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# Sections

October 2023

Programmes and Activities Update (June 2023): Paper D

<b>This paper is for information</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>
<i>This paper provides Sections with information on the Academy's Programmes and Activities and covers the period March to June 2023.</i>
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>
<i>Sections are invited to note this report.</i>
<b>Author</b>
<i>Contributions are from British Academy Heads and Teams (edited by Nickolas Lambrianou, Head of Fellowship Engagement &amp; Governance).</i>
<b>Financial or resource implications, and/or risks to consider</b>
<i>None</i>

## Introduction

- These reports are regularly refreshed and circulated to Council, Sections and Academy committees, for information. Fuller information on many of the items referred to in this paper, including texts of reports etc, is available on the Academy's website, [www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk).
- The document is organised around the core strategic objectives as outlined in the recently published [Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#):
  - [To invest in the very best researchers and research](#)
  - [To celebrate and promote the humanities and social sciences](#)
  - [To inform and enrich debate around society's greatest questions](#)
  - [To ensure sustained international engagement and collaboration](#)
  - [To make the most of our people, partnerships and resources to secure the Academy for the future](#)

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3. In addition, the strategy identifies three strategic priorities for 2023-2027:
  - Strengthening and championing the humanities and social sciences
  - Mobilising our disciplines for the benefit of everyone
  - Opening up the Academy
4. This report is structured around the five core strategic objectives whilst the three strategic priorities are embedded across all of our work summarised below.

## **To Invest in the Very Best Researchers and Research**

### *Research Funding*

5. The Research Awards Committee met at the end of February 2023 and confirmed the outcomes of the latest rounds of Mid-Career Fellowships, Senior Research Fellowships and Small Research Grants.
6. 259 eligible applications were submitted at the Outline Stage for this year's Mid-Career Fellowships. 99 applicants accepted the invitation to submit Second-Stage applications. Although the original possibility that more funding might have been found to enable additional awards to be made was not fulfilled, the revised budget for 2023-24 was confirmed as enabling 43 awards. These awards have now been offered to be taken up in the autumn of 2023. A full list will be published online and shared with the Research and HE Policy Committee and the Section Co-ordinators when the list has been finalised and all of the awards accepted. The overall success rate of the competition was 17%.
7. The British Academy/Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowships attracted 105 applications. We were able to confirm 11 offers of award on this occasion. The Leverhulme Trust had already generously increased their support to enable 10 awards to be made (compared to 7 previously). On this occasion, although we were not able to find an award-holder suitable for the Thank-Offering to Britain Fellowship, the Committee welcomed the additional commitment of the Leverhulme Trust to enable 11 awards to be offered as planned. This gave an overall success rate in this round of 10.5%.
8. The British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grants attracted a significantly increased pool of applicants for this round (up 22%) to 784. This was the first round to be awarded using the partial randomisation approach. 59% of applications were judged to be 'above the quality threshold' and suitable therefore for entering into the randomised allocation. So far, 244 awards have been offered giving an overall success rate of 31%. It is, however, often possible that additional funding can be made available to this scheme at the end of the financial year and all of the applications that were entered into the randomisation have been ranked and can therefore be supported as far as the ultimate funding pot will allow. The Academy has continued to be able to maximise the use of non-governmental sources of funding through our partnerships,

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for example with EY (for research on AI and disruptive technologies), the Honor Frost Foundation (for research on maritime archaeology) and the Sino-British Fellowship Trust (for research involving partnerships with, or travel to, China). We have also been able to maximise the use of endowed funds including the Browning Fund for research on early modern British history.

9. The Research and HE Policy Committee will receive a full report on the outcomes and will be taking into account all of the views expressed by assessors, Section Co-ordinators and Sections.
10. The Postdoctoral Fellowships 2022-23 competition is progressing as expected - around 22% compared to last year's 528 – and the smallest number of submissions for several years. 119 applications have been submitted to the Second Stage and 55 awards are expected to be offered at the end of the process. The Humanities and Social Sciences Panels are scheduled to meet in late April and the final decisions will be confirmed by the Research Awards Committee in late May.
11. The Academy introduced a new scheme of Innovation Fellowships in 2021 focussing on knowledge exchange and partnership. This is divided between two 'Routes' – a 'Researcher-led' Route A where the applicant is free to propose the partner organisation with whom they will work; and a 'Policy-led' Route B where the Academy has pre-identified the partner. 1 award was made earlier in 2022-23 through Route B for work with the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). A competition to award 6 further Route B awards in partnership with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is in progress. 24 awards were offered through Route A, and a small number of reserves are being held pending final decisions on Route B to see if further awards might be supported. The first reports from the initial cohort of award-holders are beginning to be submitted and one example is Dr Martin Harris, University of Essex, who worked on *Building Project Identity in Health and Social Care Partnerships* with Essex County Council. The research highlighted the cultural and organizational factors that contribute to the successful management of large service innovation projects in the UK health and social care system. Findings were shared with managers working at different levels in Essex Adult Social Care and further dissemination to the Chief Scientific Officer for the county of Essex, selected care commissioners and other relevant personnel will follow.
12. Another programme successfully run again following a pilot in 2021-22 is the Talent Development Awards. Disappointingly, this scheme attracted only 14 applications, and only 9 awards were considered strong enough for support on this occasion. Discussions about increased promotion of awareness of this scheme for 2023 are in progress. Again, first reports on completed awards are beginning to be received, and one example is Dr Lucy Donaldson, University of St Andrews, whose work is on *Videographic Scholarship: Innovation and Collaboration in Research Practice*. Dr Donaldson was enabled to take part in a two-week international workshop during

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which participants were given intensive skills training in video editing methods while learning to make videographic essays and developing their own project.

