

## **A Message from the Acting Vice-Master to All Students, Staff, Fellows, and Alumni**

Dear all,

Easter term has arrived with the nation in lockdown and with much uncertainty as to how events will play out in the next weeks and months. One thing is for sure: this Easter term will be more disrupted than it has been for generations.

You will have heard previously about Trinity Hall's early response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the end of Lent term, we asked students to return home as soon as possible, if it was safe for them to do so. College is closed and events have been cancelled until the end of June. Staff are working from home wherever possible. Approximately 50 students remain in residence and they have moved to the Wychfield site where they can be accommodated in a low-density distribution to facilitate good social distancing and minimal sharing of facilities. The College's wellbeing team and our nurse have done tremendous work, offering invaluable support to students throughout the vacation and now into the new term.

The College acted quickly to protect the health of students and staff. It has been a remarkable effort by all involved to transform the College's operations so that with minimal on-site staffing we could keep College functioning whilst also providing for the students remaining at Wychfield. I am grateful to the students who responded quickly to our advice and vacated or relocated at short notice, to the Senior Tutor and the Tutorial Office who worked tirelessly to support the students and to manage the relocations and the self-isolation procedures, to the Junior Bursar, Heads of Department and all staff who were resourceful and generous in adjusting to new timetables and working practices, and to our Bursar, who (from his first week in post!) has overseen the financial implications of these changes, including ensuring that no rents are charged to students who have been required to leave. A special word of gratitude must go to the porters who have been our frontline in response to the pandemic and have continued to staff the lodges, as well as checking on students who are in self-isolation – thank you!

As we look forward to the term ahead, we face an uncertain mix of challenges and possibilities. The spirit of enterprise and compassion that has been evident so far will continue. College business and teaching will be conducted via online platforms. Our students face the greatest upheaval. I am mindful of the many difficulties that face all students, postgraduate and undergraduate, international and home, and that many compromises have to be borne, especially by those for whom this is their last term at Cambridge. Teaching will continue in different forms; assessments will take place, but away from Cambridge; hardship funds will be administered as a response to many real needs at this time; and pastoral support will be available through a variety of technologies. I assure all our students that directors of studies, supervisors and tutors all stand ready to support you in the term ahead.

To all of you, I wish you and your loved ones good health and look forward to seeing you, in person, soon.

Very best wishes,

Daniel.

Dr Daniel Tyler  
**Acting Vice-Master**  
Trinity Hall