Thank You
These are anxious times, for all, but it is at times like these that your generosity and support for King’s is more greatly valued than ever.

A College like King’s can make a real difference to individual lives, educating and encouraging those who will go out into the world to change it for the better, and bringing the most talented people here to undertake the research that can address the big global challenges. And we can do this due, in very large part, to your gifts.

The King’s Campaign was launched in 2018 to raise £100 million. At the end of the 2021–22 financial year, our total stood at £82.5 million. That is a fantastic sum, raised thanks to the generosity of King’s alumni and friends around the world. The power of philanthropy means that we can make things happen that would otherwise not have been possible.

We can reach many more talented young people who could benefit from a King’s education, but who have not had access to adequate resources — either financial or in their teaching. We can attract and support more of the brightest graduate students, and expand the scope of our research. And we can ensure that the College’s unique physical environment is both protected and enhanced to meet the needs of the 21st century.

Gifts this year have supported the creation of a new full-time teaching post in Computer Science, strengthened our safety net for students experiencing financial hardship, expanded the activities of the King’s Entrepreneurship Lab, bolstered our Summer Research Programme for undergraduates, and helped the College fully or partly fund no fewer than 90 graduate studentships.

As the pages in this Report reflect, donations of all sizes truly make a difference, and we are profoundly grateful for your generosity. As I go into my last year as Provost there is still much I want to achieve, but I am enormously proud of all the progress that has been made. Thank you — for the trust you place in us and for all that you do for King’s.

Professor Michael Proctor FRS
Provost
Funded by a generous donation from The Chaffield Shaw Trust, the Bridging Programme sits alongside a much wider range of King’s initiatives designed to improve equality of access and opportunity, and to help combat entrenched social and economic disadvantage.

These include a number of residential programmes that give students an opportunity to experience life at King’s; online and in-person workshops designed to introduce students to university-style learning; mentoring and tutoring opportunities; and a series of schemes that enable students to participate in summer internships and training experiences, without the need to worry about finances.

Regular donor Andrew Biggs (KC 1980) explains why this year he decided to renew his monthly gift to the Access and Outreach Fund: “I was fortunate to have been at King’s at a time of free university tuition. As my parents were not wealthy I also benefitted from a full maintenance grant. I am happy to continue making a contribution towards easing the financial strains on the lives of today’s students.”

Before starting at King’s, undergraduate student Joel Mahabir (Natural Sciences) took part in the 2021 Bridging Programme, which helps students to ‘bridge the gap’ between higher education and university study. Now in his second year, Joel is one of two Access Officers on KCSU, through which he takes a leading role in initiatives such as open days, interview helpdesks and the Access Bus, encouraging school students to have the confidence to apply to Cambridge.

The generosity of King’s has been unwavering: our College excels in ensuring students are properly equipped for their educational journey and makes a genuine effort to level the playing field with regards to the inevitable inequality at a place like Cambridge. I have received hardship grants and help to buy a laptop, but also met friends and members of staff I will remember for life. And I want others to share my experiences of King’s.

As a KCSU Access Officer, I am determined to ensure that students from under-represented backgrounds are encouraged to apply to King’s, and that students already here have access to the financial, pastoral, and educational support that they deserve. I want to work towards a College where socio-economic factors are not a determining factor in the happiness, exam results, and general wellbeing of students. In my second year, I can confidently say why I am proud to be a King’s student.”

No of offers to UK students went to students from the maintained sector: 78%
No of successful applicants took part in the Bridging Programme: 10
9% of our 2022 intake of UK undergraduates came from areas of lowest progression to higher education and 12% from schools with low progression to Oxbridge
20 schools took part in the Year 12 Access and Application Support programme
23 schools in the North East were visited by our Access Bus

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ENRICHING EXPERIENCE

In 2021, philanthropic funding enabled the creation of the King’s Summer Research Programme for undergraduates, with priority given to students facing structural disadvantage who would not be able to take up an internship or summer study project without financial support. Summer opportunities such as this give students the freedom to head off in different directions, to see whether they’re really interested in the field they’ve chosen, and to give proper thought to whether going into research or further academic study is right for them.

Among the 35 students taking part in the 2022 Programme was second-year medic Davod Shah, who spent ten weeks with the Cambridge Stem Cell Institute researching new pharmacological treatments for glioblastoma at the Rowitch Lab.

“The Summer Research Programme was an amazing experience for me that wouldn’t have been possible were it not for the generosity of the Gatsby Foundation and King’s alumni. The research was challenging but my supervisor and other members of the lab inspired me to think analytically about my results, to be resilient when I got no results at all, and to manage my time effectively.

A summer of research at Cambridge is a unique experience; I wouldn’t have spent those months any other way.”

SUPPORTING GRADUATES

King’s continues to be a popular choice for graduates, but with studies interrupted by the pandemic and fees rising enormously for EU applicants, bringing world-class scholars to Cambridge – and supporting them once they are here – is a challenge.