13. The 2022-23 BA/Wolfson Fellowships scheme attracted 133 applications and the final panel was held recently. 6 awards have been offered to bring the total cohort being supported through this scheme to 24.
14. The Projects Committee met in early February to discuss the submissions received for adoption into the portfolio of Academy Research Projects. There has not been an annual call for new projects (the last was in 2014). On this occasion 45 project proposals were considered, and 4 new projects adopted including the *Corpus of Early Medieval Latin Medicine (CEMLM)* and *Border Criminologies*.
15. The Academy is a partner with ESRC, on behalf of UKRI, various other research councils and Innovate UK in a new initiative, the EDI Caucus. The successful team selected after a rigorous selection process is led by Dr Kate Sang, Heriot-Watt University - [Major new study aims to help underrepresented groups - Heriot-Watt University \(hw.ac.uk\)](#) The programme of work is beginning with the current co-design phase where the researchers and the funders partnering in the initiative are working together to develop priorities for the first year of the project.
16. We hosted a very successful ARMA virtual study tour on 25 January offering an excellent opportunity to extend awareness across a much wider group of organisations than individual or regional visits. More than 130 participants joined us for the event. In addition to the general update about the Academy's research funding work, we also had more specific sessions focussed on EDI, the Early Career Research Network and on international activities. University visits also continue to take place and an online visit to the University of Reading took place on 7 February. A planned in person visit to the University of Lincoln had to be postponed by mutual agreement and will now take place in July. We will also present at Cardiff Metropolitan University in April, and Ken Emond has been invited to speak at the Socio-Legal Studies Association Conference also in April in Derry/Londonderry.

#### *Early Career Research Network (ECRN)*

17. The Early Career Research Network was launched in Autumn 2021, with funding for a pilot phase granted by the Wolfson Foundation, which has since been supplemented by DSIT funding. The Network currently operates in three areas in the UK– the Midlands where the hub is led by the University of Birmingham, the South-West of England where the hub is led by the GW4 Consortium, and in Scotland co-led by the universities of Stirling and Glasgow. The Network has **2,550** members, of which **2,285** are not funded by British Academy fellowship awards. Overall, **42%** of our members are actively engaging in some way, either by attending events or using the online community platform. **49%** of members are signed up to the Online Community platform, which also includes ECRN staff, regional Hub Leads, and Consortium partners, the platform has over **1,200** users. **89%** of the Online Community platform

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users are returning – meaning they are actively engaging with the platform which is great. In Autumn 2022, an evaluation was conducted on the first year of operation of the Network was completed by Technology Development Group. It found there was clear demand for what was an undoubted success with Early Career Researchers, there is good engagement with a diverse range of offerings, the decision to approach this through regional delivery has been sensible and generally successful, though greater clarity moving forward on roles and relationships with the centre in the Academy is recommended. The evaluators made a few suggestions for the Academy and its funders to consider. As a result of a successful evaluation and pilot, the Wolfson Foundation agreed to continue funding the Network for a further three years, from March 2024 to March 2027. The Academy also committed its own funding to extend the pilot phase from March 2023 to March 2024, which will allow us to build on what has working well and improve in the areas, where we have been less strong. DSIT have also agreed to continue providing supplementary funding for the Network. The focus for the Academy over the next few years is to roll out the Network nationally, with the next region being London, which will be in place by Autumn 2023. In addition to that, the Academy will continue to look at securing more permanent and longer-term funding, which will provide security, making the Network more sustainable and allowing us to expand the BA ECRN team, to ensure that we can continue to meet the demands and deliver the Network effectively and efficiently.

### *UK Young Academy*

18. The British Academy is a partner with the other national Academies and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Learned Society of Wales and the Royal Irish Academy in the setting up of a UK Young Academy, as previously reported. The first cohort of 67 members of the UKYA has now been appointed - [Shaping a better future together | UK Young Academy](#) An induction meeting for the first cohort took place on 24-25 January 2023, and was attended by the members themselves and several members of the senior Academies who had been involved in the initial set-up of the new organisation. The UKYA is currently working on setting its new governance structures in place, in particular, an Executive Committee.

### *BIRI*

19. The Academy's engagement with the eight British International Research Institutes (BIRI) has continued with the awarding of funding for each School or Institute for 23-24 following their submission of proposals. The BIRI Forum and the next meeting of the BIRI Oversight & Engagement Committee will both take place on 23rd May. The 12-month reports from the BIRI for 22-23 will be reviewed by the Committee at this meeting and the proposed agenda for the BIRI Forum will include a range of topics for discussion including the next steps for an action plan following the positive and productive discussion on the outcomes of the feasibility study for collective Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status held at a meeting on 4th May.

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### *Academic publications*

20. One new *Proceedings of the British Academy* volume has appeared: *New Lives, New Landscapes Revisited: Rural Modernity in Britain*, edited by Linda M Ross, Katrina Navickas, Matthew Kelly and Ben Anderson (PBA 256).
21. One new volume by an Academy-supported early career researcher has been published in the open access *British Academy Monographs* series: *Prosody in Medieval English and Norse*, by Nelson Goering.
22. Four more volumes arising from Academy Research Projects have been published: *The Diaries of Anthony Ashley-Cooper, the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury: Vol. 1: 1825-1845*, Parts One & Two, edited by David Brown (*Records of Social and Economic History*, 65 & 66); *The Medieval Stained Glass of West Yorkshire*, by Brian Sprakes (*Corpus Vitrearum*, Summary Catalogue 10); *Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani*, Great Britain Volume I, Fascicule 11, *The Hinterland of Hadrian's Wall*, and *Derbyshire*, by Lindsay Allason-Jones – which brings to a conclusion the Academy's contribution to the international CSIR project.
23. New articles posted to the open access *Journal of the British Academy* have discussed environmental reparations for Ukraine, and homelessness and modern slavery. And *Biographical Memoirs* have been posted for Jim Adams, Ian Doyle, Simon Keay, Laura Marcus, Margaret McGowan, and Basil Yamey.

