

Word from the Editors

Daria Luchinskaya, Editor-in-Chief '09-10

Hello new academic year and hello new issue of St Anne's Academic Review. It is with great pleasure that I see STAAR carry on under Himanshu's direction, he's done a fantastic job as editor-in-chief, and I would like to thank him and the editors for their work in bringing this third volume to light.



STAAR was set up three years ago, building on the successes of the then-recently-established Arts and Humanities and Sciences Discussion Groups, now a vibrant and unique part of our College community, and the esteemed Subject Family Events. Underpinning these initiatives was a sense of sharing the achievements of academic work and in making it accessible and interesting to people in different fields of study, which we hoped to put across from the very first issue of STAAR. I should also acknowledge the role of the New Collection, the peer-reviewed journal run by the New College MCR, as a substantial source of inspiration.

When STAAR was established in 2009 I had little idea of the kind of reception that it would have, and I have been so happy to hear from many different people how much they enjoy it. It's mentioned in all sorts of fascinating and unexpected places, amongst which Onlinedegrees.org, an online education portal, picked up on an article by Dr. Nina Alphey and Christina Mayer from STAAR 2009 on obtaining funding for conferences. I have also been overwhelmed by the support for STAAR - from the extremely helpful and on-the-ball editorial teams, the interest and anticipation in the MCR community, the encouragement from STAAR's successful reception by the JCR and the SCR, and the invaluable help and advice from St Anne's college in STAAR's evolution.

Having been the chief editor of STAAR for its first two issues, while doing my MPhil in Russian and East European Studies at St Anne's, I could not be happier to see it thrive under a new editorial team, indicating that it has become a part of College life. As for me, I teach introductory maths to first-year St Anne's students reading Economics in various subject combinations, and doing a PhD in Employment Research at the University of Warwick. I would very much like to publish an article in STAAR when I have some findings!

I really hope that STAAR will carry on from strength to strength to celebrate our interests, curiosity and perseverance in doing what we do, across different disciplines and at different stages of our lives. Thanks to everyone who is and has been involved in STAAR, from making it to reading it.

Himanshu Kaul, Editor-in-Chief '11

It is with great enthusiasm that I present to you the third volume of St Anne's Academic Review. The current volume consists of articles that were submitted by St Anne's MCR members from the academic year 2010-11. With the current volume, STAAR – an online initiative in its first two years – takes its first steps in print; a move that I believe will increase its visibility amongst the St Anne's community at large. Contributions from the MCR and guidance and support from the SCR, including Dr Anne Mullen and Principal Tim Gardam, has since STAAR's inception played a key role in this advancement.

The most important feature of STAAR is the journal's requirement that the work presented be in non-technical language so that the articles are accessible to one and all. The journal therefore serves as a wonderful medium to hone one's writing skills and, more importantly, increase awareness of the diversity of projects JCR/MCR/SCR members at St Anne's undertake each year. With this in mind I would like to point the reader to an elegantly written article by **Robert Seddon**, a PGCE graduate, on a very important problem that pervades our education sector and a feature by **Nilu Satharasinghe**, currently a post-graduate in the Computer Science department, in which he shares his work that earned him and his team a visit to *10 Downing Street*. I hope that with the volume coming out in print the St Anne's community, when headed for their evening cup of tea or taking a break, will take a moment to note the achievements of their colleagues and extend a thought to the diverse range of perspectives on offer.

Along with the Science and Humanities Discussion groups, STAAR, I believe, is the soul of St Anne's MCR and one of the key ingredients that makes St Anne's student culture unique. In a gathering of twenty colleges summoned by the Vice-Chancellor Lord Hamilton it was a mention of STAAR that made St Anne's college stand out compared to the others. Of course, credit goes to Dr Mullen and Principal Gardam for being supportive of the various student initiatives, especially STAAR, but the fact remains that it is the contributors – the JCR, MCR and SCR – that give the journal its real value.

STAAR has a lot to offer, and I strongly believe that print version of the journal will increase its outreach. I look forward to more submissions from my colleagues and publishing the fourth volume of the journal next year. I have little doubt that with continued support from the College and the SCR, STAAR will advance strongly and, along with its contributors, charter new frontiers. I look forward to contributions for STAAR's fourth volume.

Thank you.