

PRESS RELEASE

New Chair of Trustees Announced

The Royal Anniversary Trust Welcomes Richard Meddings CBE as New Chair of Trustees

LONDON 22 September 2025 – The Royal Anniversary Trust is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Chair of Trustees: Richard Meddings CBE. Richard will take up the post in March 2026 when the current Chair of Trustees, Sir Damon Buffini, steps down.

Richard chaired the Board of NHS England from March 2022 until March 2025. Under his Chairmanship, NHS England now includes the organisations of NHS Improvement, NHS Digital and Health Education England.

Richard Meddings CBE said: *“I am honoured to take on the role of Chair of the Royal Anniversary Trust. As someone who believes passionately in the power of education to change lives, it’s a privilege to support the work of an organisation that recognises the outstanding contributions of our universities and colleges. The Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Education are a unique and important part of the national honours system, celebrating the real-world impact of teaching, research, and innovation across the UK. I’m excited to work with the Board and the Trust’s many supporters as we continue to champion the vital role of education in our national life.”*

From 2002 to 2014, Richard was a Group Executive Director at Standard Chartered, and Group Finance Director for eight years. Prior to that he was Group Finance Director at the Woolwich and Group Financial Controller of Barclays. He has in the past been Chairman of TSB Bank, served on the Board of HM Treasury, as a Non-Executive Director on the Boards of Credit Suisse, Legal & General, 3i Group, Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group and at Deutsche Bank A.G. He has in these roles variously chaired Audit, Risk and Remuneration Committees. He has additionally sat as a panel member for HM Treasury on several Major Projects Reviews and undertaken Independent Commercial Assessments of DFID and of the FCO.

From 2004 to 2014, Richard was Chairman of Seeing is Believing, a charity focused on curing avoidable blindness. He was a Trustee, and more recently Deputy Chair, of Teach First from 2016 to January 2022 and served on behalf of

the Department of Education, for four years as Chairman of the Hastings Opportunity Area.

Richard is an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, attended Wolverhampton Grammar School and has a Degree in Modern History from Exeter College, Oxford. He was awarded a CBE for his contributions to the financial services industry in 2022, and is an Honorary Fellow of Exeter College.

Notes for Editors:

The Royal Anniversary Trust is an education 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 Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Education (formerly Queen's Anniversary Prizes), part of the UK national honours system.

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