

## JCR Meeting Agenda

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### Order of Business:

1. Matters arising
  2. Reports and Officers' question time
  3. Motions
    - a. Every Brilliant Thing
    - b. Fermat's Last Tango
    - c. Gender Expression Fund
    - d. BARE
    - e. Charity Head Shave for Blueventures
    - f. Charity Marathon Run for Brain Tumour Research UK
    - g. Supporting Runnymede Trust & Black Minds Matter UK
    - h. Counselling in the Welfare Room
    - i. Suspended Student's Officer
    - j. IT Officer
    - k. Tankard for Isabel
    - l. SEHA - See context at end
    - m. Chargers in the JCR
    - n. Bookshelves in the JCR
    - o. Cuckoo Clock in the JCR
    - p. PS4 in the JCR
  4. Any other business
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### 3. Motions

#### a. Every Brilliant Thing

#### The JCR notes that:

- A student production of a play, *Every Brilliant Thing*, is to be staged in Oxford at the Michael Pilch Studio in 3<sup>rd</sup> week.
- Both the producer (James) and the assistant producer (Simone) are Teddy Hall students.
- The play is a one-woman show written by Duncan Macmillan (*People, Places and Things, 1984*) and is about a child making a list of everything that is brilliant in the world after her mother's first suicide attempt. While the play explores themes of depression and suicide, it is an ultimately uplifting and life-affirming piece of theatre, helping raise awareness about mental health amongst the student body.

#### The JCR believes that:

- The college encourages conversations about mental health and backing this production would showcase their continued belief in welfare support.
- Having both a third year and a first year at Teddy Hall leading the play's creative team is a great way to pass down knowledge and ensure the continuation of arts and culture at Teddy Hall in future years.
- Teddy Hall has a strong track record of supporting the arts, which Oxford production companies are very grateful for – and while £100 is not an insignificant sum, it is a sensitive request, especially given the positive impact on the show it would have.
- The Oxford University Dramatic Society relies hugely on JCRs across Oxford giving financial backings to plays. This funding covers fixed costs such as venue hire of the Michael Pilch Studio.

#### The JCR resolves to:

- Donate £100 to the production, which would allow the crew to pay the fixed venue hire of the Michael Pilch Studio, cover the cost of rights, pay for marketing materials, as well as providing funds for the set and props.

**Proposer:** James Newbery

**Secunder:** Simone Balakrishna

### **b. Fermat's Last Tango**

#### **The JCR notes that:**

- Fermat's Last Tango is a fun mathematical musical that tells the fascinating story of Fermat's Last Theorem, while being completely accessible and enjoyable to a non-mathematical audience.
- The first performance of this musical in the UK will be put on in Hilary Term Week 7 at the Andrew Wiles Building which is named after the mathematician who finally cracked Fermat's Last Theorem in 1995.
- The Teddy Hall JCR has among its ranks a director, the musical director, the lighting designer, the set constructor, a graphics designer and a member of the cast of the musical.
- Empty Set Productions, the production behind Fermat's Last Tango, is making a real effort to encourage more STEM students to take part in Oxford music drama who would otherwise not be involved in a musical production, which reflects in the fact that this is the first production for many of the people involved.

#### **The JCR believes that:**

- It is important that we break the stigma surrounding mathematics and help the fascinating stories of the subject reach the general public.
- The Teddy Hall JCR has a fantastic track record of supporting the arts (Conversations, 2nd May 1997, Persephone, Checking out and Tick, Tick...Boom) which should be upheld to enable and encourage its members pursue creative endeavours.
- A lot of expenses for a musical are upfront and precede ticket revenue. Student productions rely on JCR Funding to cover such costs.
- By funding this project, the JCR is supporting the arts and an outreach initiative that can make a big impact in our community.

#### **The JCR resolves to:**

- Donate £300 to the production, to help cover venue hire fee, rights cost, marketing and departmental costs such as lighting, sound & costume.

**Proposer:** Anubhab Ghosal

**Secunder:** Michelle Ng

### **c. Gender Expression Fund**

#### **The JCR notes that:**

- There are transgender & gender non-conforming students at Teddy whose welfare can depend quite significantly on being perceived as the gender they identify with and feeling comfortable in their appearance.

