

# NEWSLETTER

*"When you don't vote, other people speak for you."*

*Operation Black Vote Advertisement, Saatchi & Saatchi London*

Week 9 2023-24

## LORD WOOLLEY COMES TO CATS CAMBRIDGE



# CATS CAMBRIDGE WELCOMES LORD WOOLLEY

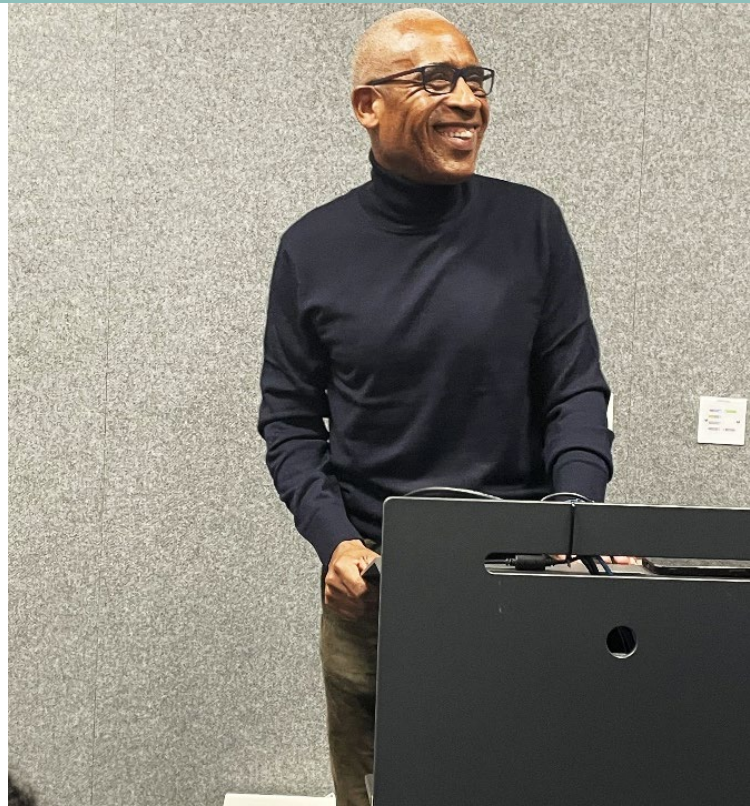
On Thursday November the 2nd, the lecture theatre was absolutely filled to capacity with staff and students alike as they eagerly awaited the arrival of Lord Simon Woolley.

Lord Woolley's talk was a journey through his life and experiences to his present-day situation and how he feels about his current role. He explained to us how he had not come from a privileged background but had grown up on a council estate. He had then moved from car mechanics to sales. He was clearly an exceptional salesperson as he had two flats by the age of 23!

He then moved to his journey through Access to Higher Education and then on to degree studies and his travels to Latin America. The talk was utterly inspiring as well as threaded with good advice and life lessons for our students. He spoke about gaining true understanding of those who live in relative poverty and the generosity that many display in this position. He spoke about having access to privilege and education and using this wisely. There were powerful messages concerning living by our values and being the best that we can be in whatever we do.

Lord Woolley also shared with us his journey and development of Operation Black Vote and the meaning and history of the movement. The movement was largely brought about by systemic injustices perpetrated on Black communities and individuals between 1994 and 1996, where said communities were subject to severe social and political pressure. He shared multiple examples of how appalling institutionalised racism had put young Black people's lives in peril, often resulting in injury or worse, and that the same institutional racism has yet to be eradicated. Lord Woolley said that he felt he has no excuse not to "fight for justice, for hope and dignity".

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# CATS CAMBRIDGE WELCOMES LORD WOOLLEY



Operation Back Vote exists to ensure greater racial justice and equality throughout the UK and the movement works to inspire BME communities to engage with public institutions and, after 19 years of campaigning, their voice can be heard at the highest levels of Government.