### **To celebrate and promote the humanities and social sciences**

#### *Research and Higher Education Policy*

24. The Higher Education and Skills team have begun early scoping work for a new project exploring Research Careers in SHAPE. We are aware of complementary work ongoing – notably by Vitae, and the taskforce from NCUB on researcher mobility – and are engaging as appropriate.
25. The Academy has been engaging with the Department for Education's new Unit for Future Skills (UFS), which has been set up to improve the quality and accessibility of jobs and skills data. Dr Molly Morgan Jones, Director of Policy, is a member of the Unit's External Advisory Group, and the Unit is chaired by Professor Ian Diamond. The Academy's HE & Skills team has also been interacting with UFS staff, with the aim of feeding into its future work in areas such as non-salary measures of graduate outcomes and returns.
26. The Academy continues to organise a series of events across the UK to help inform future outputs on the role of SHAPE and place. We have so far held workshops at the University of Sheffield, the University of Glasgow, and at the University of Cardiff's Social Science Research Park (SPARK), followed by events at the University of Newcastle and in London's Knowledge Quarter in June. These events have brought

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together academics from across disciplines and institutions, members of our ECRN, and policymakers from local and devolved governments. These events will inform a write-up of the role of SHAPE in place-based policy making, to be published later in 2023.

27. Our SHAPE in R&D core Challenge Group has been meeting since October 2022, guiding our work on synthesising a series of commissioned pieces of research on SHAPE R&D. In March, we held a series of small meetings with members of this Group and a wider reference group, to discuss and challenge a draft of the synthesis report. We are delighted to now have a final draft which we plan to publish this work after the Summer Showcase in June.
28. In collaboration with our Publishing team, we have re-established an Academy advisory group on Open Access, Chaired by Vice President for Publications and Conferences, Professor Lindsay Farmer. The Advisory Group will provide strategic advice relevant to the Academy's role as a policy voice, a funder, and as a publisher, with a central aim of ensuring a coordinated Academy approach on Open Access.

#### *SHAPE Observatory on the health of the disciplines*

29. Our [SHAPE Observatory](#), which aims to ensure the sustainability and capacity of the SHAPE research base, by providing regular accounts of the health of our disciplines, remains live on the website. We have created live data dashboards on the Observatory which allow users to interact with data.
30. A project analysing changes in patterns of post-16 subject choice has now begun, with the tender for data collection and analysis awarded to a team from the National Federation for Educational Research. 'Subject Pathways' will address the primary research question: *What are the main trends and patterns in subject choice over the past 20 years, with respect to the social sciences and humanities disciplines for level 3 qualifications in England?* While this report is limited to level 3 qualifications (A levels, BTECs) in England due to data availability, there is scope for the Academy to explore equivalent research for the devolved administrations in the future.
31. Work is nearing completion on our English Studies analysis, which is slated to be published in June 2023. The report has now been signed off and is being designed ahead of launch. The next 'state of the discipline' assessment, on Media Studies, was discussed with the Culture, Media and Performance Section in March 2023. Interested Fellows were invited to a 'Town Hall' meeting in April 2023 to advise members of the Policy team on discipline definition, project scope and stakeholders. The next steps for the project include scoping conversations with the broader community and any other Fellows who express interest.
32. The series of roundtables on REF, organised with colleagues from Research England who are leading on the Future Research Assessment Programme (FRAP), has now concluded. Events on interdisciplinary research, bureaucratic burden, and Open

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Access have provided an opportunity to discuss key issues relating to research assessment from the perspective of our disciplines. We are currently putting together a short briefing paper to synthesise notes from each.

33. Also on REF, is a project exploring impact across the SHAPE disciplines, through the lens of REF2021 impact case studies. The work is led by a research team from the Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science, led by Professor Melinda Mills FBA FAcSS, who are analysing the REF2021 impact case studies to generate new insights on the impressive array of impact that takes place across our disciplines. The work is overseen by a steering group, chaired by Professor Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad FBA of this Committee. This project will run until September 2023.
34. The new, large-scale project on *‘Understanding languages skills and capabilities in the UK research base’* has been awarded to a team from King’s College London’s Centre for Language Acts and Worldmaking. This research will address the primary question: *What is the evidence base for the role, appreciation and usefulness of language skills in academic research disciplines outside Modern Languages and cognate fields in UK universities?* This is a significant piece of work, which the Academy expects to be delivered at the beginning of 2024.
35. The Academy was asked to brief members of the House of Lords on a debate on the Turing Scheme, the successor to Erasmus plus. As a result, we will shortly be publishing a briefing on the scheme, including its possible impact on students, staff, institutions, and disciplines.
36. As a culmination of the current phase of work on Educational Research, the British Academy and the Royal Society jointly commissioned an accessible synthesis and summary of work undertaken on the project to date. This has been delivered to the Academies and we are now working to produce a policy briefing to be published alongside. This is expected to happen in summer 2023.

### *Networks*

37. The Strategic Forums for Social Sciences and Humanities will hold their spring meetings on June 14. To provide additional opportunities for engagement between Strategic Forum members, as well as comprehensive discussion on specific strategic topics of interest, the first of pilot ‘mini-Forum’ meetings was held on 26 April, discussing the health of the disciplines. This was a very successful event, and we are discussing outputs and next steps.
38. The Higher Education and Policy Development Group met on 17 April to discuss the current political uncertainty, the divergences in student funding across the jurisdictions of the UK, and how the Group would like to collaborate on work.



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### *Academic Events*

39. The 2022-23 British Academy Lectures programme continued to deliver using the university partnership model. From March to June 2023 five lectures were delivered, featuring Professor Tamara Levitz, Professor Thomas Charles Edwards FBA, Professor Colin Adams, Professor John Tolan and Lord Paul Bew.
40. Due to nationwide industrial action in the Higher Education sector, one lecture had to be rescheduled to 31 May 2023 and three lectures have been rescheduled to autumn 2023.
41. The 2023-25 Lecture allocation process will be completed in June and scheduled accordingly from autumn 2023 onwards.
42. Conferences have continued to take place and between March and June there have been two home conferences and four away conferences with particularly strong delegations attending away conferences.
43. The 2024-2025 Conference application process is underway and the confirmed list of will be completed by 26 June 2023 with convenor liaison taking place over the summer months.
44. A review of British Academy Conferences is being developed with initial scoping to take place over the summer.
45. The Academic Event team continued to operate on a reduced capacity over most of this period with only the Academy Events Manager in post. The new Events Producer (Academic) and Events Assistant joined in May 2023 which will help to ease the ongoing resourcing issues.
46. The Academic Events team will be reviewing all planning to ensure aligned to Strategic Priorities and ahead of the Strategic Review in 2024.

