



Professor Dame Sally Mapstone DBE, FRSE
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

November 2023

Dear parents and family members,

Thank you to everyone who came to the Parents' Receptions at the beginning of Orientation Week in September – it was a pleasure to meet so many of you and to welcome you to our truly global University community.

We have had a wonderful start to the academic year: in September, St Andrews made history by becoming the first university apart from Oxford and Cambridge to top both major UK higher education league tables – *The Guardian University Guide 2024* and *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024*.

We were equally delighted to learn from the National Student Survey 2023 that St Andrews students are more positive about their education than those at any other mainstream university in the UK.

These endorsements are all the more impressive given the challenges of the past few years, including the global pandemic, the climate emergency, war in Europe and the Middle East, and the cost-of-living crisis.

I hope that those of you who have visited St Andrews have experienced for yourselves what makes it such a unique learning environment. Our students and staff hail from more than 140 different countries and bring with them a wealth of cultural diversity, so while we are small enough to be intimate and friendly, we are also large enough to be international and energetic.

This is why Diverse St Andrews is a central pillar in our revised University Strategy, along with the other key strands of World-leading St Andrews, Entrepreneurial St Andrews, Digital St Andrews, and Sustainable St Andrews. All together, these themes will define our actions, ambitions, and decision making for the next few years.

We have ambitious new projects that will help us to implement this Strategy and enable the University to remain at the forefront not only of national but also of international learning, teaching, and research.

The transformative development of the world-leading 'New College' on a wonderful site on South Street, will create a home for our highly-rated School of International Relations and for our visionary new Business School.

The hydrogen train project – led by Professor John Irvine's Hydrogen Accelerator team in the School of Chemistry – is helping the Scottish Government to meet its ambitious Net Zero carbon targets, while the world-leading Colin Vincent Centre for Battery Technology at the Eden Campus – the first of its kind in Scotland – will power the next generation of batteries and energy storage.

The University is also investing in the Eden Campus to establish a regional focus for entrepreneurial innovation, provide start-up opportunities and support spin-outs. As a result, St Andrews is supporting regeneration at a local level and ground-breaking, innovative research at a national level.

I am very grateful to those Family Programme members who have already supported the University and I am delighted to enclose a message from fellow parents Jean-Paul and Minou Engelen, who also encourage you to make a donation to help us achieve our goals and ambitions.

Thank you for showing your commitment to St Andrews by being a member of our Family Programme – I am delighted that you will be joining us on your student's journey through to graduation. We will do everything we can to support you on that journey.

Yours sincerely,



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