

The Senate, 14 October 2026

President & Vice-Chancellor's Report

Main Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report provides summary information on current and forthcoming developments, both internal and external, for the information of Senate members. The President & Vice-Chancellor will introduce the Report at the meeting and members will have the opportunity to raise questions. This report is structured around the University Vision's four Pillars and their respective Priorities, after a section about the external environment. Where information relates to more than one Pillar or Priority it is included under the most relevant theme. Where appropriate, reference is made to other papers that appear separately on the Senate agenda. The report now comprises two parts, the main report and a supplementary report with additional information and updates, available in the Reading Room.

1 EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Opportunities for the higher education sector linked to our role in economic growth as Burnham seeks 'good growth in every postcode', but sector will need to engage constructively

- Andy Burnham has set out a vision of 'hope' for the country and 'good growth in every postcode', which offers higher education and research and innovation opportunities linked to our economic growth role. To do this, we need to mirror the Prime Minister's positive tone, be constructive and offer solutions, for example Burnham has spoken of the "triple helix" approach to economic development which entwines business, academia and government activity and making the UK the world's leading "innovation nation". However, it is likely there will not be any additional resources for this and that there will be an acceleration of the trend towards requiring industry involvement to unlock research funding. The sector will also need to acknowledge the system may not (yet) be designed to fully incentivise the economic growth outcomes the Government seeks.

1.2 Work to do to ensure the Government looks at HE in the round, rather than continuing a firefighting approach in response to pressure, as strain on HE funding to continue

- The Government has tended to approach higher education in a firefighting way, for example, piecemeal change in response to pressure on student loan repayments or using the International Student Levy to address immigration concerns. To secure positive change in the round, the sector needs to persuade the Government to look at the system

as a whole, for example reintroducing maintenance grants through relooking at the student loan repayment regime, which requires broader review because of repayment issues, rather than funding it from the International Student Levy. Likewise, the sector is invited to engage positively with [the Prime Minister's broader plan for the country set out at the Labour Party Conference](#), including identifying opportunities arising from the UK-EU reset, as set out below.

- The financial pressures the Burnham Government faces are the same as those the Starmer Government faced - tax revenue is limited by manifesto commitments and spending pressures in many other areas, e.g. defence, prison places, and the NHS, are a higher priority than higher education. In addition, higher borrowing costs for the Government, in line with other developed nations, add to the squeeze on public finances. Additional pressure could come from technical education which is a priority (e.g. the [launch of new technical educational routes for 14-year-olds](#)), and may see money reallocated from the HE budget.

1.3 Proposed International Student Levy would add financial pressure on the sector

- As well as higher priorities for public spending than higher education, there are other financial pressures on the HE sector. The International Student Levy - a proposed tax of £925 on a University for each of its international students (above 220 international students) is planned to be introduced from 2028. It may be possible to persuade the Government that the money would be better used by universities in their role supporting local economic growth (via the cross subsidy to R&D that international fee income provides). However, the Government has earmarked the income from the levy to fund the reintroduction of targeted, means-tested maintenance grants for students from low income households studying courses aligned with the Government's missions and Industrial Strategy. So the sector will need to provide an alternative proposal on how to fund these maintenance grants, because Andy Burnham will not want to be the Prime Minister who scrapped the Labour pledge to reintroduce maintenance grants. The University has been working through Sheffield Central MP Abtisam Mohamed to push for the Government to take a holistic look at the issues as set out above.

1.4 Immigration policy unchanged at the headline level, although there may be small scale tweaks that benefit the sector

- Andy Burnham's decision to retain Shabana Mahmood as Home Secretary indicates a broad continuation with the immigration objectives of the Starmer Government's, in line with the Labour manifesto commitment to reduce net migration and respond to Reform UK political pressure. However, within this the Burnham Government might want to show some difference between itself and the Starmer Government, given many Labour MPs face pressure from the left in their seats. Mahmood has recently indicated that plans to make it harder for foreign workers to claim permanent residence in the UK could be revised. A small-scale alternative measure on immigration could be the exemption of Chevening scholars from the [student visa break](#), for example.

