Here of you have given to Hertford than ever before, and in the pages that follow you can see your generosity has been put to good use. Bursaries, scholarships, travel and research grants, supporting the entire hard and soft infrastructure of the college, the rooms in which our fabulous tutors teach and give tutorials – all have to be paid for. With your support we are able to sustain and drive the college forward. Many, many thanks. It really makes a difference!

The range of what our students get up to never ceases to amaze me – singing in Lithuania, playing rugby in Mongolia or pre-training during precious vacation weeks to be the best they can be at rowing. But of course, Hertford is above all an academic institution: supporting our students to reach their intellectual best is at our core and dearest to our hearts. They are faring well, and you are contributing to making that happen.

You’re in for a treat with this year’s report – stories from the front line and compelling at a glance statistics, all presented with great pizazz. Enjoy and thanks again!

Very best wishes,
Will Hutton
I am the parent of a gifted and determined young person lucky enough to earn a place at Hertford, I am very grateful for the bursary scheme you provide.

We are a ‘just about managing’ family and one of our major concerns was that we could not support our daughter as we would have liked to ensure she was able to pay for her accommodation and food and still to be able to make the most of her Oxford experience. The discreet way the bursary is provided, as a credit to battels, has allayed all of our concerns of financial exclusion, and ensured that our daughter can really enjoy all that Hertford has to offer.”

Many thanks to your generous alumni and friends.”

Alison Smith (parent of a current student)

Lawson Lancaster (2010)

Coming from a single-parent family in a somewhat rural part of London, I never expected I would end up going to university, let alone studying Japanology at Hertford for five years!

It’ll be two years this summer since I graduated and since then I’ve entered the largest insurance company in Japan to work in the sales department. Though I presumed that a decent amount of my work would use English, it turns out that all my accounts/clients are Japanese firms so my day-to-day work is done completely in Japanese (this is in fact the first time in ages that I’ve written English, not counting Facebook messages of course).

One of my proudest moments is when I received 97% in the Japanese Life Insurance Qualification exam. I came 12th out of 217 colleagues who took the exam that year, confusing many people, as fellow non-natives assumed I would get a near pass or fail (#proudtoprovethemwrong). During my time as a student, I grew a lot as a person – not only thanks to the friends I made but also my professors and other people throughout the college. I came to Hertford sounding like a teenager who was trying to imitate the accent of a ‘rude boy’ and left being able to pronounce the ‘th’ sound properly whilst also being fluent in two dialects of Japanese. I found friends, I found some hobbies and now I have a vision for the future. Thank you #TeamHertford!

Enjoying welcome drinks and dinner with colleagues.

Donor Report 2016-17
Throughout my years at secondary school and sixth-form, both of which were at comprehensive schools and in Sunderland, my impression of Oxford and Cambridge universities was that they were distant, intimidating and completely unfamiliar.

The opportunity to visit Hertford, staying overnight, for an open day in September with my sixth-form made me realise that Oxford, and especially Hertford, was more inclusive than I thought. After taking a tour of the college and chatting to current students, I felt confident in applying. There were many things about the college that appealed to me. It is quite small physically but has a good number of undergraduate students, so seemed to provide the chance to meet lots of people while feeling familiar. It also offers accommodation for the full three years, meaning that I wouldn’t have to rent privately. Mainly, it seemed like a really friendly place where I’d be happy to go to. I wasn’t wrong!

I’m so glad I decided to apply – it’s been a great experience so far. I worried a lot about dealing with the scary-sounding workload and whether I would be up to the ‘Oxford standard’, but I quickly got into a rhythm that worked for me. There’s a lot of support available from tutors and welfare staff in college. Even though there isn’t a 24-hour Greggs in Oxford, I’ve still managed to settle in!

I have just completed my DPhil research on sources from the Neo-Assyrian king Ashurbanipal who ruled from 668 to 627 BCE, whose capital city of Nineveh is currently under threat from Daesh.

My research has focused on the campaign on the border of Babylonia and western Iran in 653. I use the narratives of this one event as a means to understand the intellectual world of the Neo-Assyrian court when the Empire was at its height, and particularly how it understood violence against foreign others as a fundamental duty of the Assyrian king. The funding from the scholarship greatly aided me in my ability to devote my time to completing this year.

