleted lists, in paragraphs 8, 18.3(a) and 20.1 by replacing the references to the Registry with references to the Chief Operating Officer, and in paragraph M by replacing the seventh bullet with the following:
 The Registry, the Academic Secretary and the Chief Operating Officer are the heads of the University’s administrative staff supporting, respectively, governance and legal, academic planning and related operations, and other operations.^[1]
^[1] Special Ordinance C (iv) 1 and 2.
- (d) In the Sites and Buildings Regulations (reproduced in *Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 1066), in paragraphs 1.6 and 3.4 by replacing references to the Registry with references to the Chief Operating Officer.
- (e) By replacing a reference to the Registry with a reference to the Chief Operating Officer in the footnote attached to the Joint Notice on Additional Payments for Administrative Responsibility (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 688).

Report of the Council on the removal of references to the University Chest in Ordinances

The COUNCIL begs leave to report to the University as follows:

1. This Report proposes changes to Ordinances to remove or replace references to the University Chest and related matters in preparation for the implementation of Enhanced Financial Transparency (EFT). The Chest is a mechanism that has been used to monitor the use of certain sources of funding separately from others. The University has developed EFT as an alternative means for financial reporting, in which income and expenditure are matched to activity undertaken, which is a common accounting practice and a methodology that has been adopted by many higher education institutions.

2. Plans for the transition to EFT are on track. The Council provided an update on progress on EFT and on the wider developments as part of the Financial Transparency Programme earlier this term, which also noted a timetable for implementation of EFT (*Reporter*, 6822, 2025–26, p. 438). The launch of the new finance system and the switch-over to EFT are planned for Easter Term 2027. The Report setting out the budget for the 2026–27 financial year, as published earlier this term, is therefore expected to be the last recommending allocations from the Chest.

3. The Reports recommending the budget and allocations published since 2022 have included increasing levels of detailed analysis of the University's finances. This data has expanded beyond the confines of the Chest to include information on all sources of income and expenditure. Schools and individual institutions have also received more in-depth management information, which has enabled them to make better-informed decisions to assist in planning and budgeting.

4. The Report recommending the budget and allocations for 2026–27 described the steps for transition to EFT following the new finance system going live in Easter Term 2027 (*Reporter*, 6827, 2025–26, p. 510). In anticipation of that switch-over, the Finance Transformation Programme team will continue to work with academic and professional services stakeholders to refine plans for the two-year initial phase that will start from the go-live date. The Financial Statements and the associated Remuneration report will continue to be published annually, as will the Financial Management Information (FMI), although with content and format adaptations to reflect the new Chart of Accounts and EFT. In order to support greater transparency once EFT is embedded, high-level management information will also be published with links to a drillable dashboard.

5. Annex A shows the proposed amendments to Ordinances, to take effect from a date agreed by the Council once all necessary preparations are complete, expected to be in Easter Term 2027. The amendments:

- (a) describe the activities to be addressed in the budget for the University as the activities of the University other than those of its subsidiaries and those under the direction of the Press and Assessment Syndicate (i.e. excluding the activities of Cambridge University Press & Assessment);¹
- (b) replace a reference to an annual Report recommending the Chest allocations to the General Board and the Council with a reference to an annual Report recommending the budget for the University, which is to include a breakdown to show line items above a threshold set by the Council, which will be £100k until further notice (a more granular breakdown will still be provided to the Planning and Resources Committee and to the institutions concerned);
- (c) remove Ordinances for funds that were originally set up to provide transparency on the use of Chest funding. The University Education Fund was set up in 1968 to receive Chest funding for allocation by the General Board, and added to Ordinances in 1974. It has no current balance. The Quinquennial Equalization Fund was also established in Ordinances in the same year; surplus Chest income was transferred to this Fund at the end of each financial year and applied by the Council as a contingency fund. This fund is currently in deficit. The Strategic Planning Reserve Fund was established in 1993 to set aside Chest funding to support strategic goals for which no other funding was available. It was closed in 2022, with unspent funds returned to the Chest;
- (d) remove other references to the Chest.

If the changes in Annex A are approved, the Council, the General Board and the Finance Committee have agreed to make the consequential changes set out in Annex B to other provisions from the same date.

6. The Council recommends, with effect from a date to be agreed by the Council, that the amendments to Ordinances as set out in Annex A be approved.

30 June 2026

DEBORAH PRENTICE,
Vice-Chancellor

WILLIAM ASTLE
GAENOR BAGLEY
MATTHEW COPEMAN
JO DEKKERS
JOHN DIX

ALEX HALLIDAY
HEATHER HANCOCK
ELLA MCPHERSON
SCOTT MANDELBROTE
EWA MAREK
SALLY MORGAN
RICHARD MORTIER

MEZNA QATO
JASON SCOTT-WARREN
ALAN SHORT
PIETER VAN HOUTEN
ANDREW WATHEY
GARTH WELLS
STEPHEN WILSON

¹ The annual Report recommending the budget will include Qualifying Charitable Donations (QCD) made to academic institutions in the University.

ANNEX A

The following amendments to Ordinances are proposed:

(a) In Special Ordinance F (i) (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 106) by rescinding existing Section 5¹ and by amending Sections 1 and 2 to read as follows:

1. The Council shall:

- (a) include in its general supervision over the finances of the University the supervision of reserves and investments and income and expenditure;
- (b) make a Report on the University's financial position at least once in each year recommending the budget for the next financial year for the University.

