



MERTON
COLLEGE
OXFORD

A MERTON LEGACY

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?



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"There are so many reasons, not least gratitude for what Merton has given me, that I have chosen to leave a legacy to the College. Merton's commitment to the pursuit of excellence in teaching and research has benefited generations of Mertonians and has contributed much of value to the world outside its walls. Through supporting the College, I believe I help to make a difference in changing the world." MICHAEL EDWARDS (1956)



REMEMBERING MERTON

My time at Merton was a transformative experience for me, as I am sure it has been for many Mertonians. Through the debate and discussion in tutorials and the lifelong friendships we made, our time at College offered us opportunities to discover our potential and prime our ambitions. The College's continuing task is to provide the same – or even better – opportunities for future generations of students from all backgrounds. To help in this, I am asking you to think about the ways in which you can have an impact on Merton's future through remembering the College in your Will.

For many of us, drawing up our Will is a chance to reflect on and provide for our family, friends and the organisations that we care about. In my own Will, I have taken the opportunity to make a significant financial contribution to the College. It recognises both the debt I owe but also my hope that it will help others benefit in the way that I did. It recognises the increasing financial challenges that colleges like Merton face, not least as they try to make up for the withdrawal of government funding for teaching and student support.

Merton was founded on the benefaction of Walter de Merton in 1264, and has continued to benefit from the bequests of numerous others since then. Many scholarships, Fellowships and enhancements to the College site have been made possible by Mertonians and friends of the College who wished to make a lasting contribution to future generations of Mertonians.

So please think about remembering Merton in your Will. This brochure provides further information that you may find helpful.

Harry Bush CB (1971)
Chair of the Founder's Society



HOW CAN MERTON BENEFIT FROM YOUR LEGACY?

Despite its long and distinguished reputation, the College faces a challenging future as it encounters increased competition from institutions around the globe both for funding and for the best students and Fellows, which are all crucial to maintain its reputation for academic excellence. We need to ensure that Merton has the resources to face the challenges that emerge in the years ahead so that future generations can continue to benefit from the exceptional education Merton offers. The College is happy to receive bequests in whatever form best suits individual benefactors. This could involve allowing Merton to determine how the gift is spent, or allocating it to a specific purpose such as teaching, student support or buildings.

"My time at Merton was paid for by my Local Education Authority – a privilege no longer available to current students. I want to see that everyone, regardless of their financial background, can continue to benefit from academic excellence in the wonderful Merton environment. With this in mind I decided to remember Merton in my Will. Mine may be a relatively small contribution but it will still help a future student. Being part of a College with such a heritage is a wonderful experience which I want others to be able to enjoy too."

DAVID WATSON (1954)

MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE.

Legacies of all sizes have, over the centuries, been a vital contribution to life at Merton.

The impact of bequests – large and small – can be seen all around the College.

THE DOUGLAS ALGAR TUTORIAL FELLOWSHIP IN MUSIC

Mertonian Douglas Algar (1947) passed away in 2010 and provided in his Will for the College to use the residuary proceeds of his estate to set up a Junior Research Fellowship or Senior Fellowship. The bequest was used to endow a Fellowship in Music, to support the College's teaching excellence.

"The tutorial system is at the heart of the Oxford system, and our students are our most valuable asset. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to work with such brilliantly talented young thinkers. I am indebted to Douglas Algar for making such a generous and far-sighted contribution to College life, as are the next generation of Merton musicians for whom time in Oxford will be transformative."

DR DANIEL GRIMLEY, PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AND
DOUGLAS ALGAR TUTORIAL FELLOW IN MUSIC

THE OXFORD-AIDAN JENKINS GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN THE HUMANITIES

Merton historian Aidan Jenkins (1977) passed away unexpectedly in 2013. His legacy to Merton was used to reflect his passion for the humanities and to endow a humanities scholarship in perpetuity.

"My research focuses on cultural memory from the 1919-22 Greco-Turkish War and the population exchange that followed, as seen from the Greek perspective. The topic of uprooting and forced migration – sadly – is as relevant today as it was a hundred years ago, so the knowledge I gain in my field also brings new perspectives to the present. I am very grateful for the generous support of the Oxford-Aidan Jenkins Scholarship – made possible by the generous legacy of Aidan Jenkins – without which I would not be where I am today."

KRISTINA GEDGAUDAITE (DPHIL, MODERN LANGUAGES
– OXFORD-AIDAN JENKINS SCHOLARSHIP)

STUDENT SUPPORT

Legacies have also helped to provide funding for student support. Numerous bequests for student support, which funds hardship, undergraduate travel and doctoral completion bursaries, enable the College to award support annually to students, helping them to make the most of their time at Merton.

Last year, Merton students were awarded more than £130,000 in student support funds, including three hardship grants, 18 doctoral completion bursaries, 44 travel awards and 71 graduate research grants. Lots of small funds, including those set up with bequests, have enabled these awards to enhance the welfare, academic opportunities and personal development of our students.

The image shows the interior of the T.S. Eliot Theatre. The foreground is filled with rows of dark grey upholstered seats. The floor is covered with a grey and blue patterned carpet. In the background, there is a stage area with a wooden podium on the right. The walls are made of wood and stone, and the ceiling features a large skylight and recessed lighting. A white text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

THE T.S. ELIOT THEATRE

One of the lead gifts for the magnificent TS Eliot Theatre was a legacy from John Beard (1938). The T.S. Eliot Theatre has provided Merton with a world-class lecture facility for teaching and presenting research. It has also increased Merton's annual conference income fourfold, further helping the College's long-term financial position.