The legal rules governing the use of force in international relations are arguably more important today than they have ever been. My research considers whether international law permits states the right to use force extraterritorially in self-defence against terrorist and other non-state actors such as ISIS, Al-Qaeda and Boko Haram. I commenced work on this question during my MPhil, which I successfully completed in 2015. I was keen to continue on with DPhil studies in an area of law which is very current and which I am also passionate about. I am now in the final stages of my DPhil and am confident that I will complete it successfully because of the financial support I have received from the Mann Senior Scholarship in Social Sciences.

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During our visit to Hertford we had the opportunity to experience an academic tutorial, a tour of the college and its facilities and even dine with current students. The atmosphere was stimulating, welcoming and surprisingly relaxed. While we were there, we learnt about a typical student’s life which includes lots of independent learning, lectures, sport (both casual and competitive), social activities and a variety of societies and clubs.

Some of the most obscure and interesting clubs included underwater hockey, Ultimate Frisbee, Doctor Who society and even a Quidditch Team! When we arrived we were taken aback by the sheer size and beauty of the historical buildings. The trip has made us think about the amazing life experiences and opportunities that university has to offer and we thoroughly enjoyed our small taste of Oxford life.

When in Rome…

Donor Report 2016-17
Across the academic year 2016-17, we hosted 33 schools in college for ‘Taster Days’. These days give students in Years 10-12 a flavour of what it would be like to study at Oxford, and help remove some of the stereotypes associated with Oxbridge. A number of our link schools now ensure that they arrange a visit to Hertford every year.

We maintain strong links with university-wide access programmes, and have supported Pathways, Target Schools, the UNIQ summer school, and Into University on over 30 occasions this year. This July, we also organised a History Study Day for a group of Year 12 students from London, Essex, Medway, and beyond; the students enjoyed three academic sessions across the day and received advice about interviews and admissions tests from Hertford tutors. In total, we’ve worked with over 2,300 students this year, and several of our current undergraduates chose to apply to Hertford having visited the college on an outreach initiative with their schools.

“We maintain strong links with university-wide access programmes, and have supported Pathways, Target Schools, the UNIQ summer school, and Into University on over 30 occasions this year.”

Catherine Redford
(Access and Outreach/Career Development Fellow)
Michael Bentham (2014)

I studied nuclear and particle physics during my third year at Oxford, with my tutorial partner under the friendly and piercing blue eyes of Professor Robin Devenish. The mathematics that surrounds the impact and scattering of minute nuclear particles is complex, and I found it really challenging. I remember Professor Devenish patiently explaining neutrino scattering, which involves multiple integrations of the wave functions of the neutrinos, and suddenly everything became clear. He had a fine way of drawing diagrams which made the complex resolve to something much more simple. Oxford is full of beautiful minds and Hertford’s Professor Devenish is one of them.

Khai Yen Chew (2014)

My degree has taught me to be a better thinker and it has equipped me with the necessary skills to be a social scientist. My passion to return and contribute to my home country Malaysia burned stronger than ever and I have always sought ways to apply what I have learnt at Oxford to problems back home. I am immensely grateful to the Reach Scholarship initiative.

I’m currently in the middle of a research internship with a former central banker and financial regulator focusing on how economic research can lead to policy change. After completing the internship, I plan to pursue my goal of being an economist by working at the Malaysian central bank or the sovereign wealth fund. In the longer term, I hope to further develop my expertise by enrolling in a PhD programme so that I can better serve my country.

"The Reach Scholarship was proposed by the JCR to allow students from low income countries the opportunity to study at Oxford. The Reach initiative is run by the university and funded by the JCR and the college."
Richard shares his memories of tutors Roger van Noorden and Steve New.

