

VOTE JONATHAN OCTOBER 12/13

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A portrait of Jonathan Edwards, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark blue hoodie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a teal color with faint line art of a person jumping and large white chevrons pointing right.

# PRESENTING **JUMP** THE MANIFESTO

**JONATHAN | UNDERSTAND  
EMPOWER | CHAMPION**

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@Jonathan4Rector

# JUMP

## A LITTLE JUMP

### **JONATHAN**

- Olympic champion and World Record holder
- Strong family ties to St Andrews
- Invictus Games Trustee
- Experience representing athletes at London 2012;
- Transferable skills to role of Rector

### **UNDERSTAND**

- Strong working relationship with student-elected officers
- First 100 days as Rector, produce report on best working practice
- Review role of Rector's Committee and Rectors Assessor

### **EMPOWER**

- Create an environment for success
- Work with those experiencing barriers to success & support their agenda
- In St Andrews regularly
- Establish Rector on Teams

### **CHAMPION**

- Make Rector's work more relevant/ visible
- Strong advocate for students at highest level
- Champion what matters most to students
- Monthly report updating progress, successes, future goals

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# FROM THE CAMPAIGN TEAM

Jonathan Edwards is one of Britain's most successful ever athletes. During his career as a professional triple jumper, he won the Olympic gold medal in Sydney 2000 and set the world record for the men's triple jump- a record that still stands 28 years on. After his retirement from professional athletics, Jonathan went on to be the athlete representative on the Organising Committee Board for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, where he was instrumental in establishing structural change to provide athletes with a stronger voice. In addition to this, he was the Deputy chair of the Nations and Regions group that was established to grow the impact of the games to a wider and more inclusive audience. He has a wealth of experience representing the concerns of others and representing the issues that matter most to them at the very highest level. In his broadcasting career, Jonathan was part of Channel 4's ground-breaking coverage of the Paralympic Games and has recently been appointed as a charity trustee of the Invictus games foundation- a charity dedicated to supporting wounded, injured and sick veterans. Jonathan's connection to St Andrew's student community began in 2011, when his eldest son, Sam, began studying here. His connection has continued unbroken, with his niece and now nephew choosing St Andrews. He would be honoured to be elected as our Rector and have the opportunity to bring both his professional experience and personal dedication to this historic role, the ultimate goal of ensuring every student has the best possible experience.

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# WHAT IS THE RECTOR?

— “ —  
At its heart, the role of the Rector is to understand, empower, and champion the student voice and experience.

— Jonathan Edwards — ” —

## STUDENT ADVOCACY

- ▶ Understand and **Immerse** themselves in the **St Andrews community**
- ▶ **Build key relationships** with the **student-elected officers**, particularly the Sabbs & SRC, university senior staff, and the community as a whole
- ▶ **On the ground**, accessible and available student representative
- ▶ Attendance at University meetings, events and ceremonies

## KEY DEFINED RESPONSIBILITIES

- ▶ **University Court** - ‘Ordinary President’ and voting member of the Universities **highest-level decision-making** body
- ▶ **Rectors Fund** - Principle Fundraiser and Patron of scholarship supporting students’ career aspirations
- ▶ **Charity Trustee** - Alongside other court members, responsible for the **stewardship** of the Universities assets and compliance with relevant legislation and regulation

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The Rector can open doors and help to release log-jams where the formal mechanisms for resolving issues appear to fail.

A Rector with the time, sincerity and commitment to get to know the student body and engage with their issues, and the skills to influence effectively, can make a valuable contribution to the student experience, as well as to the life and reputation of the whole University.

The Rector is a staunch student advocate and provides an important pastoral function, working outside but alongside official University structures for the informal resolution of issues and concerns.

**Key responsibilities of the Rector,  
St Andrews Rectorial Election Handbook**

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## **A BIG JUMP**

**JONATHAN / UNDERSTAND  
EMPOWER / CHAMPION**

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# JONATHAN

## WHO IS JONATHAN EDWARDS?

- ▶ Olympic, World, European & Commonwealth triple jump champion
- ▶ Current triple jump World Record holder (28 years & counting)
- ▶ Durham graduate (we'll forgive him)
- ▶ BBC Sports Personality of the Year 1995
- ▶ Son, niece & nephew St Andrews students (2015, 2020, present)

## HOW IS JONATHAN QUALIFIED TO BE RECTOR?

- ▶ History of **strong working relationships** at the highest level of Government and industry:
  - ▶ **Chair of Athletes Committee on London 2012 Organising Committee Board**, championing the athlete experience
  - ▶ **Deputy Chair** of London 2012 Nations + Regions Group, making the games as inclusive as possible
- ▶ **Invictus Games Trustee**, Patron of Newcastle United Foundation

## WHAT SETS JONATHAN APART

- ▶ **Working Rector** who will be **physically present in St Andrews** for a substantial amount of each semester
- ▶ Strong Family ties
- ▶ Appreciation of what a **transformational experience** St Andrews University can be
- ▶ Knows how to execute and sustain high performance

— “ “ —  
The ultimate goal as Rector to make sure  
every student has the best possible  
experience, just as my son did back in 2015.

