THANK YOU!

In 2016/17 our donors gave Robinson £1,284,546. This update will tell you more about that fantastic total and how your support has enhanced almost every aspect of the lives of our students and the wider College community.

WHO ARE OUR DONORS?

- Alumni
- Parents of alumni/students
- Non Alumni
- Companies and organisations
- Trusts

WHAT DID YOU SUPPORT?

- Student support
- Teaching
- Buildings & collections
- Greatest need

STUDENT SUPPORT

We are committed to admitting students with the greatest potential, regardless of their background. We aim to create an environment that enables those young people to flourish and fulfill that potential without the burden of financial worry. The support of our donors helps us to achieve this, and in the past year has enabled us to award:

- 117 bursaries, including Cambridge, College, and Hugh Paton Bursaries. 48 of the Cambridge Bursaries were awarded to students from families where the household income was less than £25,000 p.a.
- 3 Fred Boyne Awards for sporting achievement to students who excel at Cricket, Karate and Lacrosse
- The first Lord Lewis Research Studentship in Chemistry to a doctoral student studying colour in nature
- 6 awards from the Bye-Fellows Fund to students in financial need studying Geography, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, History, Finance and Economics, and Law
- 4 Isi Metzstein Awards to students studying Architecture, enabling them to fully realise the potential of their dissertations

These are just a few of the ways Robinson has supported its students, with your help.
Tiara (MML, 2016)

Last summer I volunteered as a Farsi interpreter for Advocates Abroad, who provide legal aid to refugees in Greece and Turkey. In the following Lent term I got in touch with my Tutor and the Financial Tutor, and they were both really helpful in suggesting the Friends of the College Fund and giving me advice on how to apply.

The work I did in Chios was really invaluable - whilst I was there, I was able to see through twelve families’ asylum claims, and to the best of my knowledge they have all been granted international protection. The funds that I received from the Friends of the College made my trip possible. Without it, I wouldn’t have been able to complete the placement, which would be a real shame given that it was the most worthwhile way I’ve ever spent my time.

Mollie (Law, 2016)

Coming from a low income, single parent family deep in rural Lincolnshire I was worried that I would struggle to make ends meet in Cambridge during my studies. However, the bursary has helped me settle into Cambridge life more fully; helping me to buy essentials, textbooks and May Ball tickets.

As an active member of the College and a Law student I have lots of responsibilities and commitments to handle, but the bursary has alleviated any financial worries that I had before I came to Cambridge and I am so grateful to the donors. I am very happy at Robinson College - it is a supportive and positive environment and I am lucky to live and study in such an inspiring place.
Financial worries are not the only thing that might deter students from applying to Cambridge. Some students may wrongly feel that they would not fit in, and that it is not for them. Our Admissions team works hard to demystify Cambridge by bringing groups of school children to Robinson. One of the most successful of these initiatives is our Women in Science Festival and this year 80 young women from sixth forms all over the country stayed overnight in College. They spent the following day listening to talks by inspiring women making their career in science and gaining hands-on experience in a lab. Supported by an anonymous donor, this annual event not only raises young women’s aspirations, but is also increasing the number of direct applications to Robinson by women interested in reading science.

Encouragement from teachers is vital to ensure that students aspire to apply to Cambridge, and this year Robinson’s innovative residential for teachers - the Dr C P Hughes Teachers’ Conference - focussed on Science and Maths. The Conference attracted more than twice the number of attendees from previous years, largely owing to the support of a donor that allowed us to offer this opportunity at a price that was affordable by teachers from state schools.

“Thank you for organising such a good event. As a new Head of Careers, I found it very useful in getting the admissions process for Cambridge much clearer in my mind. I will be advising other members of staff to attend in future years. The more of us that understand the system and experience, the better we can advise our pupils”
TEACHING

Small group teaching forms the foundation of Cambridge’s academic excellence. Supervisions bring together students in groups of up to three with a Supervisor who is a specialist in the field. They not only improve students’ detailed knowledge of subjects on which they are also lectured, but develop and hone their skills of enquiry, investigation, argument and presentation, both orally and in writing.

In 2016/17 our donors supported eight and a quarter College Teaching Officers, who provided small group teaching in subjects including Economics, English and Law. Sir David K P Li and family’s magnificent support of the David Williams Chair in Law continued, and this year Professor Alison Young was appointed following Professor Christopher Forsyth’s retirement.

BUILDINGS AND COLLECTIONS

Its stunning architecture is one of the characteristics that makes Robinson unique, but as the College nears its 50th anniversary a programme of repair and refurbishment is essential. This year the support of our donors enabled us to refurbish D Staircase and 5 Adams Road, to replace the floor of the Chapel and the roof of 3 Sylvester Road, and generally improve the standard of the environment in which our students live and learn.

The Library continues to provide resources for study, as well as a calm and welcoming place to work, and we are enormously grateful to those donors who support the Library both financially and through donated books, of which 86 were received this year.

DISCRETIONARY FUND

Gifts to the Discretionary Fund are directed to where our need is greatest at the time, allowing us to respond swiftly to unforeseen financial demands in any area of College life. Discretionary gifts might therefore fund an emergency repair in the kitchen or to a leaking roof. They also help us to preserve our Endowment Fund by increasing our cash flow. This enables us to meet our daily running costs without encroaching on our capital, the interest from which enables us to meet the gap between the income received from tuition fees and the actual cost of a Cambridge education.
Robinson College is enormously grateful to all our donors, whatever they wish to support. Every gift, of any size, helps us achieve our mission to enable young people to fulfil their academic potential at Cambridge, regardless of their circumstances.

To demonstrate our gratitude, from 2018 all of our donors will be invited to an annual event in College in addition to the Commemoration of Benefactors Service in November. Donors giving over £25,000 will be invited to join the College Circle, whose members’ names are inscribed on the donor boards in the College’s Hall, and are invited to exclusive events hosted by the Warden. Those letting us know they have remembered the College in their wills are invited to join the Crausaz Wordsworth Society and attend its annual celebration in College. We look forward to welcoming you to one of these events in Cambridge soon.

THANK YOU!
Gifts to Robinson may be made via the 'make a donation' link on the Robinson website at www.robinson.cam.ac.uk

A gift to Robinson is a gift to the Collegiate Cambridge ‘Dear World, Yours Cambridge’ campaign.

https://www.philanthropy.cam.ac.uk/