2. Save as is otherwise provided in Statutes and Ordinances, all income accruing to the University for the purposes of teaching and research shall be credited to such account or accounts as the Council shall determine. The Report prescribed by Section 1(b) shall address the activities of the University other than those of its subsidiaries and those under the direction of the Press and Assessment Syndicate. It shall include or exclude such further activities as the Council shall determine from time to time.

(b) By removing the words 'from the Chest' from the following regulations:

Regulation 2, Chancellor's Medal for an English Poem (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 809)

Regulation 5, Gedge Prize (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 851)

Regulation 1, Prince Philip Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 723)

(c) In the Ordinance for the Hulsean Fund (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 879) by inserting the following new Regulation 2 and renumbering the remaining regulations:

2. Sums received for defraying expenses connected with the administration of the Hulsean Fund shall be paid out of the income of the Fund.

(d) By removing the words 'to the Chest' from the following regulations:

Regulation 3, Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 703)

Regulations 2 and 4, Whewell Trust Fund and Whewell Scholarship (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 1029)

(e) By amending the General Regulations for University Funds (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 1085) to read as follows:

In addition to the several funds prescribed by Statute there shall be such other funds as may be prescribed by Ordinance or as the Council shall from time to time determine.

(f) In the Ordinance for the Funds of Faculties, Departments, and Other Institutions (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 1086) by replacing references to 'funds' with 'budgets' in the title and in Regulations 1–3.

(g) By replacing Regulations 3 and 4 of the Ordinance for Estimates (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 1086) with the following and retitling the Ordinance as the Ordinance for the University Budget:

3. In the first half of the Easter Term, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Finance Committee shall submit to the Council a statement of the income and expenditure of the University during the preceding financial year, a revised estimate of the corresponding figures for the current financial year, and an estimate of the corresponding figures for the ensuing financial year.

4. Before the end of the Easter Term or as soon as possible thereafter, the Council shall publish a Report on the financial position of the University in accordance with Special Ordinance F (i) 1(b), recommending a budget for the University for the ensuing financial year. That Report shall include a breakdown of the budget for line items above a threshold set from time to time by the Council.^[1]

^[1] The Council has determined that the threshold shall be £100k until further notice.

(h) By rescinding the following:

Funds allocated to the Council (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 1086)

Quinquennial Equalization Fund (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 1088)

Strategic Planning Reserve Fund (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 1089)

University Education Fund (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 1089)

¹ This provision has been transferred to Ordinance; see paragraph (c) below.

ANNEX B

If this Report's recommendation is approved by Grace, the following changes will be made.

(a) The General Board has agreed to remove the words 'for the Chest' from the following General Board Regulations:

Regulation 3, Bachelor of Divinity (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 449)

Regulation 3, Doctor of Divinity (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 450)

Regulation 3, Doctor of Law (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 463)

Regulation 3(c), Doctor of Music (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 487)

Regulation 5, Doctor of Philosophy: Special Regulations (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 492)

Regulation 3, Doctor of Science and Doctor of Letters (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 544)

(b) In the Sites and Buildings Regulations (reproduced in *Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 1066), the Council, the General Board and the Finance Committee have agreed to replace the final sentence of the definition of the 'Non-Operational Estate' in Schedule 5 with 'It is managed on a self-funded basis.'

OBITUARIES**Obituary Notices**

Professor GUY ANTONY JAMESON, M.A., Ph.D., FRS, FRAeS, FREng, Honorary and former Research Fellow of Trinity Hall, Daniel Guggenheim Medallist and Pendray Award-winner, aerospace engineer, died on 11 June 2026, aged 91 years.

Professor MELVYN JOHN HATCHER, M.A., Litt.D., FAcSS, Life Fellow and formerly Vice-Master, Tutor and Director of Studies in History of Corpus Christi College, Emeritus Professor of Economic and Social History, died on 13 June 2026, aged 84 years.

Professor ROSAMOND DEBORAH MCKITTERICK, M.A., Ph.D., Litt.D., FRHistS, FRSA, FSA, Fellow and former Vice-Master of Sidney Sussex College, formerly Fellow, Vice-Principal and Director of Studies in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic of Newnham College, Professor Emerita of Medieval History and sometime Director of Research, Faculty of History, former President of the Ecclesiastical History Society, Heineken Prizewinner, died on 13 June 2026, aged 77 years.

ACTA

Congregation of the Regent House on 24 June 2026: Honorary Degrees

A Congregation of the Regent House was held in the Chapel of Queens' College at 2.45 p.m., at which the Chancellor was present. Before the Congregation, a procession formed and walked from the President's Garden through Walnut Tree Court to the Chapel. The train of the Chancellor's robe was carried by Mr Ben Pattison, of Queens' College. Music was performed by the Cambridge University Brass Ensemble, directed by Mr Christopher Lawrence, of Newnham College, by Mr Edward Clynes of Trinity College and by members of the choirs of Peterhouse and of Selwyn College. The programme of music was arranged by the University Organist, Ms Sarah MacDonald, Director of Music of Selwyn College, and the choirs were directed by Ms MacDonald and by Dr Simon Jackson, Director of Music of Peterhouse. The bells of the University Church were rung by members of the Cambridge University Guild of Change Ringers and of the Society of Cambridge Youths, directed by Dr Claire Barlow, of Newnham College, deputy for Dr Frank King, of Churchill College, the University Bellringer.

