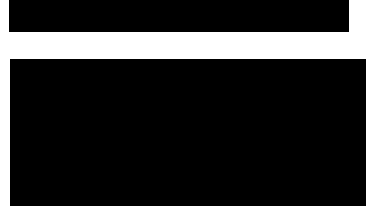


Date 26 March 2021

Our Reference  
Your Reference  
Please ask for  
Direct Dial  
Facsimile  
Email



FOR THE ATTENTION OF PROFESSOR FIONA J WILCOX  
HM Senior Coroner, Coroners Officer  
Inner West London Coroner's Office  
33 Tachbrook Street  
London  
SW1V 2JR

BY EMAIL

Dear Madam

**Response of St John's College Oxford to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths issued by the Coroner on 3 February 2021 arising out of the inquest into the Death of Daniel Mervis, Ex-undergraduate.**

The purpose of this communication is to provide a Formal Response to the Coroners Regulation 28 Report outlined above.

In her Report, the Coroner raised the following:

**Concerns of the Coroner:**

1. That Oxford University has no overarching policy agreed by all colleges, and that St John's should encourage the University to develop the same.
2. That there is an apparent conflict between St John's stated policy to deal with utmost severity with those students who misuse or supply drugs, and the apparent support those students who suffer with drug addiction are offered. This conflict may discourage such students to seek help for their addiction out of fear of the consequences, either legal or disciplinary. A policy of the College which is well publicised and stresses the confidential nature of support offered may mitigate this risk.
3. That St John's drug misuse policies should be more widely advertised for example at Freshers' week.

In Response, St John's addresses these matters as follows;

**Response to Concerns**

1. The Conference of Colleges (a forum for the Colleges of the University of Oxford to deal with matters of shared interest and common purpose) has set up a Task and Finish group, to be led by the Master of Pembroke College. The intention is to set up a template policy that all Colleges will be able to adopt. St John's College will be represented on the working group by the Principal Bursar and the Welfare Dean.

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2. St John's will adopt the template policy outlined in response one. In addition to this it will be rewriting the appropriate section of the student handbooks to make sure that there is greater clarity about the confidential support that students are able to receive without worrying about any potential legal or disciplinary consequences.
3. St John's will make sure that this continues to be included fully in Fresher's week. In addition, we will run a Welfare week (most likely in 5<sup>th</sup> week of the first term of the academic year) where, amongst other matters, we will try and raise a broader awareness of drugs, the consequences of addiction and drug misuse, and the support available to students both from within St John's and from external agencies. We will work with our student representatives to make sure this is as meaningful as possible.

We would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this communication for our records.

Yours faithfully

**Knights**

**Knights plc**