



Harper Adams  
University



Keele  
UNIVERSITY



# Harper & Keele

VETERINARY SCHOOL



Graduation 2025



Professor Ken Sloan



Professor Trevor McMillan OBE

# A message from your Vice-Chancellors

On behalf of everyone at Harper Adams University and Keele University, we are delighted to welcome you to today's ceremonies. Graduation is a special moment in the life of a university, and one that defines the collective success of our educational community. It is the culmination of many years of hard work from both graduands and university staff, and marks the transition from student, to alum and professional.

This is a particularly momentous occasion as we celebrate the inaugural Harper & Keele Veterinary School graduation. Discussions between the two universities began in 2017, recognising our combined strengths, complementary facilities and common research themes as a strong foundation to build a joint veterinary school. Now, eight years later, our shared vision has been realised, establishing a distinctive, agile model of education to meet the challenges of today's veterinary industry.

Your success is the result of hard work, commitment, and dedication. We hope you thoroughly enjoy your celebrations and take the time to savour this moment and acknowledge your remarkable achievements. It is also an opportunity to recognise and thank the community of supporters who have empowered you to achieve your goals. Whether you are surrounded by friends, family, guardians, employers, or university colleagues, we extend our sincere thanks, on behalf of both universities, for their invaluable contributions.

You are at the beginning of an exciting journey, entering a profession that is vital not only to animal health, but also to human health and the future of our planet. You will become part of a global community of alumni from both Harper Adams and Keele Universities. As you help shape the future of the veterinary profession, we hope you will stay connected and continue to inspire future generations of students.

We offer our warmest congratulations and wish you every success in your future. On behalf of both universities, we wish you good luck as you embark on the next stage of your lives and careers, with all the possibilities and opportunities that lie before you.

Professor Ken Sloan  
Vice-Chancellor  
Harper Adams University

Professor Trevor McMillan OBE  
Vice-Chancellor  
Keele University



# Welcome to the Class of 2025

## Message from the Head of School

It is with huge pride that I write this message to congratulate you on the culmination of your studies at HKVS. Whatever you choose to do with your degree, wherever the next phase of your lives takes you, you should cherish this moment and take time to reflect on the unique nature of what we have achieved together.

On graduating in veterinary medicine and surgery, you join a small but wonderful profession which has always contributed hugely to animal welfare, health and the greater good of society and the planet. As the pioneer cohort at HKVS, you have also directly contributed to the creation of not only a new vet school, but a new community that has been recognised already for its inclusivity, innovation, and approach to developing your professional identity that will enable you to thrive.

These achievements are particularly remarkable given the challenges that we have faced together: a unique joint model navigating the complexities and opportunities that has presented; launching during a global pandemic that placed extraordinary pressures on you to adapt and be agile; and a need

to respond positively to the inevitable bumps in the road of delivering a new programme. These experiences, and the way you have responded to them, will set you apart as those who can most readily embrace the unprecedented challenges and complexities that we are facing as a profession and society.

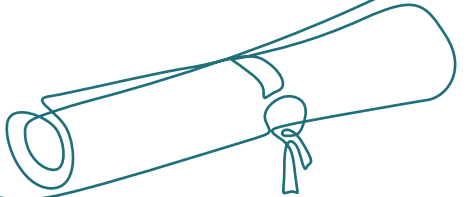
A consistent theme over recent years in the feedback that has been shared by veterinary employers, is the need for leadership, individually and collectively. You are now ideally equipped to provide that in whatever form you choose.

Gaining a veterinary degree is a marathon and involves a huge support team. This special day is the perfect time to reflect on all of those who

have helped you along the way and to celebrate with those able to be with you today. I would also like to acknowledge the momentous contributions from all our colleagues at the Vet School, both Universities and across our partnership network.

Not only are you veterinary professionals and the first HKVS graduates, but you are now also part of the alumni from both Harper Adams and Keele Universities. We strongly encourage you to keep in touch, with the School and these rich and diverse communities, to benefit from what they have to offer you and contribute to them for subsequent generations of graduates. Please continue to work with us to develop our own history and build on the extraordinary foundations we have created together.