### *Public Events*

47. Work is ongoing to develop the 2024–27 public events strategy including the launch programme of the new spaces in spring 2024. The Communications and Engagement Committee have approved the decision to reinstate themed seasons for the public events programme going forward to help tell the Academy’s story, showcase our breadth of research across the disciplines and engage new audiences with our work.
48. Plans to pilot new event strands in Autumn 2024 are underway along with our usual events such as Open House and Black History Month. Ideas in development include our ‘Reactive Events’ series and later.

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49. Due to the ongoing building renovation at 10-11 CHT and reduced staffing, the public programme has been limited this quarter. The main focus has been on a partnership with The British Museum on 'The Music of Ancient Greece' and the 2023 Summer Showcase.
50. This year's Showcase will have a slightly different format to previous years due to the building renovation, meaning we will have exhibitions are replaced by over 60 events and workshops over the course of the weekend including panels such as 'The Legacy of Windrush', workshops such as 'Respect Me, Respect My Name: Names, Identities and Why it Matters to Say People's Names Correctly' and screenings such as the premiere of '(Dis)Appear', a documentary about the 1976-1983 military dictatorship in Argentina during which around 30,000 people were killed or disappeared.

### *Prizes and Medals*

51. In 2023 the British Academy is awarding 14 Prizes and Medals, including the partnership prize in collaboration with Cambridge University Press and *British Journal of Political Science*. The nomination cycle run from 1 December 2022 to 31 January 2023. We received a total of 45 nominations from Fellows and open call. Most of the nominations were for the Brian Barry Prize and the Peter Townsend Prize. Nominations will be reviewed by specialist prizes and medals panels and winners chosen by the end of May. The list of awardees will be sent to Council in June.
52. Last year's President's Medal was awarded to Full Fact. This will be marked with an event on 24 May 2023 with representatives of the Full Fact team in conversation with Julia Black.
53. The British Academy Book Prize enters its 11th year, and we will be working throughout 2023 in partnership with the London Review Bookshop and with literary festivals across the UK:
- 24 March – **Imagine! Belfast Festival** – *Horizons: A Global History of Science* – James Poskett
  - 29 March – **Oxford Literary Festival** - *Poverty and Inequality: The Cost-of-Living Crisis* - Gary Younge Hon FBA
  - 22 April – **Cambridge Literary Festival** – *A personal History of Empire* - Timothy Garton Ash
  - 23 April – **Cambridge Literary Festival** – *Rethinking 'Empire'* – Sujit Sivasundaram FBA
  - 26 May – **Hay Festival** – *Dispatches from the Diaspora: from Nelson Mandela to Black Lives Matter* - Gary Younge Hon FBA
  - 29 May - **Hay Festival** – *Let's talk about Europe* - Timothy Garton Ash
  - 30 May - **Hay Festival** - *The Jan Morris Lecture: Elixir – In the Valley at the end of Time* - Kapka Kassabova

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### *Public Engagement*

54. The Events Team is continuing to work on the new public engagement programme for 2023-24. The pilot scheme invites researchers to develop innovative public engagement activity delivered in their localities across the UK in partnership with an organisation from the galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAM) sector.
55. Around ten awards of £8,000 each will be made, with an emphasis on innovation, co-production and creative partnership working. The programme is currently open for applications until 28<sup>th</sup> June. Successful applicants will deliver their activities between October 2023 and October 2024.
56. There is a hope that awarded researchers may be able to be featured in future public events programming.

### *Media and Public Affairs*

57. In May, the Academy hosted a private, high-level event which brought together leading voices from business, the academic community and civil society who can discuss the opportunities and risks associated with an increasingly digitised world. The Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP - leader of the Opposition, Lucy Powell MP - the Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Jonathan Reynolds - the Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Industrial Strategy and were all in attendance.
58. The Academy also convened a dinner, in May, to recognise the leadership and vision of Sir Patrick Vallance during his tenure as Government Chief Scientific Advisor. This included leading figures in research and higher education.
59. The Academy responded to the publication of Nurse Review, extension to Horizon guarantee and new Science and Technology Framework, to the government's 'Pioneer' announcement and to the Spring Budget 2023; including a letter to the Chancellor outlining how the Government can unlock the insights of research across SHAPE (Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts for People and the Economy) and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine) disciplines to deliver real benefits for people across the United Kingdom.
60. Hetan and Julia have held numerous meetings with Parliamentarians including a meeting with Baroness Brown of Cambridge, Chair of the Science and Technology Committee (Lords). Hetan met with Clive Betts MP – the Chair of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee - to discuss social infrastructure MP.
61. The British Academy was quoted in the House of Commons by Secretary of State, Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP, regarding the Science and Technology Framework and by Stephen Doughty MP related to Research and Development Funding and Horizon Europe.