The following titular degrees were conferred by the Chancellor:

Doctor of Law (honoris causa):

SUE, BARONESS CARR OF WALTON-ON-THE-HILL, D.B.E., P.C., M.A.,

Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, Visitor of Darwin College, Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales, lawyer and judge

ANGELA MERKEL,

Former Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, King Charles II Medallist of the Royal Society, politician and leader

PHILIPPE SANDS, K.C., M.A., LL.M., F.R.S.L., (HON.) F.B.A.,

former Research Fellow of St Catharine's College, sometime Visiting Fellow of Jesus College, member of Corpus Christi College, Professor of Law, University College London, legal scholar, advocate and writer

Doctor of Medical Science (honoris causa):

YUK MING DENNIS LO, M.A., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.PATH., F.R.S.,

Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College, Vice-Chancellor, President and Li Ka Shing Professor of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, clinician and molecular biologist

Doctor of Science (honoris causa):

FABIOLA GIANOTTI, FOR.MEM.R.S.,

former Director of CERN, particle physicist

Doctor of Letters (honoris causa):

RICHARD EYRE, Kt, C.H., C.B.E., B.A., F.R.S.L.,

Honorary Fellow of Peterhouse, former Artistic Director of the Royal National Theatre, director in theatre, film, opera and television

RACHEL WHITEREAD, D.B.E.,

Honorary Fellow of Magdalene College, visual artist

Doctor of Music (honoris causa):

GEORGE BENJAMIN, Kt, C.B.E., M.A., MUS.B., (HON.) F.R.A.M., (HON.) F.R.C.M.,

Honorary Fellow of King's College, Henry Purcell Professor of Composition, King's College London, composer and conductor

The Orator delivered the following speeches when presenting the honorary graduands to the Chancellor:

AGMEN ducit mulier iuris prudentissima. apud nos primum linguarum studio adhibita ac postea ad scientiam legis adducta — quid enim in iurisconsulto maioris habendum quam loquendi et ratiocinandi acumen? — cum aduocati pallam sericam assumpsisset magnum sibi nomen in litibus negotiatorum componendis comparauit. deinde in iudicum subsellia arcessita amplis honoribus utebatur, quippe quae causis ad artes utiliores pertinentibus quaerendis prima praeposita esset femina, quae conuentibus in mediis comitatibus actis esset praefecta, quae inter appellationum praetores esset adscripta; summi iam atque antiquissimi iusticiarii muneris monumenta si euolueritis, magistri, hominum grauissimorum xcvii alia nomina inscripta uidebitis, sed nullam mulierem prius inuenietis quam hospitem hanc nostram praeclaram.

hodie congregati sumus non solum ad res gestas maxima laude dignas honestandas, sed etiam ut qui eosdem mores et uirtutes cogitandi agendique praecipue coluerunt ad quos omnia consilia et facta alumnos nostros relaturos esse speramus rite celebrentur. quas quidem uirtutes nullum est dubium quin haec mulier praestet, quae uoce et uita ipsa haec praecepta profitetur: si quid in qualibet re ambigatur, ratione potius quam ui componendum, certa lingua et iura et officia ita describenda ut in utramque partem res disputetur, iudicium tandem summa cura aequitate humanitate plane atque aperte exercendum. haec enim societatis, haec libertatis fundamenta quae stare uix possunt nisi iudicia administrant iudices liberi incorrupti timore soluti. quos cum rerum inopia laborare, litium copia reprimi, contionatorum etiam reprehensione oppugnari uideamus, ei atque consociis gratias agere debemus qui Iustitiam sedulo colunt et tuentur.

dignissime domine, domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregiam hanc mulierem admodum honorabilem, excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici dominam commendatricem, regiae maiestatis intimo concilio adscriptam, Magistram in Artibus, Collegi Sanctae et Indiuiduae Trinitatis honoris causa sociam adscitam, Collegi Darwiniani uisitatricem, Summam totius Angliae Valesiaeque Iusticiariam, iurisconsultam et iudicem,

SUE baronissam CARR de WALTON IN COLLE,
ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Iure.

FIRST we welcome a woman at the pinnacle of the legal profession. She studied languages before she turned to the law — and surely the most valuable quality in a lawyer is precision of language and thought. She was soon called to the Bar and took silk, and had gained a great reputation in the practice of commercial law before she began a distinguished judicial career: as the first woman to sit as a High Court Judge in the Technology and Construction Court, as a presiding judge of the Midland Circuit, and as a Lady Justice of Appeal. And now if you examine the historical records you will find that ninety-seven worthy and notable men have held the office of Lord Chief Justice; but you will find no Lady Chief Justice before her.

We are gathered today to honour not only those who have achieved great things but who are exemplars of those values of thought and deed which we hope our graduates will carry into their own professions. Our honorand's life and career speak eloquently of those values: that disputes should be settled by reason rather than power; that rights and obligations should be articulated in language which can be tested, that justice must be done and seen to be done with fairness, with courtesy and with care. These are the foundations of civil society, but they cannot stand unless justice is administered by judges who are free of fear and favour. When we see the judiciary starved of resources, overcome by the volume of cases, and even attacked by politicians, we are thankful to our Lady Chief Justice and her colleagues who serve and protect our legal system with such care and diligence.

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

SUE Baroness CARR of WALTON-ON-THE-HILL, D.B.E., P.C., M.A.,

*Honorary Fellow of Trinity College,
Visitor of Darwin College,
Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales,
lawyer and judge,*

that she may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Law, honoris causa.

