

This year's ODA Annual Lecture will be given *through the medium of Zoom* on the evening of: Thursday 10 March 2022 at 7.00 pm GMT, Professor Iwan Davies (Year of 1969), the Vice-Chancellor of Bangor University, will lecture on: 'Universities in Wales – The New Imperatives'

The world has changed over the last two years - the pandemic has in many respects accentuated what was evident before it: Multilateralism and the rules - based world order are under attack; populism is growing; the flow of refugees and asylum seekers triggered by the threat of conflict, poverty, disease and natural disasters is overwhelming; global warming and global waste are imperilling our planet and its species faster than we knew before.

In these testing times academic expertise and science itself has come under attack fomented by populism and the rise of social media - Wales has been no exception in this regard.

RS Thomas (the other great Welsh poet of the same surname as the one from Swansea Grammar School!) described the historic overall landscape in Wales as one where there is no present, no future, only the past.

It seems that there has never been a more critical moment for universities in Wales to demonstrate value to the public at large not only of the knowledge Welsh universities produce but the value of the research and teaching and skills to the next generation to prepare them for tackling the great challenges facing the world of the future.

Professor Davies was a pupil at Dynevor from 1969 to 1976 and is the current Vice-Chancellor of Bangor University. He is a leading authority on International Commercial Law, a Barrister, a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales and is currently Chair of Global Wales.

We very much hope you will be able to continue to support this virtual format for the Annual Lecture, which builds upon the success of the last, by joining us on the evening of March 10.

Important! Please note the following:

To attend the lecture, please apply by email, not later than Friday 4 March, to:

philstone1@icloud.com

The ODA's Zoom licence allows an audience of not more than 100 to attend this lecture. On receipt of your email, if the audience capacity has not been exceeded, you will be sent an email invitation containing a link to the lecture on the night of Thursday 10 March.

With thanks in anticipation of your support,
The ODA Committee