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62. The Academy's work has featured in national and international media, across both print broadcast media. Christina Boswell FBA and Molly Morgan Jones gave interviews to BBC Radio Scotland and BBC Radio Kent separately about the Covid Decade work. Hetan Shah advocated for the value and relevance of SHAPE skills to the UK economy in the age of AI in a major essay about the humanities in [The Times](#). Our SHAPE Skills programme was covered by the [New Statesman](#). Ken Emond was interviewed by [Research Professional](#) about the Academy's trial of partially randomised allocation. The Just Transitions in Japan report featured in the [Japan Times](#).
63. [Regional](#), [trade](#) and [international](#) media interest and support continues for the Academy's Researchers at Risk programme which during this period marked one year since launch.
64. British Academy reactions to political developments in R&D were picked up by the Science Media Centre, including Julia Black's statements in response to the [Nurse Review](#) and the [Spring Budget](#). In March, Hetan Shah wrote a comment piece for [Research Fortnight](#) about the R&D landscape.
65. The SHAPE campaign was mentioned positively across the trade media, including by [HEPI](#) (the Higher Education Policy Institute), by Professor Doug Haynes in the [Times Higher Education](#).
66. There were also lots of opportunities in this period for Fellows to apply their expertise to key contemporary issues. A report on the rules behind state school admissions led by Simon Burgess FBA was [covered](#) by the Guardian, Ben Ansell FBA wrote for [The House](#) on the UK housing crisis, Sarah-Jayne Blakemore FBA's research informed a piece in [The Observer](#) about how to nurture teenage minds, Christina Boswell FBA wrote for the [Times Higher Education](#) on the importance of involving our disciplines in early development of technology, Sir Noel Malcolm FBA featured in [The Times](#) for his research into public attitudes around the return of the Parthenon marbles to Greece, Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman FBA featured in the [Financial Times](#) and the [New Statesman](#) about the war in Ukraine, Sir Simon Baron-Cohen FBA commented in the [Independent](#) about discrimination against autistic people by employers, Professor Avi Shlaim FBA wrote for [The Economist](#) on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Israel's founding, and Professor Barbara Sahakian FBA discussed new research on BBC Radio4's Today.
67. British Academy-funded researchers have also featured prominently in the national and trade media. Dave Chawner and Dr Dieter Declercq were interviewed on national and regional BBC Radio about their work looking at comedy as a tool to help those awaiting treatment for eating disorders [Professor Jamie Gaskarth](#) (Small Research Grant), [Professor Carol Richardson](#) (Small Research Grant), [Dr Nathan Waddell](#) (Mid-Career Fellow), [Dr Caroline Tagg](#) (mid-career Fellow), and [Dr Jon Roozenbeek](#) (Post-doctoral Fellow) were just some of the funded researchers writing for The Conversation in relation to their research. A British Academy Conference on the impact of climate change on heritage attracted attention from the [BBC World Service](#).

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68. Topics covered in the Journal of the British Academy during this period received media attention, including a report into the impact of Covid on the Somali community in London, which was covered in [OpenDemocracy](#) and an article into the drivers of inflation, which was covered by the [New Statesman](#).

### *Digital Communication*

69. In April, the Digital team presented its proposed digital content production strategy to the Communications and Engagement Committee. The Committee approved the team's plan to resume content production across several established video, audio and blog strands, and the team is now working to implement those proposals – focusing first on the 2023 Summer Showcase.
70. The Digital team has worked collaboratively with the Summer Showcase team to promote the Summer Showcase 2023 through social media, paid ads, email marketing, listing newsletters, listings in publications, flyering and more. In addition to the extensive work to market the Summer Showcase which has taken up significant team capacity during this reporting period, the Digital and AV teams have been working together to plan production of audio and video content captured from the talks and workshops taking place over the Showcase.
71. The Digital team has expanded with the introduction of a new Digital Producer (Research) position, with the new role responsible for dedicated support to the Research Funding and International teams, which will further enhance the team's ability to support and promote research funding schemes as the Academy prepares for both possible scenarios regarding the question of the UK's continued association to Horizon Europe. Roxy Ozga has been promoted to the Digital Producer (Research) role on a 12-month secondment – we congratulate Roxy on her step up and are excited to see her lead the establishment of an even closer collaborative relationship with the Research Funding and International teams.
72. Between 1 March – 19 May 2023, the Academy's website was visited by 67,000 individual users, who generated 253,000 pageviews. Research funding schemes accounted for the highest proportion of traffic during this period, with Small Research Grants (19,000 views by 9,000 individual users) and International Fellowships (6,000 views by 3,500 users) attracting particularly high engagement, while Postdoctoral Fellowships, Mid-Career Fellowships, Newton International Fellowships and Visiting Fellowships were also among the 20 most-visited pages on the site. The Academy's new SHAPE Involve and Engage programme also received high engagement since its launch on 10 May (1,500 views by 1,000 users). The Fellows of the British Academy section (8,000 views) and the Academy's events programme (2,600 views) continued to generate significant traffic.
73. The Digital team continues to work on developing and improving the website. In May, the team completed a collaboration with the Press and Public Affairs team to combine the News and Analysis (renamed from 'Comment') sections of the website, with clear

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visual signposting introduced to denote each type of content. The Digital team also continued to work alongside the Public Policy and HE & Skills teams to restructure the Policy section of the site and produce a new analytics dashboard to enable more in-depth tracking of user engagement with the Academy's policy publications.

74. Between February and May 2023, we received over 1,100 sessions on our website through paid social media ads, which have promoted the public events, conferences, lectures, funding schemes and Book Prize and Summer Showcase. Between February and May, over 191,000 emails were sent out through the Academy's newsletters, with 19,000 k clicks and over 200,000 opens.
75. Between February and May, the Digital team oversaw the projects the design partner, Bond and Coyne, worked on with colleagues at the Academy, including Summer Showcase, brand review, building project, strategic report, and more.

## **To Inform and Enrich Debate Around Society's Greatest Questions**

### *Social and cultural infrastructure*

76. Following the launch of the package of support for the policy research projects in the Academy's Understanding Communities partnership with the Nuffield Foundation, the Academy hosted a workshop with the project groups on 23 March to explore policy engagement. Alongside the Academy's policy-focused events, the Institute for Community Studies are providing a programme of capacity building and relationship development for the researchers involved in the projects.
77. Following the completion of the joint programme on social infrastructure with Power to Change, the Academy is now developing a new phase of work focused on measuring social infrastructure. A tender is being drawn up to find and commission a research team to explore the question of how we measure social infrastructure.
78. The Academy has commissioned a series of short discussion papers on social infrastructure. Proposals from SHAPE researchers are currently under review by the social infrastructure working group. We expect to commission up to 10 papers in the first instance.

### *Sustainable Futures*

79. The Academy published its report *Understanding the role of place in environmental sustainability* on 30 March. The report is an evidence synthesis of seven research projects commissioned by the Academy as part of its *Where we live next* programme. The launch was accompanied by a workshop organised with the Centre for Science and Policy, on 13 March, which discussed the findings of the report with a range of senior policymakers.