**Professor Matt Jones**  
Head of the Harper & Keele Veterinary School





# Your Day

- 09.30
- Graduation Ceremony
- 09.30 | Keele University Chapel
- Cohort Photograph
- Graduates, please make your way to the Chapel marquee where we will capture a group photograph
- 10.30
- Graduation Reception
- 10.30 | Keele Hall, Keele University
- 13.00
- Travel to Harper Adams University
- Coach departs 13.00 | Barnes Hall Road, opposite Chancellor’s building car park
- 14.30
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Admission Ceremony
- 14.30 | Queen Mother Hall, Harper Adams University
- Cohort Photograph
- Graduates, please make your way to the Harper Adams University Main Building where we will capture a group photograph
- 15.30
- Celebration Event
- 15.30 | Queen Mother Hall, Harper Adams University
- 18.00
- Travel to Keele University
- Coach departs 18.00 | Queen Mother Hall car park



# Graduation Ceremony Order of Proceedings

- Processional Music
- Music for the Entry Procession selected from:  
Fanfare With Promenade (Rosalie Bonighton)  
Intrada Imperial (Andrew Fletcher)  
Sonata No 2 (1st Mov't, Introduction) – (Sir Edward Elgar)
- Entry Procession
- Conferrer will declare the ceremony open
- Welcome Address
- Professor Anna Meredith OBE, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Keele University
- Presentation and Conferment of Awards
- Address from the Vice-Chancellor, Keele University
- Professor Trevor McMillan OBE
- Address from the Keele University Sabbatical Officer
- University Thanksgiving
- Delivered by the Keele University Chaplain
- Exit Procession
- The congregation is asked to remain standing until the academic procession, graduates and diplomates have left the Chapel





# Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Admission Ceremony

## Order of Proceedings

- Processional Music**  
Excerpt from Faure's Requiem in D Minor, Op 48
- Entry Procession**
- Welcome by the Vice-Chancellor, Harper Adams University**  
Professor Ken Sloan
- Guest Speaker**  
Navaratnam Partheeban OBE, Member of the Harper Adams University's Board of Governors
- Address from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons**  
Professor Tim Parkin, RCVS President

**Graduates invited to make their declaration:**  
"I PROMISE AND SOLEMNLY DECLARE that I will pursue the work of my profession with integrity and accept my responsibilities to the public, my clients, the profession and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and that, ABOVE ALL, my constant endeavour will be to ensure the health and welfare of animals committed to my care."



- Guest Speaker**  
Jan McLoughlin, PDSA Director General
- Presentation of Student Awards and Prizes**
- Closing Address**  
Professor Matt Jones, Head of the Harper & Keele Veterinary School
- Exit Procession**  
The congregation is asked to stand and remain by their seats until the last graduate has left the Queen Mother Hall.



# Our Speakers



**Navaratnam Partheeban**  
OBE BVM&S BSc(Hons)  
PGC(DHH) PMIAgrM NSch  
FRASE MRCVS

**Member of the Harper Adams University’s Board of Governors and UK Regional Veterinary Head of Farm for IVC Evidensia**

Partheeban is a Member of the Harper Adams University’s Board of Governors and is currently UK Regional Veterinary Head of Farm for IVC Evidensia. As a farm vet, his roles have varied from first opinion farm clinical practice, university higher education teaching, the pharmaceutical industry, and technical consultancy with a global animal health company.

Other responsibilities have included managing the health and running of a commercial calf rearing unit and commercial sheep flock.

Partheeban is co-founder of British Veterinary Ethnicity and Diversity Society (BVEDS). As a Nuffield Scholar 2021, he completed his project on looking at “Promoting and Supporting Black and People of Colour in the Agricultural Sector”.

He is an ambassador for the Country Trust and a board member for the British Cattle Veterinary Association.



**Tim Parkin**  
BVSc, PhD,  
DipECVPH, FRCVS

**Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons President**

Tim graduated from the University of Bristol with degrees in Zoology (1992) and Veterinary Science (1998). He immediately took up a position at the University of Liverpool and completed his PhD on the epidemiology of fractures in racehorses in 2002. He continued his work in this area as a Post-doc at the University of Liverpool, moving to the Animal Health Trust in 2005 and then to the University of Glasgow as a DEFRA Veterinary Training and Research Initiative Senior Research Fellow in 2007.

Between 2015 and 2018 he was Head of the Division of Equine Clinical Science and Clinical Director of the Equine Hospital at the University of Glasgow, being promoted to Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology in 2017.

