



St John's College
Oxford

STATEMENT

Following the recent protest which departed from the College on 2 February, St John's has reiterated that we are listening and we care too. We believe we have a responsibility to everyone in our community to act and invest responsibly.

As a registered charity, the College's charitable aims are education and research. 26.6% of our activity is funded by direct charitable income (including student fees). Most of the balance, 70.1% of educational and research activities, is supported by returns on the College endowment. This includes covering the cost of teaching, the subsidising of meals and accommodation, the provision of vacation residence and other grants, and much more. Therefore, endowment returns are of great importance to the College for both current expenditure and future investment to provide such education and research.

The Working Group on Ethical Investments, which includes members of the student body and Fellows of the College, started its work in November 2019 and will continue to meet during this academic year.

The Group has covered many issues, including ethical considerations in decision-making on investments. Future meetings will include discussion on climate change, sustainable finance and the fiduciary duties of trustees, with input from experts in these areas.

In response to comments made about the College's approach to last week's events, the President and Senior Dean met with protesters to hear their concerns, and many Fellows and students talked to them informally.

During last week's protest, it was evident that non-St John's students were being given access to College through the loan of security fobs by a small number of St John's students. As a result, and in order to ensure the safety and security of the College campus for all members of St John's, some entrances were closed, and a few fobs were deactivated. The affected students were still able to get in and out of College through the main gate and to access their rooms through their room keys, which are distinct from their security fobs, as were all other staff and students.

The College strongly refutes the claim made by a small number of protesters that during the protest it blocked access to blankets, sleeping bags and food. This claim is incorrect.

St John's is committed to keeping our investments and investment policies under regular review. We hope that through positive, collaborative and continued dialogue, the best solutions to the concerns that have been raised following last week's protest can be found for the benefit of the whole community.

3 February 2020

Notes to Editors

All enquiries should be directed to Ms Iris Burke, Bursary Manager (bursary.manager@sjc.ox.ac.uk;
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St John's College

Established in 1555 as a constituent college of the University of Oxford, St John's College fosters excellence in education and research and is committed to equality and diversity. It 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.

Through the College's work on access to all aspects of its day-to-day activities, the College has due regard for its legal commitments under the Equality Act to promote equality, diversity and inclusion.