

## Your gift is making a big impact!

'Regent's Park College is Oxford's best kept secret. The tutors here are the reason I got through Trinity Term 2020 and the peak of COVID. I genuinely love this college and am so happy that I ended up here.'

Elliott, third year History student



We were bowled over by the community spirit that alumni, staff, students and friends showed during our first Giving Day in May. Many of you generously responded by giving to support the College, so we are pleased to update you on what has been achieved so far.

Expressing gratitude to alumni and other supporters on behalf of the student body, JCR Welfare Information Officer Tom (Geography, 2019) notes, *'Because Oxford is a really challenging environment and there's lots of stress, when you have unexpected financial struggles on top of that things become really, really difficult. That's where the student support fund comes in and it's massively useful.'*

Students tell us that that our student support scheme is a real lifeline, and right now there is even more need for additional support to transition to, or back to, Oxford life. The current first-years spent at least a third of their sixth form in lockdowns, unable to access face to face teaching, and students facing finals were at home for significant portions of their first and second years.

Last year, we provided fifteen students with financial assistance when they faced unforeseen circumstances. This year, funds raised during the Giving Day will allow us to meet requests while starting to build a robust and sustainable fund for the future that helps Regent's students fulfil their true potential. In this short clip Tom shares his hopes for strengthening students' emotional wellbeing through your support:



The Giving Day also highlighted access and outreach, and how Regent's is carving out something distinctive to potential students who may not have considered an Oxford education. As a small, welcoming college we provide the ideal environment for settling into Oxford and a great springboard for playing an active part in college and university life. For young people to be encouraged to apply here, it's best for them to meet current students, so we are training a new cohort of student ambassadors to help host Open Days to visit sixth forms.

Not only that, but we are now able to underpin access and outreach activities by addressing the fact that students arrive having experienced very different educational set-ups. The number of students who need some additional study skills support keeps rising and the pandemic has magnified this problem vastly. Access and Outreach Officer and historian Dr Daniel Gerrard, who is a specialist in teaching study skills across the humanities and social sciences, has piloted an intensive scheme at Regent's that lets students focus on *how* to learn. The scheme adapts to each person's needs and is becoming more and more popular with students and tutors. Additional funding is crucial to the time and work involved in study skills workshops.



Dr Daniel Gerrard teaching study skills to Regent's students, Michaelmas 2021.

Although our endowment is modest, financially Regent's has fared far better than many similar institutions following the last 18 months. We focused resources on students - but we did have to pause work on infrastructure. Now, supported by your donations, we are also in a position to embark on a programme of improvements to the site.

Here at Regent's there is a strong sense of moving forward with very positive projects. **Your support has played a fundamental part in making this possible.** We really value your commitment to the college. If this message finds you in a position to [donate further](#) then you can be assured it will help us to achieve a great deal.

With heartfelt thanks,



Viola Kerr  
Director of Development and Alumni Relations



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