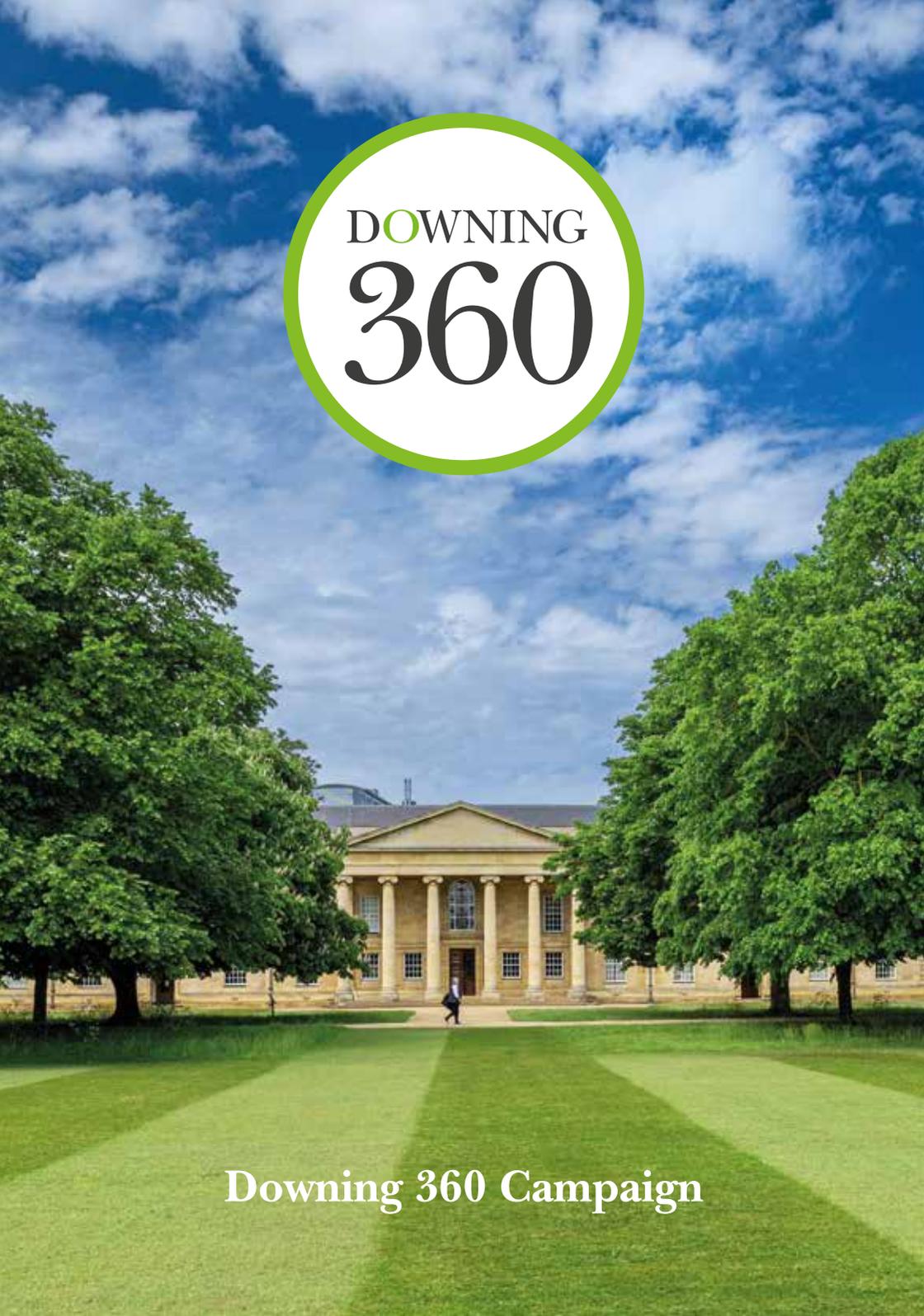
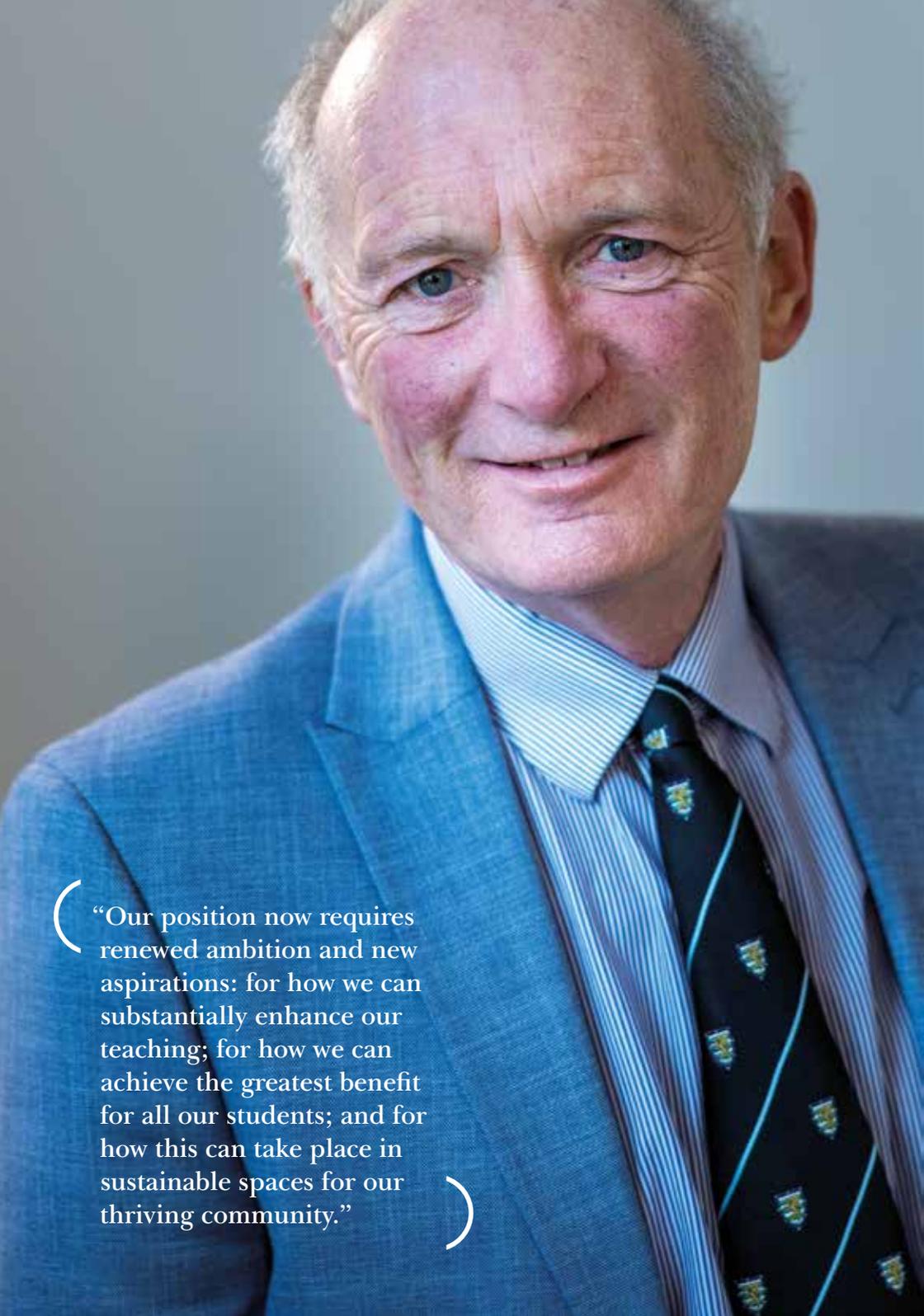