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80. In February 2023, Public Policy Committee, discussed and approved the plans of the next phase of the Net Zero programme with a focus on net zero governance. A research project led by Dr Colin Nolden of the University of Bristol was awarded £150,000 to classify net zero policies and translate these policies into local capability challenges and opportunities. Alongside the research projects, five discussion papers were funded. The aim is to produce policy-focused papers that address, from a SHAPE perspective, specific questions on net zero governance. Second drafts of the papers have been received and are currently being reviewed by members of the programme Working Group.
81. The programme team have also collaborated with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), co-hosting an Applied Research Interest event on net zero. The event was chaired by Professor Susan Owens FBA and included representatives from across the DWP, other government departments and British Academy-funded programme researchers. The event generated potential policy ideas on net zero for the Department. It also provided the programme team with an opportunity to understand the net zero challenges faced by central government departments. Another event on net zero governance is scheduled for the end of May. It will bring together policymakers and researchers to discuss steps that can be taken to address pressing net zero governance issues.
82. The Academy held a two-part workshop on health and disaster response, focusing on climate and conflict, is scheduled to take place on 29 March and 12 April as part of the Wellcome-funded health policy workshops. The workshops were chaired by Professor Sarah Curtis FBA and attended by a diverse range of academics, policymakers and professionals.

### *Digital Society*

83. The Academy Completed its project on *Technology and Inequality*, which was commissioned by Sir Patrick Vallance, with the publication of a policy brief setting out the key findings and recommendations. Recommendations included the creation of a new Digital Inclusion Unit in central government to coordinate data collection on digital inclusion and coordinate on policy and best practice in monitoring and tackling digital inequality. The findings and recommendations have been shared with government, including a presentation to all departmental CSAs in a CSA network breakfast briefing session.
84. The Academy held a roundtable with TechUK, involving Academy Fellows, tech industry representatives, and senior Labour Party figures, including the Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer; Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Lucy Powell MP; and Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Industrial Strategy, Jonathan Reynolds MP. The roundtable discussed how to seize the opportunities presented by a digital society.

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### *Governance, Trust and Voice*

85. The Academy's project on Science, Trust and Policymaking, commissioned by the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology (CST) is developing emerging insights from its funded research and stakeholder engagement. In March, an interim project update was presented by Professor Julia Black FBA, and Professor Christina Boswell FBA, to the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology (CST). The CST discussed the emerging insights from the project and approved the next steps. Since then, the research projects have continued to develop, and a full written report is expected at the end of summer. In the meantime, the project team, together with the Working Group, will start the writing of the report that is to be presented to CST in September.
86. The Academy awarded four "Route B Innovation Fellowships" after the final awarding panel met in March. These awards are placed in the Office for National Statistics and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. On 17 April, the Public Policy Team held an introductory meeting for the 11 Route A Innovation Fellows that had identified as being related to the Academy's four public policy themes. The online event was well attended and provided an opportunity for the Innovation Fellows to discuss their research and share insights with each other.

### **To Ensure Sustained International Engagement and Collaboration**

87. The eighth round of the *Knowledge Frontiers: International Interdisciplinary Research Projects* programme closed in October 2022. The theme for this round was 'Global Dis(order)'. The Final Awards Panel was held on 31 January 2023, chaired by the Foreign Secretary & Vice-President, and comprised Anne Gerritsen (H3), Andrew Hurrell (S5), Sarah Radcliffe (S3), Shirin Rai (S5), Arne Westad (H10), and Noam Yuchtman. The Final Awards Panel made 13 awards which began in March and April 2023. The awards are for 24 months and have a value of up to £200,000. The projects cover a wide range of disciplines including Film Criticism, Ecology, Religious Studies, and Economics.
88. The second round of the *Visiting Fellowships* programme (first run in 2017) closed in November 2022. This programme enables academics from any country overseas to be based at a UK higher education or other research institution of their choice for up to six months and develop collaborative projects with UK colleagues. Awards of up to £33,000 were available. The Final Awards Panel was held on 20 February 2023, chaired by the Foreign Secretary & Vice-President, and comprised Susan Banducci (S5), Barbara Bombi (H6), Joanne Conaghan (S1), Daniel Freeman (S6), Roger Matthews (H7), Pablo Mukherjee (H6), Catherine Steel (H1), and Jane Wills (S3). 84 awards have been made, to begin between March and August 2023.
89. The *Education Research in Conflict and Crisis – Bilateral Research Chairs* knowledge systems strengthening programme, in partnership with the FCDO, is well underway, with three Chairs now in progress. The third Chair, Dr Justine Howard, started their



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programme of activity in December 2022. Dr Howard will be based across Swansea University, and BRAC University, Bangladesh, with a research programme focusing on the mental health, development and education of displaced children affected by conflict and crisis.

90. In partnership with [Cara \(Council at-risk academics\)](#), the Academy of Medical Science, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society, the British Academy has so far supported 180 researchers from Ukraine and across the physical and biological sciences, medical sciences, engineering, humanities, social sciences and the arts through the [Researchers at risk programme](#), which allows the researchers to continue their research in association with a UK host institution for up to two years. The programme has been supported by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the Nuffield Foundation and SAGE Publishing Ltd. There is currently no confirmation of further funding after seven rounds of fellowships awarded. There have been two cohort events for the Researcher at Risk Fellows so far with the hope of more regional focussed events to be planned for late 2023. The Leverhulme Trust is providing funding of £1,000,000 over five years targeted at providing research support for researchers at risk with grants available to support research project activities for eligible researchers in all disciplines except medical and health sciences. There have been two submission windows for this scheme so far and the third submission window is due to open in June 2023.
91. *Update September 2023:* The Researchers at Risk programme has been running since March 2022 and since then we have awarded 179 fellowships to at risk Ukrainian researchers based at over 70 universities and supporting over 200 dependents. We are now looking for more ways to engage our researchers at risk fellows with the BA Fellowship and we have been asked where Fellows can get involved. This might be for mentorship opportunities, setting up virtual seminars for our RaR fellows to present their works in progress to interested Fellows, or even if there was any availability to assess applications for the supplementary BA/Cara/Leverhulme Research Support Grants (maximum of 3 applications per person). We are currently gauging interest from our Fellows as we know our Researchers at Risk would be very keen to engage further with the expertise within the Fellowship and the UK research landscape at large – for any who would like to voice their interest in future engagement, do contact the International Team at [researchersatrisk@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:researchersatrisk@thebritishacademy.ac.uk).
92. Following positive evaluations for the Newton International Fellowships in 2019, and working across the academies, the Academy has been able to offer an enhanced and far more competitive International Fellowships scheme this year with three years of funding offered at 80% FEC to provide support for outstanding early career researchers to make a first step towards developing an independent research career through gaining experience across international borders. The Academy launched the call in January 2023 closing on Tuesday 28 March 2023, and has received 248 eligible applications compared to 175 the previous year. The applications are currently undergoing peer review with a deadline of Wednesday 24 May 2023, and the Final