ΟΜΕΝ φιλόσοφος (ita enim apud Aristotelem scriptum uidemus) βούλεται περὶ φρόνησιν εἶναι καὶ τὴν θεωρίαν τὴν περὶ τὴν ἀλήθειαν, ὁ δὲ πολιτικὸς περὶ τὰς πράξεις τὰς καλὰς.¹ quas geminas uirtutes in hac nostra hospite mira quadam ratione coniunctas conspiciamus. quae puella septem annos nata murum per urbem traiectionem populumque diuisum uidit a rebus publicis prorsus abhorruit. ‘scientiae physicae potius,’ inquit, ‘me deuoui, in qua difficilior a ueritate deflectitur.’ neque isto muro tandem refracto cum populus ad infestum rei publicae statum euertendum concitatus esset — amor enim libertatis non diu moeniis reprimatur — a consuetudine discessit, sed ad balneas, ut mos erat, cum amicis lotum se contulit. sed tum primum innuentem ciuitatem liberam sensit. quid plura? citato gradu ad summos honores peruenit.

nemo qui fluctibus ciuilibus et aurae fauoris iactandum se committit perpetua tranquillitate fruitur: quis enim in omnibus rebus hominibus omnibus potest placere? sed inter maximas rei pecuniariae tempestates, coram inaudita hominum uim bellumque refugientium copia, in extremo publicae salutis ignotaeque pestilentiae discrimine, ratione et re ipsa docta summa diligentia cursum saluum direxit. sunt qui firmiore manu, sunt qui liberiore clauum teneri debuisse querantur. quanta tamen gratia, quanta uoluntate apud populum floruerit uos ipsi iudicare potestis, magistri, quae cum principatum annos xvi tenuisset mater patriae nuncupatur, quanto honore foris utatur quae liberarum gentium cancellariam uocabatur. et sic uolo uobis persuadere: cum omnia hoc tempore bello flagrare uideamus, temere nos ei hortanti non parere ut istius muri memoria moti ad iniuriam et seruitutem debellandam eamus et omnia claustra quae oppida, quae ciuitates, quae hominem ab homine diffindant totis uiribus reuellere atque refrangere nitamur.

dignissime domine, domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregiam hanc mulierem regendae rei publicae scientissimam, Regiae Societatis nomismate Carolino donatam, rei publicae Germanorum foederatae olim Cancellariam,

ANGELA MERKEL,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Iure.

¹ Eth. Eud. 1215b.1.

THE NATURAL SCIENTIST — so Aristotle tells us — is concerned with the contemplation and discovery of truth, the politician with the nobility of action. Both of these natures we see wonderfully combined in our next honorand. She was seven years old when the Berlin Wall divided a city and a nation, and this put her off politics completely. ‘I chose to pursue a career in physics,’ she says, ‘because there the truth isn’t so easily bent.’ Not even as the wall fell and the people rose up to topple the unjust regime — for the hunger for freedom cannot be repressed by walls for long — not even then did she change her routine: she went to the sauna with her friends, as was her custom. But then she felt the first call of politics, and soon she had ascended to the highest honours.

No one who commits themselves to the turbulent sea of politics and the winds of public approval can expect perpetual tranquillity. She held the rudder of the ship of state during a worldwide financial crisis, amid unprecedented numbers of people fleeing from violence and war, and confronted by a global pandemic; but guided by reason and pragmatism she steered a safe course through those troubled waters. Some will say the hand on the tiller was too strict, others not strict enough; for who can please all people in all things? But you may judge for yourselves in what favour and affection she was held at home from her having occupied the highest office for sixteen years and being hailed as mater patriae; and what respect she enjoys abroad by the fact that she has been called chancellor of the free world. And of this you may be sure: when we see the world once again ravaged by war, we would do well to heed her when she says, ‘The fall of the Berlin Wall serves for us all today as a call to fight oppression and to tear down all the walls that separate the world, that divide cities, regions and nations.’

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

ANGELA MERKEL,

*formerly Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany,
King Charles II Medallist of the Royal Society,
politician and leader,*

that she may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Law, honoris causa.

LEGVM ac libertatis uindex nunc adstat, magistri, et iurum hominum rationis inter auctores grauissimos aestimandus. euersis calor frigidisque modis insularum incolas fame incendiis aquarum eluuione in extremo capitis fortunaeque discrimine uersatos strenue defendit. dictaturam gerentibus in ius tandem uocatis ne summum quidem reipublicae locum immunitatem praebere respondet; ne causam defendat recusat; accusatoribus se adiungit: maiorem enim quam habet potentiam uir audax sibi arroget, si facinora impune commisisse uideatur.

neque in tribunali tantum et apud iudices nomen ac praemia eloquentiae sibi comparauit sed et in aliis libris et in quo iura et leges de quibus omnes fere inter gentes hodie conuenit unde et quare et quomodo ortae sint ab origine percontatus enarrat; neque arida et exsanguis, ut alii, utitur lingua; sed eorum hominum uitas quorum alter scelera in ipsam humanitatem edita descripsit, alter uerbum nouum genocidium in sermonem induxit, cum re sua familiari summo colore illustrata ita contexuit ut eius temporis non modo immanem audaciam et saeuitiam uerbis uix contentam uerum etiam spem uirtutem indomitam humanitatem diuina quadam claritate exhibeat. talia qui legit, cum a uiris potentioribus legem impune neglectam, iura hominum audacter obtrita, omnes etiam mores et instituta gentium temere labefactata uideat, haud potest facere quin uereatur ne terror iste ac pestis iterum adoriatur. ne tamen ad immaturam adducamur desperationem monet hic uir: uiam longam neque spem fractam. nam ut scripsit poeta, Δίκη δ' ὑπὲρ ὕβριος ἴσχει ἐς τέλος ἐξελθοῦσα.¹

dignissime domine, domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum inter consiliarios Domini Regis in lege peritos adscriptum, Magistrum in Artibus nec non Magistrum in Iure, Regiae Litterarum Societatis sodalem, Academiae Britannicae honoris causa socium adscriptum, Collegi Sanctae Catharinae Virginis olim socium adscitum, Collegio Iesu hospitis iure quondam socium adscriptum, Collegi Corporis Christi alumnum, Collegi Vniuersitatis apud Londinienses professorem, doctum uirum et scientiae legalis peritissimum, iurisconsultum et rerum scriptorem,

PHILIPPE SANDS,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Iure.

