# Dominic Cummings warns Conservative Party’s future is at risk ahead of Sheldonian lecture



In early June, Dominic Cummings will engage a diverse audience at the Sheldonian Theatre with a 90-minute lecture titled "What Is to Be Done?" This event, organised by the Pharos Foundation, aims to delve into the pressing issues surrounding the current political climate in the UK. Cummings is set to confront the diminishing credibility of political elites, the ongoing crisis facing western regimes, and outline the urgent need for a fundamental shift in direction for Britain, especially in the wake of the recent election that has seen Labour ascend to power.

The Pharos Foundation, a research institution founded in 2023, has described its lecture series as a beacon of enlightenment in what it perceives to be a ‘darkening age’. Previous speakers have included notable figures like Richard Dawkins and Sir Niall Ferguson, which highlights the quality of dialogue the foundation aspires to promote. Scheduled for 5 PM on June 11, Cummings aims to dissect the current political landscape, particularly following his stark critiques of the Labour-dominated government.

In recent interviews, Cummings has dominated headlines by claiming that the Conservative Party "might be dead," a sentiment underscoring the urgency of the situation. He has expressed grave concerns about the leadership under Kemi Badenoch, implying that major changes within the party are unavoidable, with speculation that her position may not last much longer. He stated pointedly, “She’s a goner,” signifying a belief that the party’s future hangs in the balance and radical restructuring could be necessary to reclaim public trust.

Cummings isn’t merely an observer; he has been actively engaging with the need for a strong political alternative to the current regime. His strategic discussions point towards the necessity for a formidable contender that can rise against the newly empowered Labour narrative. He has been vocal in advocating for a more robust political force to challenge the status quo, suggesting that former Conservative MPs should consider moving to a more assertive party platform, a stance that resonates deeply in light of the current political upheaval.

The context of Cummings' remarks cannot be overstated, particularly as discussions unfold regarding the future of the Conservative Party under Badenoch's leadership. Elected in November 2024, Badenoch’s populist approach has drawn a spectrum of reactions. Some admire her as a needed force of rejuvenation, while others caution that her rigid style could further alienate crucial centrist voters and deepen internal fractures. Cummings himself has suggested that her leadership reflects an insular echo chamber effect, further distancing the party from the electorate's concerns.

As Cummings gears up for his lecture, the potential for collaboration between disenchanted Conservatives and a more resolute force focusing on genuine change is increasingly vital. Political analysts contend that such an alliance could be appealing to those dissatisfied with Labour's current dominance. However, the feasibility of this unification is marred by conflicting ideals and the absence of unifying leadership. Without a clear vision, any coalition could prove to be a fragile construct at best.

The intersection of Cummings’ insights, his critique of existing leadership, and the shifting dynamics between the Conservatives and a revitalised political alternative marks a significant juncture in British politics. As Cummings prepares to address these urgent issues, his lecture promises to shed light on the course Britain must chart to navigate the challenges ahead effectively.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25200762.oxford-university-host-public-talk-dominic-cummings/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://unherd.com/newsroom/dominic-cummings-vote-reform-uk-in-the-local-elections/> - In February 2025, Dominic Cummings called on the public to vote for Reform UK in the local elections to remove Kemi Badenoch as leader of the Conservative Party. He criticised Badenoch's leadership and suggested that Reform UK could split the Tories if they are bold and execute their plans effectively. Cummings also predicted defections to Reform UK, including sitting MPs, and expressed concerns about the Conservative Party's future under Badenoch's leadership.
3. <https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2024/1113/kemi-badenoch-conservative-uk-british-woke-culture-war> - In November 2024, Kemi Badenoch was elected as the leader of the Conservative Party, marking a shift towards a more populist and right-wing agenda. Her election was seen as a response to the party's defeat in the previous parliamentary election, with hopes that her energy and 'anti-woke' platform would rejuvenate the party. However, concerns were raised about her uncompromising approach potentially alienating centrist voters.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/mar/23/kemi-badenoch-conservative-leadership-reform-uk> - In March 2025, Katy Balls discussed the challenges faced by Kemi Badenoch as Conservative leader, including criticism from figures like Dominic Cummings and the potential for a right-wing coup involving Reform UK. The article highlighted concerns about Badenoch's leadership and the possibility of her ousting, with discussions about a covert Tory-Reform pact to depose her.
5. <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/kemi-badenoch-tory-reform-nigel-farage-brexit-dominic-cummings> - In March 2025, GB News reported on the possibility of Kemi Badenoch being ousted through a Conservative-Reform UK alliance. The article mentioned a meeting between Nigel Farage and Dominic Cummings, discussing the future of the Conservative Party and the potential for a pact to remove Badenoch as leader.
6. <https://unherd.com/newsroom/reform-tory-alliance-would-be-dead-on-arrival/> - In March 2025, Peter Franklin analysed the feasibility of a Reform-Tory alliance, suggesting that such a coalition would be unworkable. The article discussed Dominic Cummings' plans to merge Reform UK with the Conservative Party and the challenges associated with such an alliance, including the need for a 'Third Force' of elite talent and mass energy.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2024/dec/11/the-tories-are-living-in-an-echo-chamber-with-kemi-badenoch-as-its-mouthpiece> - In December 2024, John Crace criticised Kemi Badenoch's leadership of the Conservative Party, describing it as an echo chamber. The article highlighted concerns about Badenoch's approach, suggesting that she was out of touch with public opinion and that her leadership style was contributing to the party's decline.