

# The Senior Tutor's Report

## A holistic approach to our students' time at Cambridge

The close of the academic year causes one to reflect on the many varied events which took place in College in the months since September 2017. The Hall continued with a series of events to recall the first admission of women to the College in 1976, events which brought to mind another anniversary this centenary year, the passing of *The Representation of the People Act 1918* which gave six million women the vote. Trinity Hall proudly recalls the key part played by Millicent Garrett Fawcett – the first woman to be honoured with a statue in Parliament Square – in the campaign to extend the franchise. Activism, curiosity, enthusiasm and a questioning of the status quo are the corners of the humanist university and in his Commemoration of Benefactor's address in February 2018, Dr Nigel Chancellor (1990) recalled that Millicent Garrett Fawcett and her husband, the reformer and Hall Fellow Henry Fawcett, stand as a powerful story of partnership, of the strength of shared beliefs, and support that informs the ethos of our College life. One fine example of that activism and enthusiasm in the College this year has been the student-led drive to fly the LGBTQ+ flag. Promoted by the MCR, the 19th-century Hall man and early gay activist Edward Carpenter would be proud to see his College champion the lives of everyone in society.

The Hall continues to be extremely fortunate in its ability to take a holistic approach to our students' time at Cambridge, offering support in areas of wellbeing and mental health. Together with tutorial support, and the direction of study and supervision which remains at the core of Cambridge education, Trinity Hall is ahead of other colleges in terms of student provision. Travel and

research grants and College prizes, also supported through the generosity of alumni, allow that programme of learning and development to continue into the vacation. As a result, of the undergraduate students taking classed exams in 2018, one third attained a First class degree and one half a 2.1. The Hall has also continued to grow and develop its outreach work, with the aims of broadening horizons, raising confidence and increasing understanding of university admissions among prospective undergraduates from under-represented backgrounds. As part of the HE+ Somerset, BaNES Oxbridge and newly established HE+ Bristol projects, we have brought students from 27 state schools and colleges for day events and residential stays in College. Our first Women in STEM Residential has taken place, in addition to the many individual visits to, and from, schools that Trinity Hall runs each year to provide prospective students with information and support.

**“The Hall has continued to grow and develop its outreach work, with the aims of broadening horizons, raising confidence and increasing understanding.”**

The forthcoming admissions round will see the completion of the reform of A Levels in England, and therefore the loss of UMS (Uniform Mark Scale used to standardise the marking of papers across different examination boards) as



**Dr William O'Reilly**  
Acting Senior Tutor, Lent and Easter Terms  
2017/18

a factor in making admissions decisions for most candidates; we eagerly await more data on the usefulness of these assessments in predicting A Level and Tripos performance.

The year ahead holds much to focus the mind: another intake of ambitious undergraduate and graduate students; the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Jerwood Library; and, of course, Brexit. One in ten of our undergraduate students, one in five of our graduate students, and one in five of our Fellows are from an EU country other than the UK. Trinity Hall will continue to ensure that the College is an attractive place for students and staff to study and work, and that it remains an open and welcoming environment for all, where we continue to preserve and build on the experience of the past in order to secure the College's future.