¹ Hes. *Op.* 217–18.

THERE stands before us a champion of laws and liberty who is rightly to be counted an expert on the law of human rights. He has taken up the case of those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by climate collapse, by famine, by fire and by flood. To dictators who finally face justice he replies that even the highest office proffers no immunity; he refuses their defence and joins their prosecution. For when the criminal is let go unpunished, as the diarist Friedrich Reck once wrote, he is made to look more powerful than he is.

Nor only in court has he won renown and prizes of eloquence. Among many outstanding books we remember especially that in which he sets out the origins and theoretical underpinnings of the modern concepts of international law — not as an arid, academic tome; but the lives of the two men who between them defined the theory of crimes against humanity and introduced the word ‘genocide’ into our language he weaves together with his own family history, and with such vivid colour that we see played out as it were before us the unspeakable horror and inhumanity of those times, but also the hope, bravery and undaunted human spirit which prevailed. When we see the present impunity with which national and international laws are broken and set at nought, with which human rights are trampled and the whole order of things is undermined, we cannot help but fear that the same dark shadow is rising again. Our honorand urges us not to give in to despair; however: ‘It’s a long game,’ he says, and we must have faith, as wise Hesiod once wrote, that Justice will beat Outrage when she comes at length to the end of the race.

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

PHILIPPE SANDS, K.C., M.A., LL.M., F.R.S.L., (HON.) F.B.A.,

*formerly Research Fellow of St Catharine’s College,
sometime Visiting Fellow of Jesus College,
member of Corpus Christi College,
Professor of Law, University College London,
legal scholar, advocate and writer,*

that he may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Law, honoris causa.

ADDVCO iam uirum qui arti medicinae maxima produxit bona. eo enim tempore cum apud nos studia incepit nulla ante partum erat uitiorum geneticorum exploratio nisi perforato uentre nec sine iniuriae periculo uteri uillorum fragmenta excerpta uel haustum liquorem inspiciendo. num digito tantum acu puncto e sanguinis gutta hos infantium morbos detegere posset scire uolebat. apud Oxonienses acidi nuclearii catenas iterum iterumque calefactas amplificare doctus, in materno sanguine inuenit — mirabile dictu — cellulas masculino quodam chromatosome praeditas e fetu eiectas. purpurea tum doctoris palla accepta fila genetiuu fetus propria non in cellulis stipata sed in matris uenis lymphae libere mixta repperit. ‘haud aliter stupui,’ inquit, ‘ac si raedae motorem in alio loco inuenissem quam in ploxemo suo positum.’ neque duplices modo atque contortae acidi nuclearii catenae inuentae sunt sed etiam simpliciora stamina quae quid in crescenti corpore se exprimat, quid repressum lateat ingenium ostendere poterant. quibus noua iam legendi facultate inspectis et ad usum medicinale conuersis, cum alia uitia genetiuu tum quae syndroma ex addito tertio chromatosome uicensimi primi apographo exoritur adempto omni erroreprehenduntur. sunt qui tanti momenti rebus contenti otio cum dignitate uelint frui: hic uir tamen is est qui in una re diuitissimam uideat fontem: rationem enim e re obstetricia ortam magno fore usui et in tumoribus maturius detegendis, diligentius obseruandis, efficacius sanandis. nullum igitur est dubium, magistri, quin artem medicinalem non modo potentiores sed humaniores reddiderit. potentiores dico quia res eximia claritate uisas melius intellegit medicus, et humaniores quod minus inducit iniuriam.

dignissime domine, domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum, Magistrum in Artibus, Regii Collegi Medicorum, Regii Collegi Pathologorum, Regiae Societatis sodalem, Collegi Emmanuelis honoris causa socium adscitum, Vniuersitatis Sinensis apud Siamkiamenses procancellarium, praesidem, medicinae professorem, medicum biologiae molecularis scientissimum,

YUK MING DENNIS LO,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Scientiis Medicinalibus.

I PRESENT to you now a man who has brought great advances to medical science. When he began his studies here in Cambridge, it was impossible to diagnose genetic conditions in the unborn foetus without the invasive and risk-laden removal of samples of villi or of amniotic fluid from the womb. He wondered whether he might detect such things with a simple blood test. At Oxford he learned the technique of amplifying DNA by repeated heating, and he discovered the presence in the mother's blood of cells containing the male sex chromosome, which could only have come from the foetus. Having gained his Doctorate he discovered something more remarkable — foetal genetic material not contained in cells but mixed freely in the mother's plasma. 'It was like finding your car's engine,' he says, 'somewhere other than under the bonnet.' Nor were only the helical strands of DNA found, but also the single filaments of RNA, which could show which genes would be expressed in the developing foetus and which would remain latent. By extracting this material and examining it with the new technology of genetic sequencing he was able to create safe and reliable blood tests for a range of genetic conditions including Down Syndrome. There are some who would be content with such discoveries, but our honorand is of a rarer vision who can see in one single thing a rich source of applications. A procedure developed for obstetrics, he realised, could be used in the earlier detection, closer monitoring and more effective treatment of cancer. There is no doubt that this man's discoveries have made medicine both more powerful and more humane, in giving to the clinician more reliable information without the risk of harm.