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Awards Panel will take place on Thursday 22 June 2023. The Panel will be chaired by the Foreign Secretary & Vice-President Professor Simon Goldhill FBA along with Panel Members Professor Patrick Haggard FBA, Professor Christopher Pinney FBA, Professor Georgina Waylen FBA and Professor Amy Bogaard FBA. The Academy expects to make 15 awards for this round.

93. Following Knowledge Frontiers symposia held with the British Institute in Eastern Africa in December on the theme “Truth, Justice and Peace” and with the Royal Irish Academy on “Natures, Cultures and Communities” in January, the Academy has made respectively [3 awards](#) and [8 awards](#) to support research collaboration emanating from these symposia. The Academy has also made 9 awards to researchers who had gained previous Knowledge Frontiers Symposia seed funding to build on those awards with a tranche of follow-on funding.
94. The Academy has funded [28 International Writing Workshops](#) to support early career researchers in developing countries. These workshops aim to stimulate professional networks, develop research partnerships, encourage skills development, provide advice on career development and promote the uptake of research emanating from developing countries. The Academy has also announced [21 Writing Workshops awards](#) to advance and build upon those completed in previous cohorts. These workshops aim to further stimulate participants’ professional networks, develop research partnerships, encourage skills development, provide advice on career development and promote the uptake of research from developing countries.
95. The Academy has continued its work related to [Just Transitions to Decarbonisation in the Asia-Pacific region](#) by publishing policy summaries on 'All Change: Equitably Decarbonising India's Transportation Sector' (in [Bengali](#), [Hindi](#), [Malayalam](#), [Telugu](#) and [Tamil](#)); 'Just Transitions in Australia' (in [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Indonesian](#), [Japanese](#), [Korean](#) and [Spanish](#)); 'Asia-Pacific ClimateScapes' (in [Indonesian](#) and [Vietnamese](#)); 'Facilitating a Just, Fair and, and Affordable Energy Transition in the Asia-Pacific' (in [Indonesian](#), [Tagalog](#), [Malay](#) and [Vietnamese](#)); 'Just Transitions in Japan' (in [Japanese](#) and [Chinese](#)) and 'Just Transitions on the Ground: Ecological Civilisation in Urban China?' (in [Chinese](#), [Japanese](#) and [Korean](#)).
96. The Academy co-hosted a panel discussion with the International Rescue Committee on 4 May to discuss the intersection of humanitarian action and climate change. The panel was moderated by Laurie Goering, Climate Change Editor for the Thompson Reuters Foundation, and included David Miliband, President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee, Professor Melissa Leach CBE FBA, Ed Davey, Co-Director of World Resources Institute UK, and Vijay Rangarajan, FCDO Director General for the Middle East, Afghanistan, Pakistan, US, Canada, and the Overseas Territories.
97. *The Academy has continued its work related to COVID-19 vaccine engagement in the UK and USA by publishing summaries on ‘Overcoming Barriers to Vaccination by Empowering Citizens to Make Deliberate Choices’ (in [French](#), [German](#), [Italian](#) and*

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[Japanese](#)); ‘COVID and the Coalfield: Vaccine Hesitance in Wales and Appalachia’ (in [Welsh](#)); ‘Understanding Vaccine Hesitancy Amongst Frontline Workers’ (in [Spanish](#) and [Tagalog](#)); and ‘Medicine is Still Against Black People’ (in [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Romani](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#)).

98. Building on its work related to Covid-19 vaccine engagement and SSH7, the Academy has announced the funding of [seven research projects](#) that identify lessons learned and lessons to learn for future pandemic preparedness within G7 countries of preparing for, adapting and responding to COVID-19. The awards provide up to £100,000 each and will run over a duration of up to 18 months.
99. In partnership with the Royal Society, the Learned Society of Wales and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Academy will be holding the [ALLEA General Assembly](#) on 22-23 June at the Royal Society. The Symposium will take place on 22 June and will focus on “Crises and the Importance of Research. How prepared can we be?”. It will feature sessions on “Disaster Response and Adapting Public Services”, “Pandemic Preparedness and Building Resilience”, “Data for Emergencies” as well as an in-conversation on “Perspectives from Ukraine”, bringing together Fellows, researchers and practitioners.

## **To make the most of our people, partnerships and resources to secure the Academy for the future**

### *‘By Fellows for Fellows’ Events*

100. Following a very well received series of talks in October 2022, we held a second week of ‘By Fellows for Fellows’ events preceding Sections week (6-10 March 2023). Held online due to the building work and in response to feedback from Fellows that not everyone can travel to London, these covered a range of topics including Byzantine studies, the history of Ukraine/Russia relationships and how education can tackle inequality. Overall, we had just over 100 bookings across the week including Corresponding Fellows attending from Vienna, USA, Holland, Turkey, France and India.
101. The next engagement week (w/c 9 October 2023) will be in person. Deadline for talks has just passed (we set an early deadline to avoid the summer months) and we have received seven proposals from Fellows and will be adding in two Fellows events, plus the New Fellow’s event.