- Gender dysphoria is a feeling of distress associated with a disconnect between an individual's perceived gender and appearance, and their gender identity. This can have a negative effect on trans people's welfare and mental health.
- The OUSU 2018 Trans Report shows evidence of higher levels of anxiety and stress in trans students, with two thirds stating Oxford has had a negative or extremely negative effect upon their mental health.
- Items of clothing exist to help alleviate gender dysphoria, including binders, concealing underwear, packers and breastforms, and as such obtaining these items can have a significant impact on wellbeing and mental health. These items can also improve welfare for gender non-conforming students who may not experience gender dysphoria.
- Such items can be expensive, discouraging people who would benefit from these items from buying them. The average binder costs £30 + shipping (often from the US) while breastforms cost over £60.
- Teddy JCR has previously supported trans issues and should continue to do so in any way that it can.
- Over 20 other colleges have established Gender Expression Funds.

**The JCR believes that:**

- All students who may benefit from these items deserve equal access to them, regardless of financial circumstances.
- Students' welfare is important, and the JCR should strive to develop suitable welfare provisions for all of its members.
- Establishing this fund would show to current and prospective trans and questioning students that Teddy is a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to explore one's gender identity and expression.
- The trans and non-conforming members of our community deserve our continued support.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Provide £200 per academic year to reimburse students for items that aid in their gender expression, including but not limited to binders, packers and breastforms.
- Allow students travelling to Gender Identity Clinics for appointments with gender specialists during term time to claim reimbursements for travel expenses.
- Mandate the JCR LGBTQ+ Rep to reimburse trans, gender non-conforming, and questioning students from this fund on a case-by-case basis of up to a recommended £40 per student per academic year, subject to increase or decrease depending on remaining funds and the individual's circumstances.
- Mandate the JCR LGBTQ+ Rep to maintain the anonymity of students requesting reimbursement from this fund by sending anonymised receipts to the treasurer, who would reimburse the LGBTQ+ Rep, who would in turn reimburse the individual.
- Publicise the GEF, including on the website, as part of the Fresher's info pack, and potentially in the Grey Book.

**Proposer:** Harry McWilliam

**Secunder:** Amy Shaw

**d. BARE****The JCR notes that:**

- *Bare* is a coming-of-age, pop-rock musical with music by Damon Inrabartolo, lyrics by Jon Hartmere, and book by Inrabartolo and Hartmere. It is going to be staged in Week 7 of Hilary Term 2023 (1st - 4th March) at the Keble O'Reilly Theatre.
- The show is being produced by an OUDS-affiliated, student production company: Triple Cheque Productions, of whom Teddy Hall JCR member, Max Falk, is the founder.
- As well as being produced by Max, *Bare* has significant involvement from other Teddy Hall JCR members: Zoe Shum plays one of the lead roles, Eliza Hogermeer is in the named cast, and Julia Moon is the set designer.
- As per OUDS requirements, no student would personally benefit financially from any show profit. Rather, any money raised would allow for re-investment into further theatrical projects by Triple Cheque Productions.

**The JCR believes that:**

- Providing funding for drama allows students to continue to pursue creative endeavours alongside their academically challenging degrees, which is also still particularly important in light of the hiatus in performative arts following COVID-19.
- *Bare* covers a wide range of important themes that are relatable to a student audience. These include: identity struggles, academic pressure, body image, and religion, the combination of which is rare to see on the Oxford stage, yet individually are important to promote awareness of and spark conversations about.
- *Bare* particularly aims to introduce new faces into the Oxford drama scene through *audition workshops, open cast & crew-calls, and imposing no requirement for prior theatrical experience*. The JCR wishes to facilitate this accessibility and promote a diverse company of students.
- The Teddy Hall JCR has a fantastic track record in supporting the arts (such as by supporting *Persephone, Murder in Argos, Conversations, Checking out and Tick, Tick...Boom!*) and this should continue to be upheld to allow students with ambitions to pursue industry-relevant careers to get appropriate experience.
- Staging a musical is relatively expensive, particularly because of the costs of rights, orchestral & rehearsal materials, and *Bare's* large ensemble cast makes this all the more difficult to fund. The structure of the Oxford drama scene relies on composite JCR funding to cover some of the required upfront costs before receiving ticket income.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Donate £300 to help realise the production.
- This would allow contribution to venue hire fees, rights costs, marketing endeavours, and departmental costs such as lighting, sound & costume.

**Proposer:** Max Falk

**Secunder:** Vicky Stone

#### **e. Charity Head Shave for Blueventures**

**The JCR notes that:**

- Lenny had long hair.
- Lenny shaved his hair for charity and doesn't have long hair anymore.

**The JCR believes that:**

- Charities are good.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Donate £500 to the chosen charity, Blueventures.

**Proposer:** Lenny Bailleux

**Secunder:** Euan Simmonds

#### **f. Charity Marathon Run for Brain Tumour Research UK**

**The JCR notes that:**

- A former Teddy Hall Student (Rafe Studholme) is running a marathon in memory of another former Teddy Hall student (Matt Kilford) who tragically passed away from a Brain Tumour aged 25 last year. He is raising funds for Brain Tumour Research UK.