Lord Woolley then went on to explain that his current position as Principal of Homerton College, Cambridge, came out of the work he had done to fight for a voice for everyone, to ensure everyone has a place. The importance of values ran through the talk, integrity, honesty, doing your best for others not just yourself.



We then had the opportunity for questions. The students asked meaningful questions which Lord Woolley answered with wisdom and powerful life advice.

The House Captains were then able to take the discussion further with a round table discussion focusing on equality and equity and how this is achieved as well as living by your values.

The morning passed very quickly. We felt inspired and very lucky to have had such an energetic, passionate, and impressive speaker. Our students were captivated and are still talking about the visit.



# HALLOWEEN



CATS Cambridge Common Room became a chamber of horrors last Tuesday as a host of ghoulish monsters gathered to celebrate Halloween.

The traditional pumpkin carving competition was followed by the Annual Halloween Disco and karaoke, where students and boarding staff inflicted their voices on their hapless victims.

Terrifying stuff!



# HALLOWEEN



# EARLY UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

If you are in first year A-level or below and considering applying for challenging and competitive University courses, such as Oxbridge courses, Medicine, Law, or Veterinary Science, it is never too early to get started on developing your application and gathering the information you need to apply.

My name is Katherine Stockton. I am here at CATS as your first point of contact for personal statement development, as well as helping you prepare work experience, wider reading, volunteering and more.

Please contact me at [kstockton@catscambridge.com](mailto:kstockton@catscambridge.com) to book a short, one-on-one appointment to have a chat about what your ambitions are, and what early steps you should take to get going.

I hope you see many of you soon.

Best wishes,  
**Katherine**  
Key Professions Programme Coordinator



# MATHS CONUNDRUM – solve in 10 minutes or less

Each week the Maths department release a conundrum to the students to be completed in Personal Tutor time on Thursday.

Last week's maths conundrum winners were Gabriel and Barbara (5m 37s), Amor & Noah (5, 53s), and Manuela and Jay with 6 minutes respectively each.

If you missed it here's your opportunity to unravel this tricky conundrum. Can you beat the winners?



**You have eight coins that all look identical but only one is solid gold.**

**The solid gold coin weighs slightly more than the fakes.**

**You can use the balance only twice. How can you work out which is the real gold coin?**



## Valuing Character

Phil Harwood,  
Vice Principal



This has been a busy week; it has included Halloween and reflection upon the year's first academic reports, topped off by a truly memorable visit from Lord Simon Woolley of Woodford.

Lord Woolley is a member of the House of Lords. He is also the Principal of Homerton College, University of Cambridge. Lord Woolley met with our students; he delivered a talk and then joined a round table session with student council members. He left an indelible impression and his powerful message on the profound importance of character and active engagement in life resonated with students and staff alike.

Lord Woolley, a prominent advocate for social justice and equality, delivered an inspirational speech that urged us to reflect on the essence of our character: that true success is not just measured by academic achievements, but by the depth of our integrity, empathy, and the positive impact we make in on those around us. Engaging in life therefore is not a passive act; it requires a conscious effort to be present and involved, and also that excellence cannot merely be measured with grades, but by our commitment to others, making a difference, ethically embracing challenges, and confronting injustice.

The essence of character, as Lord Woolley highlighted, lies in our ability to stand up for what is right, to champion inclusivity, and to foster a sense of community. In a world that constantly presents opportunities for growth, learning and personal gain, nurturing a strong character becomes a moral compass that can help us navigate the challenges that lie ahead of us.

Lord Woolley's words made me reflect on my own character and, after such a busy week, it really shone a light on just how much we do here to provide a well-rounded education. The learning in our school is not limited to the classrooms and lecture theatre, it is more than the visitors, trips and excursions too. The study groups in the hub, or even prep times after school show diligence and commitment, but everything that we do from community service to Halloween parties to table tennis to museum visits in London is a learning experience from which we build character.



In the words of Lord Simon Woolley, "Character is not just something we possess; it is something we actively cultivate and express in our actions. Engage in life with purpose, and let your character be the guiding force in shaping a brighter future for all."