### *Carlton House Terrace*

102. The facilities team is looking to improve energy efficiency within our heating system with the introduction of a set of new Inverter driven pumps which will reduce consumption between 40-60 %, in turn reduce our overall CO2 emissions.

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103. Work has commenced to upgrade lighting systems on fire escape stairwells and public areas on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor with new LED fittings improving energy efficiency in the building.
104. The Facilities Team in collaboration with CITATION is undertaking routinely inspection of construction areas ensuring the main contractor is adhering to H&S regulation and meeting construction standards during the Basement project.
105. The team is continuously ensuring the maintenance regime for the Academy is to the highest standard and is working in conjunction with ARTIC Building Services to provide the Mechanical & Electrical Services for Academy.
106. We continue to support staff working from home and in the building conducting Self-Assessments forms, ensuring physical environment and adequate Display Equipment is assessed in line with our legal requirements
107. The Facilities team in collaboration with other Academy departments is reviewing requirements ahead of the reopening of the building following the completion of the Basement project.
108. The Clio team delivered a busy autumn and Christmas period of events ahead of the building closing and took advantage of the changed building programme to maximise revenue in this period. With activity limited due to the building works the total generated funds can be safely projected as nearly £1.9 million.
109. Over this period the business mix continued to be varied with corporate clients including Cunard, Nordic Capital, The Government of Jersey and the Board of Deputies of British Jews where we hosted Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.
110. The return to Christmas parties was strong after 2 years of Covid disruption. 18 were hosted from late November to the middle of December, matching our pre covid 2019 total. Clients included Mill Hill School, KPMG, Politico and Koch Industries.
111. The filming and wedding business remains consistent with five bookings respectively over this period, including shoots for fashion brands Next and Asos.
112. With the building at 10-11 Carlton House Terrace now closed to events, from January 2023 – May 2023, the team are focussed on projects to ensure a successful reopening in May and launch of the new spaces in spring 2024. This work includes achieving a second sustainability accreditation, implementing an EDI policy, completing an approved supplier tender along with database and reporting improvements.

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### *People Strategy*

113. Implementation of the People Strategy has continued. The Strategy will shortly be refreshed to take account of the new Strategic Plan. In the meantime, highlights for the period March 2023 to June 2023 include:
- CEO pay arrangements (pay range and pay progression) now aligned with all other grades, following review and Remuneration Committee approval.
  - Remuneration Committee has agreed proposals for a review of the pay structure to be completed by Autumn 2023.
  - Decision taken on new HR Management Information System which will bring significant improvements to processes and staff experience.
  - Defined contribution pension scheme for new entrants in place.
  - 2023 pay award implemented.
  - Staff numbers continuing to rise, with fixed-term recruitment linked to Horizon Europe Alternative funding.
  - Office 365 training rolled-out across the Academy to improve collaboration and efficiency.
  - Continuing to improve recruitment and selection processes, including at attraction and interview stages.
  - Policy reviews (How we work, Whistleblowing) completed.
  - Providing work experience for Year 10 / Year 12 students and participating in the Future Frontiers coaching programme for disadvantaged young people during June / July.

### *Securing Fundraising Income for the Academy's Strategic Priorities*

114. In 2022/23, the British Academy raised £5.1 million (vs £2.6 million last year or +137%). Growth in income was the result of years of work with some of our funders, particularly around fundraising for the Opening Up Capital Campaign. In addition to this, we negotiated long-term funding the Leverhulme Trust for the Small Research Grants Programme and Senior Research Fellowships and secured new funding for the Researchers at Risk Programme. We will also be working with a new Corporate Sponsor, Pol Roger at the 2023 Summer Showcase.
115. Fundraising for the capital appeal remains the top priority for the team – we continue to work on major donor leads and are submitting applications and proposals on a regular basis. With a total project cost of £9.6 million and philanthropic funds of £7.99 million secured to date, there remains £1.6 million left to raise. Whilst the outstanding amount can be underwritten by the Strategic Development Fund it remains a priority to narrow the gap.
116. We continue with raising funds for our Public appeal to Fellows and friends, which aims to secure £500,000 towards the fundraising target (Jan-Dec 2023). All Fellows have been asked to support this once-in-a-generation project. Funds raised will

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transform the Academy's home on Carlton House Terrace creating fully accessible and tech-enabled event spaces. £125,000 has been raised to date.

117. Other fundraising priorities including the British Academy Book Prize, the Researchers at Risk programme, the Early Career Researcher Network and the Summer Showcase.
118. We also continue to speak with Fellows who are considering leaving a gift in their Will to the Academy. More information, including on the free will-writing options the Academy offers, is available on our website: [thebritishacademy.ac.uk/support-us/legacies/](https://thebritishacademy.ac.uk/support-us/legacies/). If you would like to leave a gift for a specific purpose, or to discuss your plans confidentially please contact Jennifer Hawton ([j.hawton@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:j.hawton@thebritishacademy.ac.uk) or 020 7969 5258).
119. The Development team continues to run strategic in-person events to cultivate and engage prospective and current donors. In March, the team hosted a Celebration of the life of Professor Margaret M McGowan CBE FBA at the Society of Antiquaries of London with 74 attendees. In April, the team hosted an Evening with the President dinner with guest speaker Professor Rana Mitter OBE FBA, engaging 19 key donors, prospects, and industry professionals. We are looking forward to the President's Medal Dinner with Full Fact in May, for which we have 20 prospects attending, as well as the Private View of the Summer Showcase, for which we have 36 prospects attending to date.
120. The Development Board, Chaired by Sir Victor Blank, met in March. The Acceptance of Funds Group, Chaired by John Shakeshaft (external), met in May to conduct due diligence on prospective funders/donors to the Academy.
121. We continue to steward the Academy's donors through a number of mechanisms including regular meetings, personal contact, engagement through events and reporting specific to their giving. We are developing a capital newsletter which will go out to donors to the appeal to update them on progress on the project to-date.