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

YUK MING DENNIS LO, M.A., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.PATH., F.R.S.,

*Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College,
Vice-Chancellor, President and Li Ka Shing Professor of Medicine
in the Chinese University of Hong Kong,
clinician and molecular biologist,*

that he may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Medical Science, honoris causa.

AENEADV̄M genetrix, hominum diuomque uoluptas,
te sociam studeo scribendis uersibus esse
quos de ueridica iam conor pangere uate.
non Iouis ominibus summisso uortice seruit:
naturae dictis ac legibus haud uiolandis
paret et Atlantis seruat trepidantia membra.
illa tenet diram fornacem materiai,
illa notat nulla formidine mota procellam
corporum natam concursu primigenorum.
insidet inuiso celsis sub montibus antro
fulminis aduorsi qua crebris ictibu' pulsum
emicat et grauidum diffindit fulmen inane,
ferrea uti resonet corporum semita partu.
illic aetherias choreas, saltantia quaerit
semina, nec tenui scriptas fulgore figuras
praeterit at lepidos tentat disCERNere motus.
en iam particulis collisis ui furiosa,
haud mora, gignuntur corpuscula parua uigoris
et numen refugum, momenti temporis instar,
conspicitur sed mox perituum conditur, ex quo
fit grauitatis fons, oriuntur pondera rebus,
ne leuitatem habeant, qua fungebantur, eandem,
† haud secus ac patiens clitellis bos oneratur.†
quis potis est dignum pollenti pectore carmen
condere pro rerum maiestate hisque repertis?

dignissime domine, domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregiam hanc
mulierem, Regiae Societati hospitis iure adscriptam, Coetui Europaeo Rei Nucleariae inuestigandae
quondam praepositam,

FABIOLA GIANOTTI,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Scientiis.

MOTHER of Aeneas' line, delight of men and gods,
 Attend my song and lend prophetic fire;
 For I would trace, through Nature's dark abodes,
 The seer who reads the lightning's secret choir.

*She bows not low when Jove's loud omens break,
 But heeds the changeless law that rules the world;
 She marks the trembling tools that Atlas shakes,
 And guards the forge whence protons stream unfurl'd.*

*Deep in the cave beneath the mountain's crown,
 Where flashing lances cleave the pregnant gloom,
 The shining beam breaks matter's essence down,
 And makes the ringing iron circuit boom.*

*There seeks she out the airy dance of things,
 Nor scorns the signs the sudden fire has traced;
 She reads the subtle motions lightning brings,
 And follows forms by no dull fear effaced.*

*Behold! The primal atoms smash and flare,
 And from their clash new seeds of force take flight;
 A godlike flicker skims the riven air,
 Then vanishes at once from mortal sight.*

*From that first fount comes gravity's stern might,
 Which lends to matter weight, to lightness loss;
 As patient oxen, burdened in their plight,
 Are bowed beneath the yokes they cannot toss.*

*Who then by power of mind may dare to frame
 A poem equal to such truths reveal'd —
 To match the majesty of Nature's flame,
 And sing the wonders in her depths conceal'd?*

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

FABIOLA GIANOTTI, FOR.MEM.R.S.,
*formerly Director-General of CERN,
 particle physicist,*

that she may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

OPTIMAM quemque ciuitatem, si quid sibi arrogare uelit, ternos in libros historiam suam aiunt referre; quorum primo amplissimorum hominum uerba, alteri praestantissimas res gestas, tertio, qui fide sit dignissimus, artium et animi cultus monumenta mandata esse. in quo uolumine, si umquam de his insulis et de nostra aetate scriptum fuerit, huius uiri nomen iterum ac saepius lectum iri iudico quippe qui per decem haec lustra fabellis et in scaenam productis et in uitrum linteumque proiectis mores uitae ingenia nostra tamquam in speculo conspecta tanta humanitate quanta claritate exhibuerit. ‘fabulis capsula imprimendis,’ inquit, ‘parum in theatro mens et oculi moderatoris aptantur.’ ain tu, domine? qui neque genere neque aetatis consueta auctoritate constrictus summa facilitate in utrumque locum te confers. scurrae puellaeque ad Tamesis ripas exsultantes, quamuis Catones isti seueriores improbassent, inauditam theatro populari dicto fortunam, tibi coronam oliuariam attulerunt. dominam quandam caeuae carissimam in mordacem liuidamque anum demutasti quae sudore fumoque foeda cum commentariola flagitiosa intueretur odium potius quam solitum amorem concitaret. Salopiensis ille poeta, uir eximiae latinitatis, inuento amore cruciatus et dimidia uitae parte amissa abiturus, misericordiam te duce nobis commouit. neque umbelliferam et aduenticiam tuam nutricem omitto, in omnibus fere partibus perfectam, laetas quae choreas tecta inter fumea ducit.

neque oratori sufficit anima qua huius uiri opera enumerentur, neque orationis spatium quo nomina histrionum scriptorum rectorum quos coluit, adiuuit, ad notitiam perduxit commemorentur. Alleluia igitur, laudemus eum in sono tubae, laudemus eum in tympano, qui praestantissimo ingenio suo non solum ad acuendam uerum etiam ad fouendam indolem alienam adhibito, aliorum magis fortuna quam sua prosperitate gaudet.

dignissime domine, domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum inter homines praecipue honoratos adscriptum, excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici commendatorem, Baccalaureum in Artibus, Regiae Litterarum Societatis sodalem, Collegi Diui Petri honoris causa socium adscitum, Popularis Theatri olim rectorem, spectaculorum theatricorum, cinematographicorum, cothurnatorum, teleuisificorum magistrum,

RICHARD EYRE,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Litteris.

