

GIRTON COLLEGE

CAMBRIDGE

DRUGS and ALCOHOL

The College Council reminds members of the College in statu pupillari:

1. that to take drugs otherwise than under medical direction is dangerous.

Any member of the College suffering physically or mentally from drug-taking is urged to seek early advice. The Tutors are always ready to give personal advice and help to their pupils. Confidential advice can also be obtained by members of the College from their general practitioners or from the University Counselling Service (www.counselling.cam.ac.uk); Tel: 01223 332865).

2. that under legislation dealing with dangerous drugs, the unauthorised possession of certain drugs, including cannabis is a criminal offence.

Members of the College who have unauthorised possession or make unauthorised use of any such drug, or who supply any person with such a drug or knowingly assist him or her to obtain unauthorised possession of it, render themselves, independently or in addition to any penalty they may suffer on conviction by a Court of Law, liable to rustication or expulsion by the College Council. Nor will the College protect a student from the due processes of the Law.

3. that following the introduction of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 dealing with substances previously called “legal highs”, it is now a criminal offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply and to import or export certain psychoactive substances which are proscribed under the Act.

Members of College who engage in any of the above illegal activities in relation to such psychoactive substances will also face disciplinary action where the penalty shall be rustication or expulsion by the College Council.

Although possession with no intent to supply of psychoactive substances for personal use and personal consumption is not a criminal offence under the Act, members of College who possess for their own use and/or who consume psychoactive substances

on College premises or who facilitate such use will also be subject to disciplinary action.

4. that excessive consumption of alcohol is both detrimental to health and to a student's ability to study. It can also result in antisocial behaviour leading to harassment, abuse of others and disruption of College life.

Being drunk or being dependent on alcohol is not a disciplinary offence, though in the latter instance, the College offers support, and urges students to take it. Non-alcoholic options (including non-alcoholic wines and beers) are available in College bars and at all College events.

Anti-social behaviour, which is often a consequence of excess drink, is not tolerated by the College and is dealt with by the Dean as a disciplinary matter. In this case drunkenness is regarded as a compounding factor in any offence, not an excuse.

The College reserves the right to take disciplinary action - including rescinding the right to live in college accommodation, rustication or expulsion - against any student indulging in excessive alcohol consumption.

The College recognises that inappropriate use of drugs or alcohol may sometimes be linked to underlying welfare concerns, including stress, mental health difficulties, dependency, or other personal challenges. While the College cannot condone unlawful drug use or harmful alcohol consumption, our first priority is to encourage students to seek help early and to ensure that concerns are approached, wherever possible, from a welfare and harm reduction perspective.

Students are strongly encouraged to come forward if they are worried about their own drug or alcohol use, or that of another student. The College will aim to respond compassionately and proportionately, focusing first on safety, wellbeing, and access to appropriate support, while reserving the right to take action where there is serious risk, illegal activity, harm to others, or disruption to College life.

Professor Toni Williams

Senior Tutor

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