



THE EMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

Welcome to the Emmanuel newsletter! In this most strange time, let me try to convey what Michaelmas term will look and feel like in a pandemic. Of course things change all the time, but we've worked hard throughout the summer to make plans, trying to make things as straightforward and enjoyable – yes, enjoyable – for our students as we possibly can. For I am clear: we must try to ensure that this generation of students looks back, as you do, to their time at Emma with joy and gladness.

All our students will be divided into households with whom they can live and mix freely. But then the rules apply as they do to us all, with social distancing required and real care needed to avoid transmitting infection. All our public rooms have been sized so we know how many people can use them, and we will offer take-away food rather than sit-down meals, except for the occasional formal hall, which students will be able to attend in their household groups. Fellows won't be able to dine, though, as by definition we are all in different households, so it will be a bit lonely for me when I preside at High Table for events like the matriculation dinner!

A Special 2020 Award for Students

In a normal year, Emmanuel would normally reward Tripos achievements with a range of awards: 'Senior Scholarships' and 'Senior Exhibitions', and named college prizes for results in particular subjects.

With the unique and difficult circumstances students at Emmanuel have faced this year it was felt that it would be invidious to single out students for particular prizes or awards on the basis of Firsts or 2:1s. Instead we have created the 2020 award, to recognise the efforts of all. This takes the form of a £70 prize for everyone who has succeeded in taking and passing their assessments.



We will have a large marquee on the Paddock, to provide an additional large social space for students – if a cold one – as term progresses, but we will have to forego many of the usual social events at the start of term. The bar will be closed, with a take-away drinks service offered from the kitchens. Many face-to-face supervisions will happen, provided the room is big enough and the teacher is not vulnerable, though large lectures will be virtual.

Our message, which we share with the whole of the University is #staysafeCambridgeUni, and within Emma #staysafeEmma. We need to stick to the rules for everyone's safety, and there's a Cambridge-specific testing system for anyone with symptoms.

This is such a strange time, and we don't know how long it will last. But we are determined to make it work for everyone in our community, and the Emma values are shining strongly throughout. We will continue to put on a range of online events and communications for you all, and I look forward seeing you at them and to the time when you can visit us again. In the meantime, I hope you are keeping well.

With best wishes

Dame Fiona Reynolds
Master

FELLOWS' PROMOTIONS

We are delighted that in the university's latest round of academic promotions, Professorships have been established for our Fellows John Maclennan (Earth Sciences) and Alexander Mitov (Physics), and Readerships for Chris Whitton (Classics) and Thomas Sauerwald (Computer Science).

You may have seen in recent college news that our Herchel Smith Professor of Organic Chemistry, Professor Chris Hunter, has been awarded the Royal Society of Chemistry 2020 Supramolecular Chemistry Award for his pioneering work in the field. Whilst at Emmanuel, Professor Hunter's research has been developing tools to predict the properties of molecular ensembles, based on the chemical structures of the components and their interactions. His award honours his recent establishment of key principles in supramolecular design, and quantitative descriptions of non-covalent interactions. His most recent research has enabled the creation of duplex-forming sequence oligomers and catalytic assemblies.



Professor Chris Hunter

VIRTUAL GENERAL ADMISSION

A Zoom celebration was held on 26 June, the date when General Admission should have taken place, for final-year students, to acknowledge their achievements at Emmanuel. The Master, Dame Fiona Reynolds hosted with contributions from Acting Senior Tutor, Dr Phil Howell, the Dean Jeremy Caddick and the then (now retired) Head Porter, Dave Glover. In the days prior to this students had received goodie bags containing items that included rubber ducks, bookmarks and bags all complete with the Emmanuel lion. The operation to send these parcels out began weeks before, culminating in a day of packing each individual box



in Hall, before being shipped to our students across the world. Whilst it could not replace the atmosphere of a graduation ceremony in Senate House, the Zoom itself was a wonderful example of the spirit of all who study and work at Emmanuel. Many students will return for a graduation celebration when it is safe to do so. In the meantime we celebrate and commend them for all they have achieved during their time at Emmanuel and wish them the best in their future endeavours.

Careers Database

Join more than 800 members by adding or updating your entry to the Emmanuel Careers Database.

Do sign up even if you graduated relatively recently, as advice on applications, surviving interviews and getting started in a new job can all be really valuable.





The new social hub in the centre of South Court

PLANNING APPROVAL FOR NEW COLLEGE COURT BUILDINGS



We're delighted that the plans for our new court at the south-east corner of the college, designed by Stanton Williams, have been approved by Cambridge City Council.

The design of the court will mean that we will be able to accommodate all our community of undergraduates on the main college site. The scheme will also provide social and communal spaces, including a central social hub, a new college bar and a large events space. The development includes teaching rooms for supervisions and offices for Fellows, and will be based around landscaped courts. A 'fly-through' is on the college website at www.emma.cam.ac.uk/supporting/emmaenables.

This addition of 0.15ha means that we now own almost the entire island site and provides the opportunity to fulfil our vision of providing intellectual and social support that meets today's very different demands, with growing emphasis on connectivity, community and teamwork; demand for informal non-hierarchical meeting and working spaces; and bringing together people across subjects, disciplines and backgrounds.

We are calling this vision *Emma enables*: enabling a diverse community of the brightest students to come to Emma and benefit fully from their time here; enabling great research to have even greater impact by welcoming 100 exceptional

post-doctoral researchers to our vibrant, inter-disciplinary community; and enabling all our members to achieve great things as they make their way in the world through *Emma experience*, looking at the needs of the whole person and opening up ways to develop new skills and networks.

We'll be telling you more about our plans and how to get involved in the coming year; if you are interested to hear more in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



The new residential court

EMMA CONNECTS

As you may be aware, we have created a new email newsletter called *Emma connects*. Formed just after the UK went into lockdown, we wanted to bring you interesting and thought-provoking activities to provide some light relief in challenging times. We are continuing to send this out fortnightly with updates on the college, Fellows, members' and students' news and research information, as well as activities to take part in. If you haven't been receiving this and would like to do so, please send an email to development-office@emma.cam.ac.uk and we'll add you to the list.

EMMA BLOG

www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/blog

If you haven't seen our blog please do take a look. We are updating this regularly with contributions from both Emma members and Fellows.

Recent posts include:

- Making Relational Care Work for Older People – Member Jenny Kartupelis (1979)
- A Tree From the Dawn of Time – College Archivist Amanda Goode
- Swannet – Member Greg Spiro (1966)
- Rare book of the Week: Robert Thornton's *Temple of Flora* – Professor Barry Windeatt
- What to do about all the plastic bottles? – Member Anthony Newman (1991)



Gloucester Cathedral

EVENTS

Because of Covid-19, we are continuing to plan virtual events during Michaelmas term. Emails with specific dates and details on how to join the following will be sent out closer to the time.

- Lucinda Hawksley – Online talk on the Charles Dickens Museum – 29 September
- Dr Jonathan Aldred will answer questions at a session based on his opinion piece in *The Guardian*, 5 July 2020 'This Pandemic has exposed the uselessness of orthodox economics' – October
- Janet Gough – Online talk: 'Cathedrals, safe places to do risky things' – November
- The Emmanuel Society's 'day' and AGM will be held virtually on 14 November

Keep in Touch

We always treat your personal information with care and according to your wishes. A full description of the way in which data are used, together with your rights in this respect, is available at www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/data

To ask us to change the way we use your data, please get in touch with the Development Office.

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