Like many others in lockdown I have been scrolling through social media memes and quotations of the day. One stuck with me: “Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much” – Helen Keller.

The power of the community has been so important during the pandemic and “together” has been our theme throughout this time. It has been heart-warming to see how the Trinity Hall community united to help not only each other but society more generally: Trinity Hall members shared their lockdown stories and how they were helping in the pandemic; record numbers made a donation to the College in the last year; and hundreds of alumni offered careers advice and supported our events. Your generosity supported students during the pandemic to study from home and manage additional financial pressures, and allowed us to refurbish Central Site rooms ready for our students’ return.

We are very grateful for the support you have shown to our students. Donations transform lives and together we can do so much. Thank you!

Dr Rachelle Stretch, Development Director
STUDENT SUPPORT DURING THE PANDEMIC

Supporting students is the focus of what we do.

Your donations have helped our students thrive in one of the most challenging academic years in recent times. Students faced remote study, additional financial concerns and increased anxiety. Our endowed student support funds and the pandemic support fund have made a tremendous difference to our students.

PANDEMIC FUND

£201,130 raised to support 100+ students affected by the pandemic

602 gifts from 449 donors

Donor matriculation years from 1938 to 2020

Donations from £1 to £20k

Through your collective generosity we have supported:

• 12 undergraduates whose household finances were affected, by providing them with additional grants;

• 4 postgraduate students whose degree was extended due to coronavirus disruption, by granting them additional financial support;

• 41 students who needed to self-isolate and quarantine outside College, by offering financial assistance to cover these unexpected costs;

• 55 students whose home study environment needed to be improved for remote work, by providing a better keyboard, noise cancelling headphones, or enabling them to purchase software or books for their research.

“I used the money to buy books for my Long Essay, which I couldn’t access because of library closures. In particular, it enabled me to buy one primary source which was one of the key texts that I wouldn’t have been able to access otherwise. Thank you very much for your generosity – it was invaluable.”  History undergraduate, 2019
WORDS OF APPRECIATION FROM OUR STUDENTS

“Without this funding, doing my PhD at Cambridge would have been impossible. It has given me the opportunity to study at doctoral level with a world-leading institution under the supervision of the leading Principal Investigator in bioelectronics. I would like to say thank you, so very much. This experience has been truly life changing (even despite a global pandemic). I am forever grateful.”

Engineering postgraduate, 2019

“I’d like to give a huge thank you. I am incredibly grateful for the generosity which has enabled me to flourish at Cambridge. This has made the difference this year, having returned after over a year of intermission due to mental health reasons and having been a little daunted to return during the pandemic. I’m incredibly lucky to have had a great year full of growth and meaningful experiences. I can’t underplay how useful the bursary money was to facilitating that. I hope that in life I can take forward the ethos of kindness and transforming tragedy into opportunities to be generous. Thank you and warm wishes.”

Human, Social and Political Sciences undergraduate, 2016

“The grant was very important. It ensured I could focus on my studies and didn’t have to worry about funding. I really appreciate the opportunity you’ve afforded me, and the kindness that’s behind such acts of charity. The money has been instrumental in many ways throughout the academic year, and without it my life would have been made far more difficult. I will be sure to pay it forward.”

Computer Science undergraduate, 2020
IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE & ACCESSIBILITY

The newly refurbished H staircase has benefited students since they returned to College, providing much appreciated upgrades to facilities and creating a warm and welcoming environment. The rooms will also help us increase income by being more attractive to conference guests.

Left to right: 1. Door to H staircase.  2. Natural light allowed in from skylight.  3. Rooms allowing places for study and rest.  4. The rooms have a view to Avery Court and the newly-built WongAvery Music Gallery.

“During the creation of the WongAvery Music Gallery we took the opportunity to refurbish H staircase. We upgraded the bathroom and kitchen facilities, and modernised the bedrooms with new electrics, furniture, storage, carpets and paint. The ground floor disabled room has benefitted from a new rising desk and sink unit. Externally, the biggest change was the removal of the façade’s whitewash, revealing beautiful brickwork that frames the timber sash windows.”

Glen Sharp, Junior Bursar

“From an Admissions perspective, it is absolutely essential that the student rooms on Central Site are of the highest possible quality. We are frequently asked questions about our accommodation, and that information clearly influences the choices applicants make. Superb accommodation is attractive to conference guests as well as beneficial to students. If Trinity Hall wants to continue attracting large numbers of excellent applicants, then we need to offer accommodation that is comparably impressive.”

Dr Marcus Tomalin, Director of Admissions