- Net migration figures are reducing, so it is anticipated that political debate will shift to focus on compliance - who is coming to the UK, through what routes, and ensuring they do what they say they intend to do when they are here, e.g study or work. Compliance and student loan fraud by non-UK nationals are issues the Government is facing political pressure on. This pressure saw the Starmer Government [tighten the immigration compliance metrics](#) and [require teaching providers in franchise arrangements to register with OfS](#). Depending on the impact of these policies, the Burnham Government could take further steps.

1.5 Burnham reopens debate on options for the UK's relationship with the EU, presenting potential longer term opportunities for research and student mobility

- Andy Burnham has [suggested rejoining the EU is among options the government could examine](#) to reshape the UK's long-term relationship with Europe, saying in his Labour Party [conference speech](#) that “Brexit has done more harm than good” and he will set out different options for Britain’s long-term relationship with Europe. We saw the Starmer Government use political capital to [reassociate to the Erasmus+ programme](#), but Burnham’s statement could mean further money and political capital being expended on the EU, from agreement to a Youth Mobility Scheme right through to putting the UK on a path to rejoin the EU.
- The immediate opportunities for the University include the proposed new youth mobility scheme, which would enable EU nationals to study in the UK more easily, and reassociation to Erasmus+ offers, which offers opportunities regarding student and staff mobility, cooperation projects, joint master's programmes, and research collaboration via the Framework Programme. In the longer term opportunities could, subject to UK decisions and negotiations with the EU, include better links into European research funding and easier student mobility, as well as wider positive economic benefits. The immediate threat for the University comes in potential budget cuts in other areas to account for this spending, including higher education and non-Framework Programme research budgets.

1.6 Quality assessments brought together in revised Teaching Excellence Framework

- The OfS has announced a revised Teaching Excellence Framework following a recommendation from the 2024 [independent Behan Review](#) of the OfS that its quality assessment methodologies and activity (the TEF and assessing providers’ compliance with the minimum standards set out in the quality conditions of registration - the B conditions) be brought together to form a more integrated assessment of quality. This will include publishing ratings on ‘student experience’ and ‘student outcomes’ for each university and will introduce a strengthened set of incentives linked to these ratings, as well as imposing student recruitment limits on those rated Bronze or Requires improvement following a consultation this autumn. Separately, the Government’s [Post-16 Education and Skills White Paper](#) committed to linking tuition fees increases from 2028/29 to judgements on quality. Lucy Powell, the new Secretary of State, is yet to confirm whether the Government

will continue with this approach, but is likely to do so in order to secure a maximum return on the investment of public money.

1.7 OfS amends its Freedom of Speech guidance in light of the High Court decision in *University of Sussex v OfS*, and consults on further guidance changes in advance of two new conditions of registration effective from next spring. (see also Section 7.1, below)