Hertford has been transformational for me. The tutorial system, which involves building deep, personal and enduring relationships, has contributed so much to my learning, development and career. I learnt an incredible amount from Roger van Noorden and Steve New who were my tutors for Economics and Management respectively. I remember tutorials with Roger often being early in the morning and involving him patiently asking me deep probing questions which forced me to construct logical arguments, only for him then to demolish those arguments! Steve's tutorials were at a friendlier hour of the day, but they were just as insightful. They both took the time to help me learn not only about my subject but also how to think. Their outstanding tuition was the reason I was lucky enough to graduate with my first class honours degree and provided excellent training for the world of work.

Dom and Ellen and Dom celebrating May Day outside the Weston Library at Dam video

They both took a more general interest in my life, providing wider pastoral support which was valuable given that it was the first time I had lived away from home. They continued to keep in touch with me and support me after I completed my degree. When Roger heard that I was joining Hertford’s Investment Advisory Committee, he took me aside for some extra tuition to ensure that I understood how to approach investments. What an invaluable experience from the man who transformed Hertford’s finances through decades of careful stewardship of the college’s endowment. When I set up Richard Fidler Associates to advise innovative technology companies on their growth and funding, Steve thought of people to speak to which led to me winning work, amongst others, with the founder of one of the UK’s unicorns (a unicorn is a technology start-up worth over a billion dollars!).

I feel very honoured to have been able to benefit from the teaching at Hertford and hope that the tutorial system continues to flourish for the benefit of future generations.

Librarian, Alice Roques, who, in her time off from making my friends laugh, runs a superb academic library for the college’s students and staff.

As a first-year, I remember being overwhelmed by the Bodleian’s confusing network of libraries and databases, and it made a huge difference having someone knowledgeable and approachable help us navigate the phenomenal resources available. It was also a privilege to have such a well-stocked English section, which Alice frequently updates, using recommendations from students and tutors, and cross-checking reading lists with availability in other Oxford libraries.

Equally importantly in my opinion is Alice’s commitment to student wellbeing: her recent innovations include the Endearment Deer – for students to leave encouraging messages during exam periods – and a new and improved study skills and self-help section.

During my final year I was a Junior Librarian at Hertford, shelving books in the evenings, and the following summer I worked as Alice’s assistant. We processed countless new books, revamped the modern languages section, measured up shelf spaces in tutor’s offices, and (best of all) curated a mini-exhibition of William Tyndale’s works.

That summer was a fascinating confirmation of how Hertford’s library functions as a focal point for the academic life of the college, as well as an insight into how librarianship is changing with the increasing importance of electronic journals and databases. Inspired by these possibilities, I am looking forward to beginning a graduate traineeship in Oxford’s English Faculty Library – which just goes to show that a funny sign in a library can go a long way.

Donor Report 2016-17

1514

Kwansei Gakuin University exchange (Japan). Kimonos are as comfortable as they look.

Ellen, someone dressed as a tree, Florence and Dom celebrating May Day.

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The Endearment Deer – supporting our stressed finalists with cute anecdotes of encouragement.

Alice Roques, Librarian and funny signs creator.

Hertford recommends a standard sized pasta strainer for home-use.
College Life – celebrating the extracurricular!

We have the best spectators.

Women's football team – ready to win!


We have the best spectators.
This summer, we embarked on an exciting tour to Lithuania, singing in music festivals and church services in the cities of Kaunas and Vilnius. During our trip, we gave three successful and well-attended performances at several beautiful venues, including the Resurrection Basilica as well as St. Casimir’s and the cathedral in Vilnius. In addition to some widely known choral repertoire, we performed pieces composed for the composition competition held as part of the ‘HartFest’ weekend last year. This music was written by current students of Oxford University, and in some cases our performances of these pieces were either World or European premieres!

Both cities boasted wonderful architecture and much history, which we made sure to enjoy. The choir is extremely grateful for the support given by Hertford alumni and the wider community. Without your support, opportunities such as this would not be possible. We, as a choir, thoroughly enjoyed our Lithuanian adventure and are very excited to see what next year has to offer!

The Boat Club has had an amazing year and we’re all hoping to lead the bump charts in next year’s torpids with our hertford4headship campaign! Both teams are in strong positions: women in 4th and the men in 5th. The women’s team are currently completing our bespoke summer training programme in order to increase our chances and be the best we can be — we’re looking forward to bumping some boats next season!