*ALL great nations, it has been said, write their autobiographies in three books, the first containing their deeds, the second their words, the third and most reliable, the record of their art and culture. In this third volume, if it ever comes to be written of these islands, you will find written again and again the name of this man. For five decades, on stage, in film and on television, he has held up an unrelenting and yet humane mirror to our national customs and character. Theatre is a poor training ground for the film and television director, he has said; and yet unconstrained by genre or the considerations of canon he moves with consummate ease between all three. When he brought *Guys and Dolls* to the South Bank the stuffier critics may have raised an eyebrow, but he won unheard-of success for the National Theatre, and an Olivier Award for himself. He transformed theatre's darling dame into a bitter and resentful old woman, foul with sweat and smoke as she gloats over her *Notes on a Scandal*. He showed us the Shropshire bard of impeccable Latinity, tortured by *The Invention of Love* as he goes with half his life about his ways. Nor do I forget his *Mary Poppins*, practically perfect in every way as she dances among the chimney pots.*

No orator could list either his achievements or the names of all those he has helped and nurtured. Allelujah! Let us praise him with Trumpets and Drums, who continues to employ his talents in the development and encouragement of so many actors, writers and directors, and rejoices more in the fortune of others than in his own success.

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

RICHARD EYRE, Kt, C.H., C.B.E., B.A., F.R.S.L.,

*Honorary Fellow of Peterhouse,
formerly Artistic Director of the Royal National Theatre,
director in theatre, film, opera and television,*

that he may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa.

ARTIBVS propositum aiunt esse quicquid notissimum sit ignotum reddere quo diutius in formis obscuratis spectantium oculi morentur. quod de hac muliere rectissime dici potest, ut opinor, quae seu aquae calidae utrem culcitamque lecti seu etiam domum totam nobis ostendit, idoli figuram gypseam gummeam resinaceam ahenam potius adumbrat quam certis lineis describit. saepius tamen non res ipsas sed quod continetur, quod circumdatur, quod subter conditur uanum solet fingere, ita ut ipso inani in solidum condensato nescioquid tenue et uolatile puncto quodam temporis congeletur. quicquid interioribus partibus euersis exhibetur nouum ac uelut prauum aspectum necessario sibi assumit. sed singula et perparuula menda quae inuisa latere solent cum remoto corpore ut in summo iam cortice capta uidemus — tegulas rimosas dico, luti maculam salisque grana, fuliginem quae focum, limum quae parietis quadrum, nisi omnis adeptus esset color, foedaret — haec omnia absentium hominum usum impolitum rudemque uitam diuina quadam luce collustrant. quam lucem in monumento bibliothecae simili clarissime elucere iudico, cuius libri nullo pegmate sustenti et ad externos muros auersis sillybis dispositi quot hominum uitae deletae atque silentio compressae obliuionem recusent testificantur.

Philemon quidam in fabula perdita dicit

οὐκ ἔστιν οὔτε ζωγράφος, μὰ τοὺς θεούς,
οὔτ' ἀνδριαντοποιός, ὅστις ἂν πλάσαι
κάλλος τοιοῦτον, οἷον ἀλήθει' ἔχει.¹

de aliis quidem artificibus, quippe qui talium rerum experts atque inscius sim, tacebo; hanc tamen mulierem affirmo in inanibus lacunisque rerum ueritatem quandam inuenisse, in qua forma ipsa et tamquam species pulcritudinis inesse uideatur.

dignissime domine, domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregiam hanc mulierem, excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici dominam commendatricem, Collegi Sanctae Mariae Magdalenae honoris causa sociam adscitam, formae uacuique poetam,

RACHEL WHITEREAD,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Litteris.

¹ Fr. 72 (Kock).

THE purpose of art, it is often said, is to render the familiar unfamiliar, so as to make the observer's gaze linger. This is certainly true of our next honorand. Whether it be a hot-water bottle, a mattress or a whole house, she blurs the sharp edges of things into ghostly replicas in plaster, rubber, resin and bronze. More often she casts not the object itself but the empty space within, around or beneath it, so that void itself is condensed into some solid but evanescent thing, a frozen moment of time. Whatever is displayed inside-out cannot help but take on a strange and unusual appearance; but when we see the tiny imperfections which we usually ignore — the crack in the tile, the speck of dirt, the grain of salt, the grime on the dado rail and the soot which stains the fireplace (or would stain it, if it were not bleached of all colour) — when we see these things captured on the outermost surface, they brilliantly illuminate the sometimes messy lives of the absent people who used them. Nowhere, I think, does this light shine more brightly than in her Holocaust Memorial, that nameless library of books arranged on the outside walls, supported by no shelves and with their spines turned inwards, which give eloquent testimony of the many lives lost and silenced, but which refuse to fall into oblivion.

The poet Philemon says in a lost play, 'There is no artist or sculptor who can shape such beauty as there is in truth.' About other artists I cannot speak; but our honorand finds Truth in the gaps between things, and in that Truth there is the very Form of Beauty.