- The Office for Students has amended and clarified its freedom of speech [guidance](#) in response to losing a judicial review case against the University of Sussex. Changes included OfS decision-makers will need to read an institution's governing documents holistically, rather than provision by provision when determining whether that institution's policies comply with its free speech duties; treating a policy's capacity to potentially catch lawful speech as insufficient, on its own, to find a breach of an institution's free speech duties; and amending some of the illustrative examples. One of the findings of the Sussex judgment was that the OfS definition of 'governing documents' was too broad. It has now amended its definition to "documents that have some governing effect, which goes to the constitution or governance of the higher education provider".
- The Labour Government paused and reviewed implementation of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023, passed by the previous Conservative Government. Whilst addressing free speech in universities is not a priority for this Government, as it was for the previous one, the Government has decided to pursue some of the measures in the Act, given political pressure on the issue remains. Many of the 2023 Act's provisions came into force last summer, but it was only in April 2026 that the Government [announced](#) it would bring into force a new complaints scheme for staff and speakers and a new condition of registration which could see fines up to £500k.
- The Free Speech Complaints Scheme went live on 1 September and considers complaints about free speech from staff, applicants for academic posts, visiting speakers and non-student members. The OfS published the rules and guidance for the new scheme in August, with institutions given a deadline of 1 January 2027 to include information about the scheme in relevant policies and other documents. The University's Free Speech Group is overseeing our response to this.
- The OfS has also launched a consultation on two new conditions of registration relating to free speech and academic freedom. These conditions come into force on 1 April 2027 and are required by law, so the current consultation focuses on the supporting guidance and the OfS's approach to assessing compliance. Both conditions relate to the existing legal duties on universities to secure freedom of speech and academic freedom for students, staff, members, applicants to academic posts and visiting speakers. As the University is already required to meet free speech duties the introduction of a free speech condition of registration is not anticipated to necessitate a change in our practices, but we will review our assurance mechanisms to ensure that this is the case.

2 EDUCATION

2.1 ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITMENT

2.1.1 Admissions

- The UG Home intake is expected to be at, or slightly below, target with an overall higher intake tariff position. This position demonstrates a stable position in market share and a drive to improve the league table rankings of the institution.
 - Guardian University Ranking 2027 increased by 1 place to 15th in the UK - with an increase in the number of subject areas ranked top 10 in the UK, including 1st for Journalism
 - Complete University Guide Ranking 2027 increased by 3 places to 13th
 - The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2027 increased by 2 places to 11th in the UK
- The UG Overseas intake is expected to be slightly below target and reflects late applicant commitment from overseas markets, particularly in China and India. Applicants on pathway routes (i.e. USIC and pre-session English programmes) have seen a positive continuation rate onto their chosen degree-level programme.
- The PGT Home intake is expected to be below target, albeit against a year of strong recruitment and conversion in comparison to a decline across the sector. Continuing impacts of cost of living, employability, and student finance play a significant part in the 'accept to enrol' conversion pipeline.
- The PGT Overseas intake is expected to be marginally below target, representing the continued shift in student demand against increased competition globally. Applicant behaviours continue to demonstrate a very late commitment as they weigh up the best 'return on investment' opportunities across multiple institutions, both domestically and internationally.

2.1.2 Communications

- Proactive communications with new ministerial appointments, providing introductions to the University and its work and extending invitations to visit and meet with key leaders. We will continue to follow up on these.
- Communications and engagement around the Big Walk and the raising of over £165,000 for our research into childhood lung disease. [Hundreds of Sheffield walkers raise record-breaking sum for children's lung research | News | The University of Sheffield](#)
- Held a special event to recognise and celebrate our exceptional technical community as part of the *Our People: Celebrating Technicians* campaign. [Our People: Celebrating Technicians | Technicians | The University of Sheffield](#)
- Following a six-month development and feedback process, we communicated our new community values - We are Ambitious, We are Curious, and We are a Community. They will be introduced this year, and formally launched with the new University Vision and Strategy next year. [How our values will serve as the cultural foundation for our next vision and strategy](#)
- Widespread internal and external communications on our new Composites at Speed and Scale (COMPASS) research facility. [About our new COMPASS research facility at the AMRC](#)
- Communication around the news that we are one of 35 universities founding the new Defence Universities Alliance (DUA). [About our role in the Defence Universities Alliance](#)

- Communications around Emerge and how it has helped student founders launch ventures, and secure £1.4 million in collective funding. [See how Emerge is supporting our student and graduate entrepreneurs](#)
- Ahead of the 2026 Staff Survey opening next month, we communicated the main themes highlighted in 2024 and the actions taken as a result. [2024 staff survey – turning your insights into action](#)
- Communicated the news we are ranked 15th in the UK in the Guardian University Guide 2027 and in the top ten for 15 subject areas, including first for journalism. [About our Guardian University Guide ranking](#)
- Shared key information and resources with new students as part of our Welcome Week activities. [Information for new students](#) / [Information for new postgraduate researchers](#)
- Communications on the proposed three faculty model, setting out opportunities for staff and students to help shape how our proposed new faculty structures will work in practice. This will be followed by a period of engagement during October and November. [Proposal for our new faculty structure](#) | [News](#) | [Staff hub](#)

