

ST PETER'S COLLEGE

From the Master
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The Master of St Peter's College, Professor Bernard Silverman FRS, has announced his intention to demit office on 31 December 2009. He has issued the following statement:

"I am extremely proud of the progress the College has made in the six years since my appointment in 2003. We should be particularly gratified by the transformation in the academic environment of the College. The students, undergraduates and graduates, at St Peter's are a wonderful group. Our students combine their central commitment to their academic success with tremendous achievements in music, drama, sport and other activities, and have a justified pride at being members of an ambitious and forward-looking intellectual community.

Since my arrival we have built on our existing strengths by appointing no fewer than fifteen Official and Professorial Fellows, of ten different nationalities, assuring the long term academic excellence of the Fellowship of the College. Every one is an international authority in their research field and is totally committed to their work as a College Fellow. The Governing Body has shown itself willing to take courageous decisions pivotal to the future academic success of the College, and the atmosphere of academic ambition and excellence among the Fellows and students of the College is remarkable.

There have been enormous improvements in the College's accommodation. We have handed back or disposed of all the previous multi-occupied properties, and replaced them by two new purpose-built residences in the Castle area. The main site has been enhanced by the addition of the Dorfman Centre. We have put in place proper financial systems, a robust investment strategy and policy, and an excellent development office, supported by an outstanding external Campaign Advisory Board. We have a visionary architectural master plan for the next half-century's development of the College site. We have an efficient, cheerful and professional team of support staff in every area of the College's activity.

Leading the College through a process of rapid transition has been an exciting time, requiring close and day-to-day attention. I have taken the difficult decision that the end of 2009 will be the right time to stand back from the Mastership in order to concentrate more fully on my research, especially in crucial areas such as human genetics and climate change, and on my professional activities, for example my role as President of the Royal Statistical Society. It has been a privilege to serve as Master of St Peter's College and I wish my successor, and the whole of the College community, the very best of success in the future."

25 February 2009