Dear Hertford Community,

As we draw near to the end of the academic year, we are in good shape. So renewed thanks to all of you, teachers, students, tutors, alumni and friends.

The past few years have been anything but normal, even for those who lived through the Second World War. The pandemic, like a storm, has thrown up challenges and opportunities for us all. It has sharpened our understanding of the importance of connection, communication and solidarity. It has also taught us the value of resilience and adaptability.

As our campuses have been generally open, some periods of estrangement and anxiety have also left us with much to catch up on, much to learn. This term has been the most recognisably normal term since I arrived during the lockdown of March 2020. Our staff, students and alumni have all contributed to the vibrancy and camaraderie we have felt over the past few weeks.

Next year we will welcome a Ukrainian scholar and our first two Porter scholars, to join us for a six-month visit. And the annual Leavers’ BBQ on 9th July – everyone welcome. And a Leavers’ BBQ on 9th July – everyone welcome.

The Trinity Term is flying by at Hertford. Congratulations to everyone who has taken exams, and best of luck to those still in the process. The daily schedules are now on the website, please take a look at them.

The latest exhibition at the Weston Library is Sensational Books, a celebration of the powerful role of illustrated books. The Bodleian’s latest public exhibition, Thinking the Unthinkable, is a celebration of the power of imagination and its role in shaping our world. The Principal’s Bulletin is a celebration of our community, and we hope you enjoy reading it.

In other news, MCR President Teresa Taylor has reached the shortlist of this year’s OUSU Student Awards for her leadership of the MCR. Porter Nikki Benton was named as one of the ‘20 under 20’ by the Times Educational Supplement, while Paul Wood (former BBC Middle East Correspondent) talked about surviving a kidnap attempt in Syria. Emma Smith, Frances Wheare and I departed by lockdowns. Emma Smith, Frances Wheare and I departed by lockdowns.

We have heard from hundreds of you many of you are enjoying our online events. Our Principal’s Book Club has been a great success, with discussions ranging from “The Poet: A Life” by Kim Stanley Robinson to “The Poet: A Life” by Kim Stanley Robinson. And on 17th June, Nik Gowing is here on Oxford Today for his talk on “The Poet: A Life” by Kim Stanley Robinson.

Over the Jubilee weekend, Ewa Gluza from the Bursary represented Oxford Polish Association at the Jubilee celebration service at Christ Church Cathedral. We have had a brilliant array of visiting speakers. Schona Jolly joined us to discuss her book, “Germans do it better. James Fletcher launched his new Trump film. Iceland’s top human rights lawyer, China and the UK. John Kampfner shared his take on why the future of learning is so uncertain.

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Hertford’s research continues to thrive. Congratulations to Mike Wooldridge who will be leading the Alan Turing Institute’s expansion of AI research. Fernando Alday and Ros Rickaby, were elected fellows of the Royal Society, for their work on a new MBA module. And part-time lodge porter Parameswaran’s research is opening up new possibilities in AI.

The annual Giving Day is coming up on 16-17th June. To help realise our 2030 vision, we are asking for your support.

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Thank you for your support.

Tom

All best wishes,

Principal

Hertford College