**The JCR believes that:**

- Charity is incredibly important especially for such a great cause. If we donate to Rafe's marathon efforts, then it can also encourage other members of the JCR to think about what we can all do individually to make a difference to any cause.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Donate £250 to Rafe's charity run for Brain Tumour Research UK on behalf of the JCR.

**Proposer:** Adam Roble

**Secunder:** Tom Coates

#### **g. Supporting RUNNYMEDE TRUST & BLACK MINDS MATTER UK**

**The JCR notes that:**

- Teddy hall will be hosting its first ever Diversity Formal on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.
- A charity donation fund pot will be held at the door, to support UK charities focussed on reducing racial disparity in the UK.
- The two charities chosen include the Runnymede Trust and Black Minds Matter UK.
- The Runnymede Trust is the UK's leading race equality think tank, acting as an independent source, collecting evidence to inform decision makers on how to dismantle structural barriers in the UK.

- Such research and work include highlighting the horrors of the Windrush Scandal in 2018, increasing the diversity taught in school curriculums (fewer than 1% of students at GCSE level study a book written by an ethnic minority), to heavily influencing the first Race Relations Act making it illegal to discriminate on the grounds of race back in 1976.
- Black Minds Matter UK works to 'connect Black individuals and families with free mental health services', to decrease the stigma surrounding mental health issues in these communities.

**The JCR believes that:**

- Supplementing the charity pot with a donation from the JCR budget will encourage others to continue donating and help to support two charities that challenge structural racism.
- Recognising and combating racism is a prerequisite for celebrating diversity, so funding the charity pot at the formal works to achieve both.
- Setting a precedent for charity funding at all EDI (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) formals at the Hall will initiate Teddy's contribution to fighting discrimination, hopefully expanding to other suggested charities supporting different types of minority groups in future events.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Donate £100 to RUNNYMEDE TRUST and BLACK MINDS MATTER UK each (£200 in total)
- Promote encouragement of further donations to these charities down Week 3 (leading into the Diversity Formal)

**Proposer:** Lucia Mullings

**Secunder:** Claire Mallon

## **h. Counselling in the Welfare Room**

**The JCR notes that:**

- The Welfare Room is a lovely space available to all students to use.
- It is often a place where confidential conversations take place, especially counselling sessions run by the college counsellor.
- The Welfare Room is far from soundproof, with people being able to hear conversations from the stairway fairly easily.
- It is also in a fairly open location within college where anyone is able to walk past.

**The JCR believes that:**

- College-provided counselling should occur in a completely confidential manner and space.
- The Welfare Room does not currently provide this due to the issues raised above.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Support the JCR president in appealing to college to either get the location of counselling sessions moved to somewhere more private, or to better soundproof the Welfare Room to ensure confidentiality can be maintained.
  - POI, the current senior welfare officer, Jane, has her office in the Mingos Suites, which are far more segregated and soundproof. This is a perfect example of where Welfare issues could be discussed far more privately.

**Proposer:** Verity Black

**Secunder:** Jake Elliott

**i. Suspended Student's Officer**

**The JCR notes that:**

- There is no suspended student's officer.
- It is in the constitution to have a suspended student officer.

**The JCR believes that:**

- Academic affairs officer already has an existing relationship with the college.
- It is important for suspended student to be represented.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Amend the constitution so that academic affairs and suspended students are one role.

**Proposer:** Brodie Weymouth

**Secunder:** Brittany Perera

**j. IT Officer**

**The JCR notes that:**

- The position of IT Officer is vacant.
- The IT Officer is an appointment role and is not husted for.
- The IT Officer runs the voting system for husting.
- College have taken over the running of the website, so there is currently little for the IT officer to do.

**The JCR believes that:**

- The IT officer can be seen as an unappealing role.
- In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, social media is an important aspect of JCR engagement.

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Expand the role of IT officer to include content creation and management of the JCR social media pages.
- Have an IT officer before 6<sup>th</sup> week hustings.

**Proposer:** Brodie Weymouth

**Secunder:** Brittany Perera

### **k. Tankard for Isabel**

#### **The JCR notes that:**

- All outgoing execs receive a tankard.
- Isabel Ambrose served a term as Secretary.

#### **The JCR believes that:**

- Given her dedication to the smooth running of the JCR, Isabel Ambrose also deserves a tankard for her role as secretary.

#### **The JCR resolves to:**

- Engrave a tankard and fill with a drink of her choice.

