

Tom Ilube, Hon DSc

Monday 27th July 2026

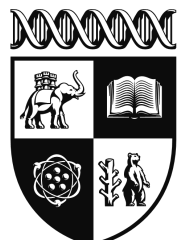
Orator: Yewande Akinola, University Council

Provost,

I am delighted to introduce our Honorary Graduand, the technology entrepreneur and educational philanthropist: TOM ILUBE.

Tom Ilube is an entrepreneur by nature – he has described himself as a ‘start-up guy’. He moved into entrepreneurship permanently after acquiring management experience in prestigious companies such as British Airways, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and Goldman Sachs. He was part of the founding team of Egg Bank, the pioneering internet bank, launched in 1998, and went on to found other successful technology companies including Noddle (a credit rating service subsequently acquired by US-based Credit Karma), Garlick (an identity protection company acquired by Experian), and Crossword Cybersecurity plc, listed on the London Stock Exchange in 2018. Iternal, an AI solutions company, and his newest company helping cities solve the climate crisis; Civic Net Zero. Tom is now Chair of LINK, the UK’s cash access and ATM network and on the Board of WPP plc, one of the world’s largest advertising groups.

Tom’s success as a technology entrepreneur has formed the basis for his work as an educational philanthropist. In 2011, he founded the Hammersmith Academy, an innovative state secondary school whose curriculum centres on technology, design and creativity. He helped to launch ADA – the National College for Digital Skills – in 2016 and was subsequently its Chair. But the main focus of Tom’s philanthropy has been Africa, reflecting his long, personal engagement with that continent: as a child with a Nigerian father, he lived in Nigeria, and Uganda as well as London and subsequently gained his Applied Physics degree at the University of Benin. His vision for Africa challenges the traditional assumption that only huge, high-budget projects can have an impact: he believes that small but precise changes, such as empowering a group of gifted individuals, can trigger a transformative ‘tornado-like’ effects across the continent. In 2010, he set up the African Gifted Foundation to identify talented girls from low-income families and equip them with the skills required to become Africa’s future leaders in science and technology, driving its development. The Foundation works primarily through the Ghana-based African Science Academy (ASA) which Tom founded in 2016 – a unique institution, designed specifically for academically gifted young women to study STEM subjects in 11 months and still achieve outstanding results.



ASA students go on to win scholarships to some of the world's most prestigious universities, including Warwick, and then return to Africa, using their newly acquired skills to make a positive impact.

Tom has been named as the most influential black person in the UK and one of Africa's most influential people. In 2018, he was awarded a CBE for services to technology and philanthropy. He is chair of The King's Trust the national youth charity founded by His Majesty King Charles 50 years ago, an Honorary Fellow of two Oxford colleges, and holds honorary doctorates from six universities. His views, emphasising STEM education, women's empowerment and the use of transformative technology to drive development closely align with ours at Warwick, where we partner with African institutions to support research and development and pioneer educational initiatives. We are proud to participate in ASA's annual Leadership Summer School and to support our yearly student-led Warwick Africa Summit. Our annual Distinguished Africa Lecture focuses on themes relevant to Africa's future. Last year it was delivered by Tom Ilube. It is a great pleasure to welcome him back today.

Provost: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*, TOM ILUBE.