Since November 2020 he has been Head of Bristol Vet School. He continues to work with racing jurisdictions around the world and the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), providing data-driven, evidence-based solutions to welfare issues faced by racehorses and sports horses alike.

Tim has been a Veterinary School Council-appointed member of Council since 2021, serving as Chair of the Education Committee (since 2024), Registration Committee (since 2024) and Specialist Recognition Subcommittee (2021-2024), he was elected Junior Vice President in 2024 and became President at the beginning of July 2025.



**Jan McLoughlin**  
BSc (Hons) MSc  
CBiol MSB FIoD

**PDSA Director General**

Jan is a biochemist and microbiologist with an MSc in Microbial Biodeterioration and began her career with Allied Breweries in 1986 as Microbiologist. Jan qualified as a brewer but left the brewing industry in 1994 and had successive senior management and operational roles with H. J. Heinz and Northern Foods, before joining PDSA in 2001 as Business Development Director, taking responsibility for leading several new business initiatives, primarily within the Veterinary department.

Jan was appointed Director of Veterinary Services in 2003, overseeing the modernisation of PDSA’s services, including the introduction and roll-out of preventive treatments across the charity’s 48 Pet Hospitals.

In 2008 Jan was appointed PDSA’s Director General. She led the organisation through the global financial recession that resulted in a 50% increase in demand for the charity’s help as a consequence of the economic crisis, which plunged many people into financial hardship.

Her role involves overseeing the day-to-day management of the charity and its finances, ensuring all of its work complies with the relevant legislation, and working with the Trustees to develop future strategic plans to help pets and their owners in the years to come.

# Student Awards and Prizes

Congratulations to the recipients of prizes and awards.

The School wishes to express its thanks to the Harper Adams University Development Trust, Keele University supporters, Professor Ronald S. Jones OBE, CRC Press – Taylor & Francis Group and IVC Evidensia who have kindly supported the awards.



Supported by  
Professor Ronald S. Jones OBE  
**Catarina Filipa Rego Serra**



**Emma Onions**



**Egan Derrick** and  
**Christian Goodger**



Supported by  
CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group  
**Henry Pearson**



**Christian Goodger**



**Egan Derrick**



**Catarina Filipa Rego Serra**



**Lotte Carpenter**



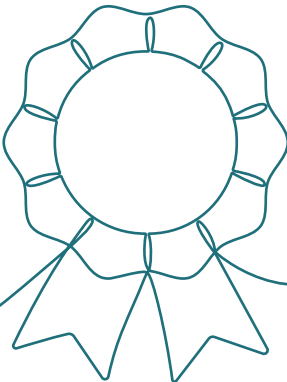
Supported by  
IVC Evidensia  
**Esme Crocker**



**Emma McHugh**



**Madison Shorthouse**





# Class of 2025, welcome to your alumni community

As today comes to a close and you set aside your cap and gown, it may feel like your time as a Harper & Keele Veterinary School student is ending, but this moment marks a new beginning.

You are the very first graduates of our joint School and not only are you stepping into your careers, you are stepping into a lifelong community. As alumni of both Harper Adams University and Keele University, you can access benefits such as;

- Events and reunions
- Access to the wider alumni network
- Careers support for up to three years
- Postgraduate discounts



## Stay in touch

Staying in touch with us is easy! Make sure we have your up-to-date contact details.

**Harper Adams University**  
Email: [alumni@harper-adams.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@harper-adams.ac.uk)  
Call: +44 (0)1952 815095  
**[harper-adams.ac.uk/alumni](https://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/alumni)**

## Update us with your news

Take part in the Graduate Outcomes survey (the year following graduation).

**Keele University**  
Email: [alumni.hq@keele.ac.uk](mailto:alumni.hq@keele.ac.uk)  
Call: +44 (0)1782 732978  
**[keele.ac.uk/alumni](https://www.keele.ac.uk/alumni)**



Your alumni story is now ready to be written, and we would love to hear it! Get in touch to provide a testimonial about your time at HKVS or write an article for alumni news.





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[harperkeelelevetschool.ac.uk](http://harperkeelelevetschool.ac.uk)

Disclaimer: Correct at time of going to print. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy.

Members of the congregation are reminded that the graduation and RCVS admission ceremonies are regarded as public events and are filmed. Recordings will be available.

Ref: 7282