

**The Victorian Group of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical
Society**

127 Banbury Road

Oxford OX2 6JX



The Head of Planning Control and

Conservation

Oxford City Council

1.3.2021

Dear Sir,

21/00292 – Linacre College

Although we do not wish to object to this application in principle, we are not happy about the proposed design of the front towards the west (i.e. towards St Cross Road). The use of bronze for the excessively large set-back window and the doors beneath would be – however fashionable at the moment – out of keeping with Champneys's building. This has the white-painted timber windows characteristic of its so-called 'Queen Anne' style. We consider that a more appropriate design should be used.

We objected to the application for the insertion of roof-lights (20/00822) on April 27th 2020, and we regret that consent was given. The original house was built in 1886, by J. W Messenger, as we pointed out (the college seemed not to know this). The large additions for the Order of the Holy Child Jesus, of 1908-9, were designed by Basil Champneys, who did so much distinguished work in Oxford (see my chapter in the *History of the University*). They should certainly be listed, and if the Oxford List were not so disgracefully defective no doubt they would be. After the nuns left, the University treated the building badly, and especially the chapel, whose windows were lowered, and the fine and elaborate altar was destroyed. More recent additions have been poor, especially the entirely unsuitable main entrance. It is most important that Champneys's work should be treated with respect.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Howell (Secretary)