

PRESS RELEASE

## New Trustees Announced

### The Royal Anniversary Trust Welcomes Three New Members to Board of Trustees

**LONDON 11 September 2024** - The Royal Anniversary Trust is delighted to announce the appointment of three new Trustees: Professor Dame Janet Beer, Shelagh Legrave OBE and Dr Mahnaz Safa.

**Professor Dame Janet Beer** is the Chair of the Sport and Recreation Alliance. She was previously Vice-Chancellor at both Oxford Brookes and the University of Liverpool. She was awarded a Damehood in the New Years Honours list 2018 for services to higher education and equality and diversity. She is a member of the Board of the Arts and Humanities Research Council and chairs their Assurance Board; an independent governor of Northumbria University; a Trustee of the Baltic Arts Centre; she serves on the National Leadership Advisory Board, Cabinet Office and is Patron of the Mark Evison Foundation.

Professor Dame Janet said: *"I am honoured and delighted to be joining the board of the Royal Anniversary Trust. I know from personal experience how gratifying the award of a Queen's Anniversary Prize is for both staff and students in higher and further education. I look forward to being part of the organisation that ensures that we continue to recognise and celebrate the extraordinary work of our sector."*

**Shelagh Legrave** was appointed Further Education Commissioner in 2021. Prior to that, she was Chief Executive of Chichester College Group for nearly twelve years. The College achieved Outstanding from Ofsted in 2014 and Outstanding for the Group in 2020. A qualified accountant, previously Shelagh worked in investment banking, for a university and as an army officer. She has served on a number of boards including chairing Stonepillow, a charity for homeless people in West Sussex, the local enterprise partnership and Chichester Festival Theatre.

Shelagh was awarded an OBE in 2015 and a CBE in 2021 and is a Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex.

Shelagh Legrave said: "I am delighted to be joining the board of the Royal Anniversary Trust. I am passionate about recognising excellence in education

and have been an enthusiastic supporter of the Queen's Anniversary Prizes for many years."

**Dr Mahnaz Safa** has been a senior executive at UBS, Citi and ANZ. She led Debt Capital Markets for EMEA and headed markets for Europe and America. Whilst at UBS and Citi, she co-chaired their respective women's leadership Executive Committees. Mahnaz is a Non-Executive Director of UK Government Investments and chair of their Remuneration Committee, she is also their Non-Executive Director responsible for Diversity and Inclusion. Mahnaz currently serves on the board of Jefferies International Limited as a Non-Executive Director. She is the Senior Independent Director of the Council of Imperial College where she is the Champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and chair of their Finance Committee. She has previously served as a senior independent director on the board of Alternative Credit Investments FTSE 250. Mahnaz holds a PhD in computer aided technology from Imperial College.

Dr Mahnaz Safa said: "I am delighted to be joining the distinguished board of trustees at The Royal Anniversary Trust. I look forward to working with my fellow board members to widen and diversify the pool of applicants for their exemplary Prizes scheme as they continue to celebrate excellence, innovation and real-world impact in universities and colleges across the UK."

**Notes for Editors:**

**The Royal Anniversary Trust** is a charity that promotes and champions the outstanding work of universities and colleges across the United Kingdom. We are best known as custodians of the prestigious Queens's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education, part of the UK national Honours system, celebrating excellence, innovation and public benefit.

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