One of our top priorities is to try to secure permanently endowed funds for future generations of postgraduates, enabling world-changing research that tackles the big questions waiting to be solved, and helps build a better and more equitable world.

Georgia Katakou is currently starting an MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History at King’s, supported by a GS Gives studentship with match-funding from the Cambridge Trust:

“This is my first Michaelmas at Cambridge and I have felt so welcomed and happy here! I love studying history and I would not be able to continue at a postgraduate level without support from King’s. For families like my own, with caring expenses and anxious about making ends meet, spaces like Cambridge feel completely inaccessible. And for those of us who are not from the UK, securing funding is even more daunting.

Being here on a studentship means that this is the first time in my adult life that I don’t have to balance 20 hours of part-time work with a full-time degree, just to pay bills. Instead, I have started learning Italian and I volunteer as Welfare Officer for the KCGS. I sit at the far end of the College Library, by the big windows overlooking the Provost’s garden, and research women’s lives. I walk to Sidgwick Site on sunny autumn mornings, meet friends at Newnham, and spend long afternoons in the King’s Graduate Suite alongside other grads. I feel lucky to be a part of the King’s community and to be on the receiving end of so much warmth, respect, and care.”

The impact of the pandemic is still being felt in the number of PhD students who have overrun their funding periods and found themselves in financial difficulty. The generous support of alumni and friends towards the Supplementary Exhibition Fund (SEF) has been especially crucial in providing a vital safety net covering all sorts of unforeseeable circumstances.
TOGETHER WE MAKE KING’S

Your donations in 2021/22

Total: £6,933,642

ENDOWED FUNDS RAISED EXPENDABLE FUNDS RAISED

11.5% of MEMBERS made a PHILANTHROPIC GIFT

£70,130 claimed in GIFT AID
THANK YOU for your declarations!

13 NEW LEGATORS totalling £1,571,000 in NEW LEGACY PLEDGES

£138,000 raised in support of STUDENT HARDSHIP AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

1,288 TOTAL DONORS
162 NEW DONORS
793 REGULAR DONORS

9 STUDENTS CALLING as part of the annual Telephone Fundraising Campaign

More than 300 alumni reached AROUND THE WORLD

£82.5m towards our £100 million King’s Campaign target

Thank you!

“Having seen the impact that financial difficulties can have on students – both at King’s and in my subsequent work as a teacher – I was keen that my donation go to the SEF, to support the College’s ambition that no student struggle to meet their academic potential due to financial hardship.”

TOM ETHERIDGE (KC 2013)

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THANK YOU!
Susie Forster is the College Nurse, and together with the Cognitive Behavioural Therapist, Mental Health Advisor, Welfare Tutor, Side Tutors and Chaplain, forms the core of the welfare provision at King’s.

As Susie testifies, her role has transformed dramatically over her five years at King’s, with much more of her time now dedicated to the management of issues relating to mental health.

According to research*, 37% of students today experience mental health problems when they arrive at university, with depression and anxiety being the most common, and the number of students disclosing an eating disorder doubling since 2020. As College Nurse my main focus is trying to look after the fundamentals of our students’ lives: promoting a healthy lifestyle, making sure they sleep and eat well, exercise, and take breaks from work.”

When additional support is required, Susie can refer students to one of the two mental health practitioners in College, to the University’s counselling service, or to more specialist providers of care. She also works closely with the local GP surgeries, the KCSU and KCSS Welfare Officers, Porters and Housekeepers who are in daily contact with students and often represent the first line of support.

The College has put a lot of resources into tackling the intensifying mental health crisis, but there are a number of preventative initiatives that we’d like to try in order to encourage a more balanced and healthy experience, both for our students and those looking after them. Thanks to the Student Welfare and Mental Health Fund, we are able to run activities such as a four-week course about body image, and give those in support roles access to reflective practice sessions twice a term.

There are so many amazing students at King’s, and some of them have had to face extraordinary hurdles to get to where they are. We must do all we can to ensure they have the best experience while at King’s.

Welfare Day
Over the last few years, the Class of 1985 Fund has supported the annual Welfare Day, an event which provides a much-needed break from the academic pressures of Lent Term. In March 2022, the KCSU Welfare Officers organised a day of relaxation and fun, including yoga classes, improvised comedy, rounders on the Back Lawn, and giant games in the Chetwynd Room.

*RANDSTAD STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH REPORT 2022
Announced last June on the anniversary of Alan Turing’s birth, a gift in support of Computer Science allowed us to create the Enactor Alan Turing Fellowship and expand the College’s teaching provision in that area. Appointed to the Fellowship was Apinan (Api) Hasthanasombat, a former graduate student at King’s who, in his new role, will deliver teaching to small groups, assist with the admission of prospective students, and conduct his own research into neural networks.

When I look back on my journey at King’s I always remember the people who have had a sizeable impact on my education, academically and beyond, and I hope I can pass that spirit on. Cambridge continues to be an exciting place to be as there is a growing ecosystem of people translating research into useful applications.