I joined HCBC in Michaelmas and rowed with W1 for torpids and summer eights. It was great to see so many of our alumni, including Zoe Lee (who won silver at the Rio Olympics), there to cheer us on and make the team feel part of something so much bigger. Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement.

"The women’s team are currently completing our bespoke summer training programme in order to increase our chances and be the best we can be”

Hannah Towndrow (2016)
Senior Organ Scholar

Philippa Thornton (2016)
Women’s Captain

Hertford College Choir

Hertford College Boat Club
We were honoured to be invited to Mongolia to partake in a rugby and academic outreach tour. The tour began with a five day training camp out in the mountains to the north-east of Ulaanbaatar (UB), where the boys mixed rugby training with traditional Mongolian nomadic lifestyles. Following a chance to get acclimatised to both the altitude and the heat, the group headed back into the capital city with renewed focus about the two matches ahead. In both games, the college side was victorious, triumphing in two bruising, close encounters. The results levelled the ‘Mongolia-Hertford series’ at two apiece with the 2013 tourists having lost both of their encounters. While in UB, the group spent a special day visiting a local underprivileged school, which the Mongolian Rugby Football Union are helping to rehabilitate through the medium of rugby, an up and coming sport in Mongolian culture. A truly memorable opportunity to continue to aid the MRFU with the local projects they diligently execute in and around Ulaanbaatar. Other significant activities included a visit to the largest equestrian statue in the world, which depicted local hero Genghis Khan valiantly riding a 40m high metal horse and a reception from the British embassy in Ulaanbaatar.

We would like to thank all the Hertford College donors for their help with what was an unique opportunity to promote further a growing relationship between the college and both the Mongolian Rugby Football Union and the Mongolian government alike. As a club, we appreciate that tours to countries as far away and as unique as Mongolia would not be possible without your input.

Hertford College Rugby Club

And now for the statistics...
1st August 2016 – 31st July 2017

878 donations to Hertford
£924,361 raised
60% of donors make a regular gift

Legacy gifts

135 people have pledged to leave something for Hertford in their wills. Last year we received four legacies, including £40,000 from Jonathan Swallow towards Student Support.

Telethon

£219,000 raised in donations.
238 donors.
43% of donors had never given to Hertford before.

Spoke to 517 alumni and friends.

We prefer to reach our telethon goals with a game of snakes and ladders – Harry Potter edition.
In August 2016 we launched the #TeamHertford campaign to raise £300,000 for Student Support. We asked you to come together and help us support the next generation of talented individuals. And you did!

Thanks to your ongoing generosity we managed to raise over £340,000!

**Triumph for the #TeamHertford campaign!**

hertford360

An epic seven month challenge that saw #TeamHertford virtually circumnavigate the globe. 72 Hertfordians ran, walked, swam and cycled over 45,000km for our students! Thank you to everyone who stepped up to the challenge, you’re amazing.

Conquering the Cotswolds

We felt it was not enough to virtually circumnavigate the world... so on 1 July, a team of cyclists and hikers joined us on a daylong adventure conquering the beautiful landscapes of the Cotswolds. Together, we travelled 4,200km for hertford360!

HertFolk

Taking inspiration from Humans of New York, we created a blog on our website featuring stories from alumni, staff and students – some of our favourites went out to you in the post as part of the Pride of Hertford publication.

#30daysof TeamHertford

Throughout June, we asked all of our wonderful followers on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to help us raise £2,000 for #TeamHertford online as a final push to help us reach our goal for student support – #teamworkmakesthedreamwork.

**#TeamHertford in 2016-17**

261 gifts towards #TeamHertford

261 gifts towards #TeamHertford
Thank you to our donors! (2016-17)

DONORS

What’s next?

In 2017-18, we’ll be encouraging alumni and friends to give back to the subjects you loved (although if you didn’t love your subject, you can still give to other areas!)

So far we have raised:

£150,000 for Law
£100,000 for English
£63,000 for Physics
£198,000 for a new post in Computer Science

A global network of support

Our donors are all over the world!