



STATEMENT

Warwickshire Trail Hunt

Further to the College's statement on 3 September 2026, the Principal Bursar met representatives of Locals against the Warwickshire Hunt on Monday 5 October to learn more about their concerns regarding the trail hunting activities that crossed and travelled over land owned by St John's College at Heathcote Farm in early September and their plans for a protest at the Matriculation Ceremony in Oxford on 17 October 2026.

The Principal Bursar reported to them that the tenants of the land had agreed not to allow the Warwickshire Hunt access to the land for the next two months (until the end of November 2026) to allow the Trustees of St John's College to consider the matter through its statutory governance processes.

Locals against the Warwickshire Hunt subsequently confirmed that they still intended to carry out a protest at the Matriculation Ceremony at the Sheldonian Theatre on 17 October 2026.

The College will continue to gather the information necessary to understand the matter fully and to consider the issue through its statutory governance processes. It will ensure that a potentially significant decision concerning activities on college land and the rights of its tenant farmers, is made by the authorised body, based on evidence, having considered the relevant interests of and consequences for all parties.

Once the necessary information has been assembled, the matter will be considered in committee and recommendations will be made to the Trustees and Governing Body for their decision by the end of November 2026.

12 October 2026

ENDS

Notes to Editors

All enquiries should be directed to Iris Burke (01865 277321; bursary.manager@sjc.ox.ac.uk).

St John's College

Established in 1555 as a constituent college of the University of Oxford, St John's College is one of the largest among Oxford Colleges and offers tuition in nearly every subject studied at the University. Today, St John's is home to approximately 390 undergraduates, 250 graduate students, 100 fellows and 25 College lecturers. A vibrant international community, it fosters intellectual rigour, creativity, and independence in its students, teachers, and researchers. The College supports a range of research activities including discussions, seminars, workshops, public lectures and visiting scholar schemes. While scholarly publication is naturally at the heart of the College's research endeavours, the Fellowship is also committed to informing policy and public debate, and to teaching that is informed by research findings. St John's fosters excellence in education and research, is committed to equality and diversity, and supports student welfare and wellbeing.