



St Cross – Urgent Appeals 2025

Dear St Crossers,

Since becoming Master just over a year ago, I have been struck by the academic strength, diversity and warmth of the College. This is a remarkable community, which over the last six decades has been a home for thousands of talented scholars from more than a hundred countries. We are proud of the impact St Crossers make in Oxford and around the world.

I am committed to sustaining this legacy and improving everything we do. As we prepare for the College's 60th anniversary, my colleagues and I are busy laying plans for the next sixty years. We want to place St Cross on a firm financial footing by bolstering our endowment. And we want to offer more to our students and Fellows – more funding, more facilities and more opportunities.

Philanthropy will play a defining role in making this vision a reality. We look to you, our alumni and friends, to help us. We now invite you to support a number of important causes for the College and all its members, which are detailed here. Every gift counts and will be warmly appreciated.

This year, your philanthropy will go even further. **Gifts will be doubled* in value, thanks to a generous matching pledge from friend of the College David Scrymgeour**, to whom we are very grateful. While you can give to any cause at the College, David's matching support will establish a new Community Bursary rewarding leadership, entrepreneurship and personal development amongst our students. We hope you will seize this great opportunity to maximise the impact of your gift. For full details, please visit www.stx.ox.ac.uk/matching.

With warmest wishes,
Kate

Kate Mavor CBE
The Master

**Single gifts will be matched pound for pound. For example, if you donate £100, the total value of your gift to the College will be £200. If you make a regular gift, the whole first year will be matched (e.g. £10 per month for one year will be worth £240 in total).*



Graduate Scholarships



In the current academic year, St Cross is home to 644 students from 71 countries, reading 181 different degrees. This mix of backgrounds and subjects is key to our ethos and reflects our founding mission: to expand academic opportunity. Students today face significant financial pressures, with living costs and fees continuing to increase. The annual cost of most graduate degrees for an international student is estimated to be at least c. £55,000. Prospective students may carry debt from undergraduate studies, and there is considerable competition for external sources of funding. Indeed, successful applicants cite 'finances' as the most common reason for refusing a place at Oxford.

Scholarships are key to addressing this problem, helping us ensure that talented students aren't deterred from coming to St Cross for financial reasons. Each year the College is typically able to support fewer than 10% of its incoming students with scholarships. We want to significantly increase this number, and we welcome your help in doing so. Gifts of all sizes will make an impact, and we can offer scholarship naming opportunities for donations of £10,000 or more.

St Cross Scholarships for Africa (£20,000 raised towards £50,000 target)

Thanks to the generosity of St Crossers, the College was able to welcome four Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx) Scholars this academic year. These scholarships provide transformational opportunities for outstanding African students, offering full funding for Master's degrees in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation and the University. We wish to build on this success and host five AfOx Scholars next year. We seek to raise £10,000 for each student, representing the College side of their funding. Scholars will also have access to training, networking and tailored assistance. You can read about our current AfOx Scholars (pictured right) by accessing <https://qrco.de/AfOx> or using the QR code.



Student Hardship Fund (£5,000 raised towards £30,000 per year target)



When students arrive at St Cross, we want them to have all the resources to succeed. Some experience unforeseen financial hardship, and with the help of donations, we can offer emergency assistance to cover essential costs such as food, accommodation, books and study equipment. Applications for this form of support have persisted, amidst the current cost-of-living crisis. And given the many countries represented in our student body, our community is particularly prone to the effects of international crises. Gifts of all sizes will make a difference for this appeal, and a named hardship Bursary can be set up with an annual donation of £1,000 or more. We seek to have at least 30 such bursaries to draw on every year.

Buildings & the College Environment

Philanthropy helps us to provide all College members with the best possible facilities. Our move to St Giles in 1981, and the significant long-term lease from Pusey House, were made possible by a major donation from Blackwell's. Most recently, the West Wing Building was completed with generous support from alumni and friends, providing 53 new student rooms, a library, a lecture theatre and meeting spaces. On an ongoing basis, we undertake a regular programme of improvements to the College estate, including projects to reduce our carbon footprint. All donations towards this fund will support this programme and lay foundations for our long-term plans: more student accommodation and a commitment to decarbonise.



Area of Greatest Need



Unrestricted gifts are always welcome and will protect St Cross' core activities. By donating in this way, you will give us the opportunity to allocate your support flexibly to the areas where it will have the greatest impact. Our current priorities include bolstering the financial support we can provide for students, enhancing our buildings and facilities, and increasing the College endowment. While our endowment has grown recently to c. £24.9m, it remains one of the smallest of all the Oxford colleges. A larger endowment will help us to cover more of our expenditure independently, and thereby, offer more funding, better facilities and greater opportunities for all St Crossers.