The Alan Turing Programme has also just welcomed Chiara Sarti as the latest Enactor Alan Turing scholar, undertaking a PhD in the field of higher category theory. I am deeply grateful for this studentship. King’s is an amazing environment to do research in, and a true centre of excellence for theoretical Computer Science, but working towards a PhD in the midst of a cost of living crisis is a scary prospect for a student. Knowing that the College had the funding to guarantee my financial security was definitely a key factor in the decision to undertake a PhD at Cambridge.

In today’s uncertain times the College cannot rely on state funding to secure the future, and the support of far-sighted benefactors is proving to be vital. Legacies of all sizes are left to King’s: some people give as an expression of their affection for the College, others out of gratitude for how it transformed their thinking and their lives, or because they believe in what we stand for. Do get in touch with the Development Office to receive a copy of our ‘Your Legacy’ brochure, or to discuss a bequest.

One of the generous bequests that is helping preserve this historic building is the residual gift left by Maurice Burnett (KC 1941). Maurice began his undergraduate studies in Classics at King’s in 1941; singing with the University choir and playing football for the College. After completing Part One of the Tripos, Maurice’s studies were interrupted by the war and he was recruited to Bletchley Park to help decode Japanese messages. In 1944 he was transferred to Colombo to continue his code-breaking work, remaining there until the end of the war.

In November 1945 Maurice returned to Cambridge to complete his studies, switching to History for his final year. Alongside him at King’s was his lifelong friend Michael Graham, whose own undergraduate degree in History had been delayed by the hostilities and found himself demobbed back to the UK at the same time.

On leaving King’s, Maurice met and married his wife Frances in New York, where the couple relocated permanently in the late 1950s, moving to Virginia in retirement. He continued to have great affection for the College, keeping up friendships for more than 75 years, and always tuning in to A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols every Christmas.

ABOVE: Maurice Burnett (left) with Michael Graham (right) photographed together in Virginia. They died within weeks of each other in 2020. Image provided by Patricia Graham.
THANK YOU

The enormous commitment and generosity of King’s alumni and friends around the world continue to make a huge difference to all aspects of the College and to all that we are able to achieve – to the extent of our access and widening participation programme, to the expansion of our research, to how we protect and enhance the King’s environment, but most of all to the lives of our students.

This financial year, despite all the challenges caused by the pandemic and much else, we received a fantastic £20.5 million in funding and secured a total of £6.9 million in new gifts and pledges. Thanks to you, we are breaking down barriers and making a King’s education available to many more talented students from disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds; and are able to give greater help and support to students here who are increasingly facing financial uncertainty.

Gifts to King’s come in all sizes – every gift at any level matters, and truly makes a difference. Regular giving, which enables us to better plan for the future, is an enormous help. Your participation, whether financial or with your time and expertise, is central to all that we can achieve, and so important.

FOR NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

Dr Francis Cuss (KC 1972) is a long-term supporter of King’s and a member of the King’s Campaign Board. For him, it’s about gratefully acknowledging the personal life-changing impact of King’s and giving back – not just monetarily, but also with time and advice – when in a position to do so, helping to ensure equality of opportunity for the next generation.

“I’m convinced that it’s an obligation on those of us whose lives have been enhanced by our time at King’s to repay in some way, if we can. I believe that it’s more important than ever to provide opportunities for bright, highly talented people from under-represented backgrounds to come and experience King’s unique environment, to learn from some of the best teachers in the world, and to be propelled to their maximal potential. They are the citizen-leaders of tomorrow, and are crucial for all our futures. Already benefactions provide both help for them to prepare for life in College and the support they need to make the most of their time at King’s.

During the pandemic students faced an unprecedented challenge, and as a member of the Campaign Board, I was privileged to see, at first-hand, the extraordinary ‘behind-the-scenes’ efforts by King’s and the impact they had. How the members of the College stepped up was both eye-opening and truly inspiring. King’s has already proven itself highly adaptable at meeting changing circumstances; it’s hugely important that as donors we support the Future Fund, which ensures that the College has adequate financial resource and the flexibility to direct support to meet both present requirements and as yet unidentified future need.”

A message from the Chair of the King’s Campaign Board

We are getting close now. Thanks to the fantastic generosity of King’s alumni and friends, the Campaign target of £100 million is in sight.

The impact of the money already raised can be seen in so much of what the College is doing. Because of your gifts, we are able to intensify our efforts around access and support and make a real difference to students’ lives; extend the depth and reach of the College’s research; and conserve and enhance the unique environment that has inspired so many of us.

No two of our journeys to King’s are the same, but as soon as we walk through the front gates as students for the first time we all become part of the King’s story. As the College continues to transform the lives of current and future generations, I ask for your help as together we write the next chapter in King’s history.

SARAH LEGG (KC 1986)

FOR NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

We know, from what the recipients tell us, that your gifts really do change lives; and when you give, you may do more for someone’s future than you will ever know.

On behalf of everyone at King’s, and all the people your philanthropy touches, thank you.

Lorraine Headen
Director of Development and Fellow

Photography throughout by Stephen Bond, Stillvision, Martin Bond or provided by College members.