

**PETERHOUSE  
CAMBRIDGE**

**DRUGS and ALCOHOL POLICY**

The Senior Tutor reminds members of the College in statu pupillari:

1. that to take drugs otherwise than under medical direction is dangerous.

Any member of the College suffering physically or mentally from drug-taking is urged to seek early advice. The Tutors are always ready to give personal advice and help to their pupils. Confidential advice can also be obtained by members of the College from their general practitioners, the [College Nurse and Wellbeing Advisor](#), the [College Mental Health Advisor](#) or from the [University Counselling Service](#).

2. that, under legislation dealing with dangerous drugs, the unauthorised possession of certain drugs, including cannabis, is a criminal offence.

Members of the College who have unauthorised possession or make unauthorised use of any such drug, or who supply any person with such a drug or knowingly assist him or her to obtain unauthorised possession of it, render themselves, independently or in addition to any penalty they may suffer on conviction by a Court of Law, liable to rustication or expulsion by the Governing Body. Nor will the College protect a student from the due processes of the Law.

3. Following the introduction of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 dealing with so-called “legal highs”, it is now a criminal offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply and to import or export certain psychoactive substances which are proscribed under the Act.

Members of College who engage in any of the above illegal activities in relation to such psychoactive substances will also face disciplinary action where the penalty shall be rustication or expulsion by the Governing Body.

Although possession of such substances for personal use and personal consumption is not a criminal offence under the Act, members of College who possess for their own use and/or who consume psychoactive substances on College premises or who facilitate such use will also be subject to disciplinary action.

4. that excessive consumption of alcohol is both detrimental to health and to a student's ability to study. It can also result in antisocial behaviour leading to harassment, abuse of others and disruption of College life.

Being drunk or being dependent on alcohol is not a disciplinary offence, though in the latter instance, the College offers support, and urges students to take it. Non-alcoholic options (including non-alcoholic wines and beers) are available in College bars and at all College events.

Anti-social behaviour, which is often a consequence of excess drink, is not tolerated by the College and is dealt with by the Tutor for Discipline as a disciplinary matter. In this case drunkenness is regarded as a compounding factor in any offence, not an excuse.

The College reserves the right to take disciplinary action - including rescinding the right to live in college accommodation, rustication or expulsion - against any student indulging in excessive alcohol consumption.

5. that to administer alcohol or drugs to another person without their consent ('spiking') is a criminal offence. Such behaviour is also a breach of the University's Rules of Behaviour which could give rise to a formal disciplinary complaint by the victim.

Members of the College who administer drugs or alcohol to another person without their consent render themselves, independently or in addition to any sanction they may suffer on conviction by a Court of Law, or as the result of an investigation by the University's Office of Student Conduct, Complaints and Appeals, liable to rustication or expulsion by the Governing Body. Nor will the College protect a student from the due processes of the Law.

Dr Stephen Hampton  
Senior Tutor

10 October 2023