

An email of apology from Professor Tim Luckhurst MA, FRSA, South College Principal & Associate Pro Vice Chancellor (Engagement)

Sunday 5 December 2021

From: LUCKHURST, TIM C.H.
Sent: 05 December 2021 18:23
Subject: An apology from your Principal

Dear Students,

On Friday evening a group of South College students exercised their right to leave the College Formal before my guest, Rod Liddle, began to speak. I responded to their decision by reminding the students that South College is committed to the defence of free speech. When they did not return to their seats, I called their walkout 'pathetic'. My anger reflected my sincere commitment to freedom of speech. However, I was wrong to describe the students' action as pathetic and I apologise unreservedly for doing so. The students had as much right to absent themselves from the speech as my guest had to make it.

Kind regards,
Tim

Professor Tim Luckhurst MA, FRSA
Principal South College & Associate Pro Vice Chancellor (Engagement)
South College
Durham University
The Drive
Mount Oswald
Durham
DH1 3LD

A statement from Professor Tim Luckhurst MA, FRSA, South College Principal & Associate Pro Vice Chancellor (Engagement)

Thursday 9 December 2021

“I share Durham University’s commitment to creating an inclusive community where everyone is entitled to respect and dignity. I believe in the importance of lawful free speech and the value of debating controversial ideas, particularly at university which is a space for personal and intellectual growth.”