— Jonathan Edwards — “ “ —

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Familiarity with the views  
of the student body, and  
ability to intervene with  
authority on their behalf if  
necessary, outside the  
proceedings of the Court

Experience in the  
conduct of the  
affairs of a large  
institution, and its  
relations with the  
wider world

Willingness to  
champion a  
cause, without  
fear or favour

Available to  
attend the  
University  
regularly

Commitment to the University  
as a whole, and its values and  
ethos as a community with the  
interests of students at its heart

Desirable values, skills, and experience,  
St Andrews Rectorial Election Handbook

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# UNDERSTAND



As Rector, I would commit my first 100 days to meeting all of the elected student officers and their subcommittees face to face, to understand how the Rector can be part of their team and make a difference.

— Jonathan Edwards



## MAIN AIMS

- ▶ Create a **strong working partnership** with the students, their **elected officers**, and the wider university community
- ▶ **Amplify the student voice** and supercharge their agenda
- ▶ Be **immersed in St Andrews life**, and make the role of the Rector **relevant and visible**

## HOW WILL JONATHAN ACHIEVE THIS?

- ▶ During his **first 100 days**, Jonathan will meet with every student-elected officer to begin **understanding their goals**
- ▶ After 100 days, Jonathan will use these conversations to produce an **informed draft report** for agreement with our representatives, detailing the **best working practice for the Rector**
- ▶ Understand current **communication channels** between students and their elected officers, to ensure there are **simple, accessible bridges** from **students > Sabbs > senior decision makers** (court etc.)
- ▶ Review the structure of the **Rector's Committee** and the role of the **Rector's Assessor**.
- ▶ Encourage all student clubs to invite the Rector along to their meetings and events, to **bring the Rector into the fullness of University life**.

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I think something that is often overlooked is the lack of structured channels through which students can direct their voice. I consider myself a very active and aware student, yet I still find myself frustrated with the inability to reach key decision-makers. - Cosmos MacKenzie, 3rd year

For me, my biggest worry, like numerous other students, is the accommodation crisis. An accessible home should be a given, not one of our biggest worries. The knock-on effect has left many people in less than adequate living situations, having to sacrifice basic sustenance. I dread to think of the situation in a few years time if we continue on this trajectory. - Michael Dunn, 4th year

The role of the Rector genuinely isn't that complicated; support and catapult the student agenda rather than imposing one upon us.  
- Tom Mackay, 2nd year

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# EMPOWER

— “ —  
Empowering students is simply about  
creating an environment for success, making  
sure no one or no group gets left behind.

— Jonathan Edwards — ” —

## MAIN AIMS

- ▶ Be there for students to both help resolve any problems and **celebrate their successes**
- ▶ Make the Rectorship the **embodiment** of student support, inspiration, healthy debate, and **actioning change**
- ▶ **Understand** the spectrum of **barriers to success**, and how the Rector can support short-term priority goals, and **long-term institutional change** (e.g. diversity, inclusion, representation and access)

## HOW WILL JONATHAN ACHIEVE THIS?

- ▶ Jonathan is committed to being **physically present** in St Andrews for **a substantial part** of each **semester**, **re-establishing** the Rector's **relevance and presence** in student life
- ▶ Host regular in-person and online surgeries
- ▶ Offer every student the ability to **reach the Rector directly via Teams**, with the possibility to develop this further into an online hub/ community
- ▶ Work with those who have **lived experiences** of facing **barriers to success**, and **support their agenda**
- ▶ Operate as part of a **joined-up team** with the Sabbs/SRC
- ▶ Maximise the Rectors **three-year term** to create **continuity**, thus **enabling long-term, sustainable, impactful change**

“An absent Rector is no Rector at all”

— Jonathan Edwards

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As a committee member myself, I understand the frustrations of annual re-elections (as much as they are necessary) when it comes to simply getting things done. I think Jonathan's Rectorship will be transformative for achieving real, on the ground change. - Issy Davies, 2nd year

I'm actually really excited by the prospect of having a Rector who is present in St Andrews. Having Jonathan's expertise and knowledge at our disposal would be truly game changing for us students. Not every student can say they walked into their Union and sparked up a conversation with a World Record holder and internationally respected advocate! - Olivia King, 4th year.

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# CHAMPION



As your Rector, I will be in your corner at the highest level of University decision-making

— Jonathan Edwards



## MAIN AIMS

- ▶ Make the Rectors role a strong voice for students, **championing what matters most to us** (housing, strikes, tuition, cost of living, widening access, inclusion etc.)
- ▶ Champion **every student**, especially those who are under represented/ overlooked
- ▶ Make the **business of court** more **accessible** to students, creating a prominent understanding of its importance
- ▶ Increase students **awareness** of the Rectors work

## HOW WILL JONATHAN ACHIEVE THIS?

- ▶ Communicate, communicate, communicate!
- ▶ Build strong working relationships with the Principal, senior staff, and court members to ensure students voices are heard
- ▶ **Monthly Rectors report** 'Rector's Matters', detailing **recent successes, the Universities' progress** at senior management level, and **upcoming short and long-term goals**
- ▶ Recognise that some issues facing students are out with the University's control and **advocate for change at a regional and national level**
- ▶ Celebrate the many and varied successes of the student body!
- ▶ **Review the Rectors fund** to make sure it is operating in the best possible way (explore how it is sustained, how previous recipients benefitted etc.)

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