

PRESS RELEASE

## Queen's Anniversary Prizes to become the Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Higher and Further Education

**LONDON 16 October 2024** – The Royal Anniversary Trust is pleased to announce that the Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education will now be known as the Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Higher and Further Education in honour of their founding Patron, Queen Elizabeth II.

Established in 1990, the Royal Anniversary Trust was originally tasked with leading a national programme of celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne. The themes of education and community were at the heart of these activities. Her late Majesty was a passionate believer in the power of education to help realise human potential and solve the world's many problems and did all she could to promote, support and protect it.

Following the success of these events, the creation of the Prizes scheme was announced in Parliament in 1993 by then Prime Minister, Sir John Major, with Queen Elizabeth II's consent and with all-party support. The Prizes are part of the UK national honours system and are unique in recognising the institution as a whole rather than the work of individuals.

First awarded in 1994, the Prizes are granted every two years by the Monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister following a rigorous, independent process of review managed by the Royal Anniversary Trust. They are presented by a senior member of the Royal Family at an investiture ceremony traditionally held at Buckingham Palace.

The sixteenth round of the Prizes will open on 30th October 2024 and form part of the 30th anniversary celebrations of the scheme. To date, 318 Prizes have been awarded to 59 further education colleges and 86 universities across the UK.

**Sir Damon Buffini**, Chair of the Royal Anniversary Trust said: "We are delighted that the legacy of Queen Elizabeth II and her commitment to education is captured in this new name for our prestigious awards. We are grateful for her

guiding hand in creating and supporting these Prizes, and for the ongoing patronage of Their Majesties, The King and Queen as we continue to recognise and honour the extraordinary achievements of universities and colleges across the United Kingdom.”

**Notes for Editors:**

**The Royal Anniversary Trust** is a charity that celebrates and champions the outstanding work of universities and colleges across the United Kingdom. We are best known as custodians of the prestigious Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Higher and Further Education (formerly the Queen’s Anniversary Prizes) part of the UK national honours system, recognising excellence, innovation and public benefit in work by universities and colleges across the United Kingdom.

**Contact:** Amy Douthett  
[amy@royalanniversarytrust.org.uk](mailto:amy@royalanniversarytrust.org.uk)