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

RACHEL WHITEREAD, D.B.E.,

*Honorary Fellow of Magdalene College,
poet of form and void,*

that she may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa.

QVI agmen iam claudit ab Oliuiero illo Auennionensi, cum modorum scriptore praestantissimo tum in instituendo docendoque prudentissimo, ad quem cum puer Lutetiam aduenisset se applicarat, optimo et splendidissimo ingenio adolescens et Amadei ipsius instar laudatus est. studiis tum apud nos inceptis mox famam annos praecurrentem inter ambulantium sollemnia iis modis sibi comparauit quorum

raucis in fidibus furiosae flaminis irae
exululant, ligno pulsato conspuit imbri
Iuppiter et totum conspergit grandine campum.
uexantur pecudes, sonus absonus omnia turbat.
continuo rabies sedatur uana. repente
fit tonitrus, subito lacerantur concaua caeli
fulmine quod, simulac tempestas aestuat omnis,
desinit: expellit nigros lux candida nimbos
tranquilla ac facies splendenti redditur orbi
dum rex altisonus semoto murmure mugit.

ut enim Apelles et Protogenes, artis pingendi peritissimi, colores, sic ille sonos disponit, ut symphonia pigmentorum pyxide facta eximiae pulchritudinis speciem contextis modis depictam oculis haud minus quam auribus conspexisse uideamur. quod si summam et sempiternam acceptam gloriam quaeritis, in theatrum cothurnatum eundum. ut enim in fabula modis nouissimis pristinae aetatis uoces repetenti infelicem illum dignitatis uindicem in scaenam induxerat, statim inter scriptores probissimos atque excellentissimos adscitus est.

dignissime domine, domine Cancellarie, et tota academia, praesento uobis egregium hunc uirum, equitem auratum, excellentissimi ordinis Imperi Britannici commendatorem, magistrum in artibus, baccalaureum in musica, Regiae Academiae Musicae nec non Regio Collegio Musicae honoris causa sodalem adscriptum, Collegi Regalis honoris causa socium adscitum, Collegi Regalis Londiniensis professorem Purcellianum, musicorum modorum scriptorem et mesochorum,

GEORGE BENJAMIN,

ut honoris causa habeat titulum gradus Doctoris in Musica.

BEFORE he came to Cambridge, our final honorand studied in Paris with Olivier Messiaen, that most distinguished composer and wisest of teachers, who described him as the most talented pupil he had ever come across and even compared him to Mozart. While an undergraduate at King's College he achieved the signal honour of becoming the youngest composer to have a piece performed at the BBC Proms, his *Ringed by the Flat Horizon*, in which

*In raucous strings the furious winds give voice,
And as the trembling wood is sounded, Jove
Sheds streaming rain and pelts the fields with hail.
A wild, discordant clamour sweeps the air;
'Till all the empty rage of storm subsides.
A sudden thunderclap divides the dome,
The hollow heavens riven by a flame
That falters once the heaving tempest dies.
Then silver light drives back the clouds of night,
Restoring calm to heaven's shining face;
While far-off Jove, with muted murmuring might,
Lets slip his wrath to drift through distant space.*

For he uses sound as an Apelles or a Protogenes might use colour; and transforming the orchestra into his palette he weaves a picture of extraordinary beauty which we seem to perceive as much with our eyes as with our ears. But if you seek his crowning and immortal glory, it is in the opera house that you must look. For with the tale of the jealous protector of his own dignity *Written on Skin*, a work at once modern and medieval, he was immediately recognised as one of the masters of the canon.

Distinguished Chancellor, members of the University, I present to you

GEORGE BENJAMIN, Kt, C.B.E, M.A., MUS.B., (HON.) F.R.A.M., (HON.) F.R.C.M.,

*Honorary Fellow of King's College,
Henry Purcell Professor of Composition, King's College London,
composer and conductor,*

that he may receive the title of the degree of Doctor of Music, honoris causa.

R. B. SACHERS, *Director of Governance and Compliance*

END OF THE OFFICIAL PART OF THE 'REPORTER'

COLLEGE NOTICES

Elections

Darwin College

Elected as Master with effect from 1 October 2026:

Nigel Peake, M.A., M.Math., Ph.D., Sc.D., *EM*

Elected to a Fellowship under Title A with effect from 1 October 2026:

Susan Galbraith, B.Sc., *Manchester*, M.B. B.Chir., *R*,
Ph.D., *London*, MRCP, FRCR

Vacancies

Lucy Cavendish College: Post-Doctoral Research Associates Competition 2026 (up to ten posts available); tenure: from 1 October 2026 for up to three years (not renewable); non-stipendiary but collegiate benefits apply; closing date: 28 August 2026 at 12 noon; further details: [https://www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Post-doc membership 2026.pdf](https://www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Post-doc%20membership%202026.pdf)

Sidney Sussex College: Knox-Shaw Fellowship in Mathematics; tenure: six years from 1 September 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter; salary: £36,636–£43,482; closing date: 26 July 2026; further details: <https://www.sid.cam.ac.uk/vacancies>

SOCIETIES, ETC.

Cambridge Antiquarian Society

CAS summer party: Sunday, 19 July

Cambridge Antiquarian Society will be hosting a summer party in the Fellows' Garden, Magdalene College, Magdalene Street, Cambridge, on Sunday, 19 July 2026 from 3.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The event will include a short academic talk by Simon Stoddart on the College and its history. Further details and booking (closes 6 July): contact Ian Mason, Secretary (email: secretary@camantsoc.org)

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