

Independence Agreement

Between: Forward College (hereafter, "the Institution") and The Crosswire Review (hereafter, "the Club").

1. Purpose of this Agreement

This Agreement establishes the rights, responsibilities, and operational principles governing The Crosswire Review, a university-affiliated but editorially independent student club funded by Forward College. Its purpose is to protect the Club's autonomy, clarify liability, and ensure a transparent and professional framework for its functioning while safeguarding the Institution's legal, reputational, and community interests.

2. Nature of the Club

1. The Crosswire Review functions as an officially recognised student club of Forward College.
2. The Club operates as an editorially independent publication managed by its student members.
3. The Institution provides financial support but does not influence or dictate editorial decisions.
4. Official recognition as a student club is conditional upon continued compliance with this Agreement, Forward College's Code of Conduct, and all applicable institutional policies.

3. Editorial Independence

1. The Institution acknowledges and agrees that it holds **no authority** to alter, censor, delay, restrict, or suppress any article, opinion piece, investigative work, or other publication produced by the Club.
2. All editorial decisions, including what to publish, when to publish, and how to publish, rest solely with the Club's editorial board.
3. Criticism, disagreement, or disapproval from the Institution or its representatives shall not justify interference in the publishing process.
4. Editorial independence does not exempt the Club or its members from compliance with institutional policies, applicable law, or standards of student conduct.

4. Disclaimer and Authorial Responsibility

1. The platform's *About* section shall clearly state that the views expressed by contributors are their own and do not represent Forward College unless explicitly stated. ***This disclaimer will also be reiterated in articles that are primarily opinion-based or interpretative in nature.***
2. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of their research, claims, data, and opinions.
3. The Club is responsible for ensuring ethical journalistic practices, including fact-checking, responsible sourcing, and respecting privacy laws.
4. The Club shall ensure that contributors are informed that their publications may have academic, disciplinary, or legal consequences if they breach Forward College policies.

5. Funding and Financial Relationship

1. The Institution provides funding strictly for operational purposes, including but not limited to:
 - Web hosting
 - Printing
2. Funding shall not be conditioned on editorial influence.

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3. The Club shall maintain transparent financial records and provide an annual budget report to the Institution.¹
4. The Institution reserves the right to suspend or withdraw funding in cases of financial mismanagement, misuse of funds, or serious or repeated breaches of institutional policies, without this constituting editorial interference.

6. Governance and Internal Structure

1. The Club is governed by its elected student leadership, including:
 - Executive Director
 - Creative Lead
 - Marketing and Social Media Lead
 - Spokesperson
 - Cross-campus Operations Supervisor
2. Elections and appointments are internal matters in which the Institution shall not intervene.
3. The Club may establish internal bylaws regarding membership, editorial review, code of conduct, and workflow.

7. Ethical and Legal Obligations

1. The Club agrees to adhere to applicable laws, including:
 - Defamation laws
 - Copyright and intellectual property rights
 - Data protection and privacy regulations
2. Forward College shall not be held liable for content published by the Club unless expressly approved in writing by the Institution.
3. The Club commits to not stand:
 - Hate speech
 - Discriminatory content
 - Knowingly false or malicious claims
4. The Club and its members are bound by Forward College's Code of Conduct, Student Disciplinary Policy, and all other applicable institutional regulations.
5. Alleged misconduct by Club members, including conduct related to published content, shall be handled under the Student Disciplinary Policy and may result in sanctions, including but not limited to warnings, suspension from the Club, loss of club recognition, or further disciplinary measures as determined by the Institution.
6. Nothing in this Agreement limits the Institution's right to act where publication or conduct poses a serious risk to the safety, wellbeing, or legal obligations of the Forward College community.

8. Conflict Resolution

1. Any dispute relating to this Agreement shall first be addressed through dialogue between the Club's leadership and the Institution's designated representative.
2. If no resolution is reached, a neutral mediator appointed by mutual agreement may facilitate discussion.
3. Editorial decisions remain non-negotiable and cannot be overridden by the Institution.

9. Duration and Amendments

1. This Agreement enters into effect upon signature by both parties.
2. Amendments may be proposed by either party but require mutual written consent.
3. The Institution may not unilaterally modify any clause regarding editorial independence.

¹ In case money is given to the club that the club manages by itself and not like current subscriptions linked directly to Forward College itself.

4. The Institution may periodically review this Agreement to ensure alignment with updated institutional policies, provided that editorial independence is preserved.

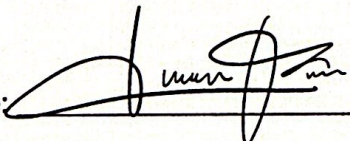
10. Signatures

By signing below, both parties agree to abide by the terms stated in this document.

For The Crosswire Review:

Name: Giacomo Frosina Fustero

Position: Founder and Executive Director

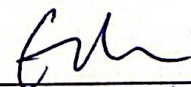
Signature: 

Date: 22 December 2025

For Forward College:

Name: Edwards Greening

Position: Campus Manager

Signature: 

Date: 15/01/2026

The policies that will be applied are those valid and accessible on the Institution's website as of 22 December 2025: Disciplinary Policy and Procedure for Students (v2, August 2022); Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (8 October 2021); Wellbeing Protocol and Student Confidentiality (January 2022, last updated November 2024); Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement and Anti-Discrimination Policy (as of 19 December 2025); and Safeguarding Policy (v2, October 2023).