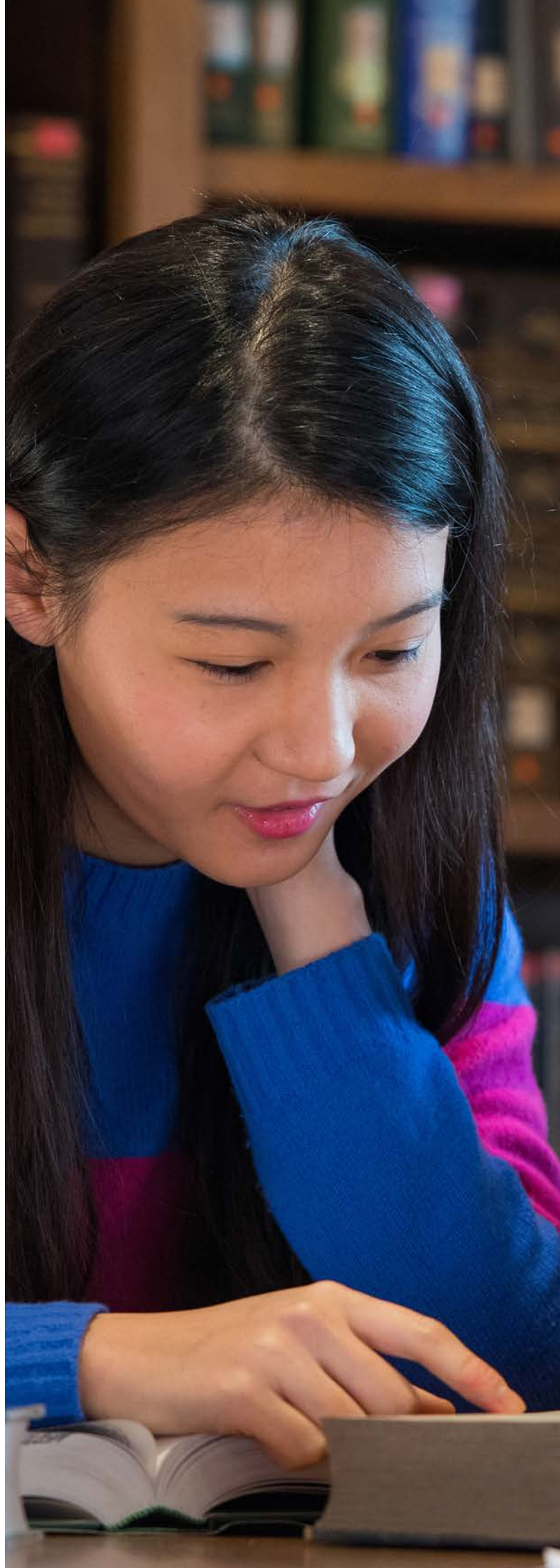
THE TAX ADVANTAGES OF LEAVING A LEGACY TO MERTON

Merton College is a registered charity in the UK and so all legacies received by the College are exempt from UK Inheritance Tax. Moreover, making a bequest to a charity can also reduce the tax burden on any other gifts that you leave.

Under current UK legislation, an estate that gives 10% or more to charity (this could be more than one charity) will receive a 10% discount on the amount of Inheritance Tax paid on the rest of the estate. As a result, tax will be paid at a rate of 36% rather than 40%, lowering the tax burden on the estate.

The University of Oxford's North America Office can advise on the tax benefits of bequests for members who are based in the US, and the College has information specific to Canada, EU countries and other jurisdictions.

"The recent Choral Foundation, including the new girls' choir, was only possible because of the generosity of Mertonians. Some of my fondest memories of Merton are of singing in the Chapel Choir, which sang canticle settings just once a year, in honour of Benefactors such as Richard, 'King of the Romans'. I'd like to think that by leaving a legacy I am doing what he and others did." VIRGINIA KNIGHT (1982)





RECOGNISING YOUR BEQUEST - THE FOUNDER'S SOCIETY

In order to celebrate the generosity of those who have provided for the College in their Will, Merton recognises those who have identified themselves as future legators by inviting them to join the Founder's Society.

Members of the Founder's Society are invited to a biennial lunch at Merton, where they receive an update on College news and planning, and hear some of the research and work that is being done at Merton. To become a member, we ask those who have made or intend to make a bequest to Merton College to complete and return the pledge slip enclosed at the back of this brochure. This is not a binding statement, but it gives the College a clearer view of its future finances, and allows us to thank future legators during their lifetime.

KEEPING MERTON INFORMED OF YOUR WISHES

We recommend that all Mertonians who wish to leave a legacy to the College should consult a solicitor. A draft wording for an unrestricted legacy for the country of your jurisdiction is enclosed at the back of this brochure. The Merton Development Office would be very happy to speak to you about your bequest, particularly if you have a specific wish for how it is used.



"At Merton, I made many of my friends, that have stayed friends for life. The College also gave me the skills required for my career in industry. But above all, the College taught me how to think. It made me who I am today. I was fortunate enough to come to Merton on a maintained grant. Without it, I would never have been able to study here. I have made a provision for Merton in my Will so that others will be able to come to Merton, as I did. I want to keep access to the College open, so that future generations benefit as I did."

(ANONYMOUS MEMBER OF THE FOUNDER'S SOCIETY)





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