2.1.3 Graduation

- In July 2026, eighteen graduation ceremonies were held and attended by 4,975 graduands, accompanied by 13,200 guests. 574 students chose not to attend their ceremony. Over 550 staff participated in ceremonies, representing their school and faculty on the staff and officers procession, or volunteering in the ceremony to deliver the events. Many local dignitaries were also present. July graduation saw significant progress in embedding the strategic direction for developing our graduation offer agreed by UEB, including a more consistent and equitable approach to School receptions, enhanced campus atmosphere, strengthened ceremony standards and continued development of the graduand journey. Planning is underway for January graduation following the same strategic direction so that all our Graduates leave with the best experience possible.

3 RESEARCH

3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

3.1.1 Research Excellence Framework

- We anticipate that Research England will publish final guidance for REF2029 submissions (the actual submission will be made November 2028) by Christmas this year. REF Steering Group has made recommendations to UEB about our submission strategy, which seeks to balance protecting our strongly performing units, maximising our overall outcome (critical for our national reputation), ensuring we are able to showcase our strongest impacts in the appropriate units. A written report to Senate is included for its October 14th meeting.
- A new aspect of REF submissions for 2029 is a greater focus on our research environment; we will maximise our assessment outcome with a narrative which evidences that we have implemented strategy and policy, have data to show improvement and have evaluated and iterated to continue to build.
- To enable this, we have undertaken a ‘pulse’ survey of our research and academic staff, focusing on key elements of our research environment. 23% responded and were overwhelmingly positive. They were particularly positive about being appropriately

credited on research outputs and grants, and on the robustness of our research ethics and integrity practices in Schools. We have identified where there is room for improvement and will check in on actions undertaken in the next iteration of the survey, to be run in January 2028, prior to the REF submission.

4 INNOVATION

4.1 RESEARCH INNOVATION

4.1.1 McLaren Expansion

- McLaren has announced plans to expand its UK manufacturing and engineering footprint through a £500m investment programme, supporting the next phase of its long-term growth. This includes the confirmation of a performance SUV, which is expected to debut before 2030. The investment aims to add at least 1,000 jobs across various parts of the business by 2032. The University is in advanced discussions with McLaren on the research requirements for the performance SUV as well as expanding the number of composite apprenticeships that will be required. It is anticipated that this will lead to a doubling of the McLaren footprint in South Yorkshire.

5. ONE UNIVERSITY

5.1 CAMPAIGNS AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

5.1.1 Campaign targets, milestones and significant developments (data as of 17 September 2026)

- CAR ended 2025/26 having raised **£12.0 million** against a target of **£8.0 million**. This is a record high for CAR in terms of annual funds raised and the sixth successive year that CAR has exceeded its fundraising targets.
- 2025/26 was also a record-breaking year for alumni volunteering, with over 1,000 alumni giving more than **20,000 hours** to support over **8,000 students**. Since the start of the campaign, total alumni volunteer numbers have increased by 80%, driven by a surge in international volunteers. Alumni globally are now supporting student employability and recruitment, contributing high-value time online and in person as speakers, networking attendees, business hosts, mentors, media contributors, and advisory board members.
- An autumn campaign update to supporters and staff will focus on the impact of *Forged in Sheffield*. We are saving progress against our £250 million and 250,000 hours targets for the 'big reveal' at campaign close.