**Proposer:** Brodie Weymouth

**Secunder:** Poppy Buckley

### **l. SEHA – See context at end**

#### **The JCR notes that:**

- We pay a termly fee to SEHA out of our Battels (£8 per term =£24 a year).
- This is not optional, almost all other funds are.

#### **The JCR believes that:**

- Whilst the alumni community is an important part of Teddy, especially for fundraising, asking financially struggling students to pay them money with no clear benefit back to the JCR is asking a lot.
- JCR students should have the option to choose if they want to contribute to SEHA.

#### **The JCR resolves to:**

- SEHA publish a report on how their funds are used to benefit the wider JCR community.
- JCR members should have the option to opt out of paying this fund.

**Proposer:** Brodie Weymouth

**Secunder:** Brittany Perera



### **m. Chargers in the JCR**

#### **The JCR notes that:**

- Occasionally we are all caught out charger-less in the JCR.

#### **The JCR believes that:**

- Having a charged device is key.

#### **The JCR resolves to:**

- Pay up to £70 towards getting a set of chargers for iPhone, Samsung and USBC that lock into one socket in the JCR.

**Proposer:** Adam Roble

**Secunder:** Tom Coates

### **n. Bookshelves in the JCR**

#### **The JCR notes that:**

- The bookshelves in the JCR are all broken

#### **The JCR believes that:**

- We shouldn't have broken bookshelves

#### **The JCR resolves to:**

- Order a big bookshelf from IKEA to store everything in and chuck the old ones

**Proposer:** Tom Coates

**Secunder:** Adam Roble

### **o. Cuckoo Clock in the JCR**

#### **The JCR notes that:**

- The cuckoo clock is bloody annoying

#### **The JCR believes that:**

- It is detrimental to the hall's welfare to have this cuckoo clock going off every hour

#### **The JCR resolves to:**

- Sell the cuckoo clock on eBay and donate the funds to Turl Street Homeless Action (Charity)

**Proposer:** Tom Coates

**Seconder:** Adam Roble

**p. PS4 in the JCR**

**The JCR notes that:**

- Esports is fast growing industry
- Countries such as France and Australia have an Esports industry plan
- Esports cuppers is a huge regional event
- Esports consoles also have apps such as BTSPORT

**The JCR believes that:**

- We need a PS4

**The JCR resolves to:**

- Buy a PS4, an extra controller and FIFA 23 for a combine £270

**Proposer:** Mauricio Alencar

**Seconder:** Alex Whitmarsh

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**Context for SEHA:**

The St Edmund Hall Association (SEHA) is the body which represents all Aularians (St Edmund Hall Alumni). The charter of the Association is to:

- Foster friendship and a spirit of collegiality between Aularians as part of a lifelong connection with the Hall. We do this in a variety of ways but mostly through social and educational events.
- Create and encourage professional and social networks for the benefit of past and present students, largely via careers and networking events.
- Maintain good and close relations with the Hall at all levels.
- Collect and disseminate news of alumni and St Edmund Hall Association activities.
- Promote awareness of the Hall's strong heritage, culture and current activities and seek to promote connectivity between Aularians and the Hall.

In recent years the SEHA has set up:

- **Aularian Connect:** this is an online networking platform that was launched in 2020 and has been developed jointly by the Hall and the Association. We hope it gives alumni and students an easily accessible, single source of social, career, mentoring and news opportunities. Please see here:
- **Digital careers initiative:** Series of short films from alumni in different industries to post on Aularian Connect. Students and other alumni can watch these films on demand and follow up with the relevant contacts directly for further guidance as required.
- **Social events:** The SEHA's big event of the year continues to be the London dinner in February, although it will not go ahead in 2021; instead, we will hold a virtual event to coincide with our AGM. Usually, the dinner attracts over 200 attendees; those who have recently left the Hall are subsidised by the Association. We believe it is the largest annual dinner of any Oxford College and one that we are very proud of. When times return to "normal" we also hope to hold a summer party back at college. Other social activities are arranged on an ad hoc basis, usually in conjunction with the Hall.
- **Teddy talks:** these interesting and varied talks are well attended by both current students and alumni, and we plan to continue co-hosting these events with the Hall and providing speakers from our talented alumni!
- **Aularian prize:** for a number of years, we have given a cash prize (currently £500) to help a student fund extracurricular projects which typically are not connected with their degree and are often of a charitable nature. We run an annual competition amongst students to identify the most deserving project.
- **Magazines:** As the Hall moves towards a more digital offering for its annual magazine, the Association will provide a greater amount of its support to the termly e-letter instead.