Financial Year	Funds Raised (target)		Total Funds Raised to date	Campaign Forecast
	2025/2026	2026/2027		
Funds raised £M (CAR)	12.0 (8.0)	0.9 (7.0)	64.6	70.7
Funds raised £M (other)*	31.0 (25.0)	0.9 (25.0)	247.0	271.1
	43.0 (33.0)	1.8 (32.0)	311.6	341.8

* Includes donations made direct to Faculties/Departments and philanthropic and non-philanthropic income through Research Services

	Volunteering hours (target)		Total vol hours to date	Campaign Forecast
Financial Year	2025/2026	2026/2027		
Vol hours (alumni & friends)**	20,364 (16,000)	198 (16,000)	122,641	138,443
Vol hours (students)	30,000 (20,000)	0 (20,000)	244,733	264,733
	50,364 (36,000)	198 (36,000)	367,374	403,176

** Figures include hours contributed by Alumni and friends. 'Friends' are defined as non-alumni who are not UoS staff.

5.1.2 Fundraising

- Since the last report to Council, CAR has secured **five new six-figure pledges** totalling almost **£900,000**. These will support the University's summer school programme, Access to Sheffield Scholarships (AtSS), student employability opportunities and two separate research projects in Neuroscience.
- We have also secured £50,000 from the law firm Mishcon de Reya that will benefit students studying law at Sheffield.

5.1.3 Reputation and rankings

- The Vice-Chancellor and the Chancellor, Andy Haldane, hosted a carefully selected group of alumni for lunch in New York in early September to discuss the University's new strategy with the objective of gaining a US perspective. Prominent guests with expertise across Government, media, finance, AI, science, philanthropy and the environment were able to give insight from their sectors that will be fed into our strategic development process. The event builds on our programme of engagement in the US that is resulting in year on year growth in philanthropic income and an increase in support with reputation and employability activity.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES

6.1 WORKFORCE

6.1.1 Pay Award

- Following conclusion of the New JNCHES negotiating meetings between UCEA and the trade unions (UCU, UNISON, Unite, EIS and GMB) earlier in the Spring, UCEA wrote to the trade unions on 15th May with its full and final offer of an uplift on each point on the New JNCHES pay spine of 2% from 1 August 2026. All the Unions rejected this offer and have invoked the Dispute Resolution Procedure. Two dispute resolution meetings are scheduled in late September. If these meetings fail to resolve the dispute, UCEA will likely advise the universities it represents to implement the pay increase in October.
- This year, the national negotiations include not just the uplift to pay, but also the proposal to revise the national pay spine. These negotiations are separate to the pay award and are currently planned to conclude by 31 December 2026.

6.1.2 Staff Survey

- The 2026 staff survey will launch on Monday 5 October and run until Monday 19 October.
- Communications commenced during the summer including a ['you said, we did'](#) piece published on the staff hub this month. We are aiming for an overall response rate of between 60 and 70 per cent to ensure the survey feedback is representative of our community.
- The question set for this year's survey will largely replicate the questions asked in 2024 to allow us to compare the data over this time period. This will include 31 scaled questions and two free text questions where colleagues will be asked to share the things they value most about working at the University and one thing that would improve the University as a place to work.
- We are running the staff survey through the Hive platform. As was the case in 2024, local leadership teams will have access to Hive to view and analyse survey results for their areas. The headline results of the survey will be shared with all staff before the end of the year.

6.1.3 Faculty Interim Leadership arrangements

- Due to the current Faculty-Vice President and Head of the Faculty of Social Sciences undertaking planned medical leave for three months commencing in October, interim leadership arrangements will be put in place to ensure key duties and responsibilities are covered. Professor Kate Dommett (Faculty Director of Research and Innovation) and Professor Ste Hincks (Faculty Director of Education) will each undertake additional leadership duties during this period.

7. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

7.1 OFFICE FOR STUDENTS

7.1.1 Free Speech and Academic Freedom

- The new OfS freedom of speech complaints scheme has opened and the OfS has been engaging with the sector on what their approach and expectations are in relation to this scheme.
- In addition, the OfS has launched a consultation on two new conditions of registration arising from the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 which mandated the creation of conditions of registration requiring that:
 - An institutions governing documents are consistent with compliance by the governing body of the institution with its freedom of speech duties; and
 - An institution has in place adequate and effective management and governance arrangements to secure compliance by the governing body of the institution with those duties.
- We are engaging with UUK as part of the development of a sector response to the consultation.
- In addition, we have reconvened the Free Speech Working Group that reviewed the institutional response to these requirements previously and are undertaking a review of our internal control framework relating to these duties but also reviewing how we take positive steps to maintain a strong culture around freedom of speech and academic

freedom. As this work progresses, further updates will be provided to council on the institutional response to these requirements.

7.1.2 University of Sussex Lessons Learned report

- The OfS has published a lessons learned report following the High Court decision finding against the OfS in the appeal by the University of Sussex against the fine levied against it by the OfS following findings that it has infringed lawful free speech.
- The lessons learned report appear to be an attempt by the OfS to reflect on the decision and to reset relationships and expectations with the sector, including building greater trust amongst those it regulates. The extent to which this change of approach is real and effective, is to be determined.

7.1.3 Consumer Protection Condition of Registration

- The establishment and regulatory guidance related to a proposed condition of registration relating to treating students fairly, which was due to be released this calendar year, has been delayed by the OfS until 'early 2027' as it continues to work through matters raised as part of its engagement around the creation of this condition of registration. Further updates will be provided as and when this condition of registration is established.

7.2 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

7.2.1 Human Tissue Authority

- The Human Tissue Authority carried out an inspection of the University's compliance with its licence relating to the anatomy specimens. The inspection report noted that the University has met the majority of the HTA standards but noted that there were some minor findings which required to be remedied, and which were addressed by the Designated Individual to the satisfaction of the HTA.

7.2.2 Animals in Science Regulation Unit

- The ASRU undertook an unannounced inspection of the biological services unit facilities on 23 September 2026 and was accompanied by one of the Named Veterinary Surgeons. No specific issues were raised as part of the inspection and a report is expected in due course. Should any material issues be identified in the report, an additional update will be provided.

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Supplementary Report

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1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

- No Supplementary content.

2. EDUCATION

2.1 ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITMENT

2.1.1 City, Culture and Public Engagement

- Festival Of The Mind will be running 6–15 November 2026. The Festival consists of free activities, talks, performances and exhibitions. It's a celebration of ideas, culture and collaboration and a great way of engaging the public with our academic research and its impact.
- Off The Shelf, festival of words, returns for its 35th edition from Monday 28th September - Sunday 25th October. This event will bring the best in local, national and international literary talent to Sheffield to support cultural vibrancy and reach out to the wider community using a range of city venues.

2.1.2 Media coverage - highlights

- [The Guardian](#) covered new technology invented by University spin-out company VolcanoTech. The tech uses a modified smartphone camera to detect ultraviolet wavelengths and provide early warning of volcanic eruptions.
- The Arts Towers' 60th anniversary received widespread regional coverage including: The [BBC](#), [Radio Sheffield](#), [BBC Look North](#), and the [Yorkshire Post](#).

- Professor Katie Field and postdoc Emily Magkourilou from the School of Biosciences were interviewed by [BBC Radio 4](#) regarding their research into fungal soil networks and their importance to ecosystems and agriculture.
- Professor James Marshall from the Centre for Machine Intelligence was featured in the [Financial Times](#) regarding his AI research and spinout company, which were given as examples of how the city of Sheffield is harnessing the expansion of the UK's IT sector to drive growth.
- New screen technology by University spinout Pixel-Flo was covered in key business and industry media including the [Engineer Live](#), [Business Insider](#) and [Prolific North](#).
- Extensive coverage was gained highlighting the world's deepest underground vertical farm - a pioneering project co-launched by the University in a former mine, positioning the University as a global leader in sustainable agri-tech innovation. This included [BBC Radio 4](#), [BBC News](#), [Guardian](#), [The Telegraph](#), [The Times](#), BBC Radio 5 Live ([clip 1](#), [clip 2](#) and [clip 3](#)) and key industry and trade publications including [Food and Drink International](#), [Fresh Talk Daily](#). Following the coverage, the Director of the Ecton Mine Education Trust (former Director of the Mining Association of the UK) contacted the university to discuss replicating Sheffield's innovative agricultural model within the Peak District's Ecton Mine.
- The launch of COMPASS, the AMRC's new composites facility, was covered in high-profile national, regional and premier trade titles including the [Financial Times](#), [The Engineer](#), [Yorkshire Post](#), [Business Link](#), [Composites UK](#), [Industrial News](#), [Plant and Works Engineering](#), maximizing our reach and reinforcing our position as a world-leader in transformative research and advanced manufacturing.
- The work of the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) was featured on a dedicated [BBC Radio 4](#) broadcast and an accompanying online report in [BBC News](#). This is the start of ongoing communications to mark the AMRC's 25th anniversary, and positions the university as a primary catalyst for regional economic regeneration, highlighting our impact on high-value skills, innovation, and industry growth.
- Professor Colin Angus provided expert commentary regarding GLP-1 research and alcohol-related hospitalisations in [The Times](#), [The Independent](#), [The Express and Star](#), [The Sun](#), [The Mirror](#), [Yorkshire Post](#) and [Belfast Telegraph](#). This proactive positioning reinforced the University's authority in health economics and addiction research.
- Expert commentary from Professor Jonathan Cooper-Knock on pesticides and their link to MND was featured in the [Daily Mail](#) and [Head Topics](#). The coverage reinforces the University's global reputation as a leading authority in neurodegenerative research. Media exposure has led to a collaborative grant application to the MND Association to fund a cohort of PhD studentships across Leeds, Sheffield and UCL.
- Professor Robert Storey from the School of Medicine and Population Health provided expert commentary for the [Daily Mail](#) and [The Sun](#) on a new study suggesting it's safe to discontinue the use of statins in people aged over 75.
- The team placed a range of stories in the media in the build up to A Level Results Day, including an [op-ed](#) from the Vice-Chancellor in The Times' Clearing Guide, an [advice piece](#) from a Sheffield student in THE Student, an [advice piece](#) on writing personal statements from Tony Flaherty in Prospects, interviews for Dan Barcroft on choosing the right university on [LBC](#), Capital, [Hits Radio](#) and the [Sheffield Star](#), and the Daily Mail featuring Sheffield as the Best University in the North of England in their [University Guide](#). The Daily Express published a [story](#) on a Sheffield student who had a double transplant at the age of 21 and is now training to be a surgeon.

- The University's Off the Shelf festival was covered in the [Yorkshire Post](#) and the [Sheffield Star](#), highlighting the University's core civic mission and community engagement.
- An op-ed from the Vice-Chancellor was published in [Politics Home](#), successfully projecting our institutional thought leadership to key decision-makers, including parliamentarians, government officials, senior journalists, and corporate policy influencers. PoliticsHome noted it was one of their most-read op-eds that week.
- Dr Susan Oman appeared live in the studio on BBC Breakfast ([clip 1](#) and [clip 2](#)) to discuss claims that AI could end humanity in the next 10 years, reinforcing the University's expertise in this area.

3. RESEARCH

- No Supplementary content.

4. INNOVATION

4.1 RESEARCH INNOVATION

4.1.1 National Enterprise Educator Awards 2026

- Further to our report late last Academic Year about the success of our student enterprise offer (£1.3M Investment raised, 12 start ups by graduates), Victoria Berry from the University's student and graduate start up service (Emerge) won the Inclusive Enterprise Education or Support Award at the National Enterprise Educator Awards 2026. This is national recognition of the strength of our student enterprise offer.

5. ONE UNIVERSITY

- No Supplementary content.

6 LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

- No Supplementary content.