A circular logo with a white center and a green border. The word "DOWNING" is written in a black serif font, with the letter "O" in green. Below it, the number "360" is written in a large, black serif font.

DOWNING
360

A photograph of Downing College building in Cambridge, UK. The building is a large, classical-style stone structure with a portico supported by six columns. It is flanked by two large, mature green trees. In the foreground, there is a wide, green lawn with a central path leading towards the building. A person is walking on the path. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Downing 360 Campaign



“Our position now requires renewed ambition and new aspirations: for how we can substantially enhance our teaching; for how we can achieve the greatest benefit for all our students; and for how this can take place in sustainable spaces for our thriving community.”

Renewed ambition and new aspirations

DOWNING HAS LONG been a place where a rich sense of community is fostered by our shared values of academic rigour, intellectual curiosity, integrity and kindness.

Over the years we have nurtured, challenged, and inspired. We welcome the best minds from a wide diversity of backgrounds and beliefs and from across the globe to live, learn, and work here, and to discover and understand more about themselves.

Thanks to Downing's unique physical environment most of our students can live in or very close to College, creating an extraordinary community of shared experience and mutual support at the heart of one of the world's great universities. Downing alumni and alumnae have taken what they have gained from their time here out into society and changed the world in myriad ways great and small.

We have always been committed to doing all that we can to support our students and help them thrive in all aspects of their lives at Downing.

But now we must do more. Our traditions are strengths only if we can build on them to respond to a wide range of increasingly rapid changes

and challenges. We have seized the opportunity to complete a major strategic review to look at all that Downing offers and how this can be reimagined for the next 20 years.

Our position now requires renewed ambition and new aspirations: for how we can substantially enhance our teaching; for how we can achieve the greatest benefit for all our students; and for how this can take place in sustainable spaces for our thriving community.

To achieve our aspirations requires a minimum investment of over £60m in the next 20 years from a combination of fees, commercial income, loans, and philanthropy. On this journey the support of our donors is crucial.

The Downing 360 Campaign to raise £40 million by 2027 puts our people at the heart of all that we do. With the aid of those whose lives Downing has most enhanced, we can ensure that every Downing graduate benefits from the very best Cambridge education and experience and has the skills that will equip them for life. Every gift will be part of this shared enterprise, and every contribution, at whatever level, will count.

ALAN BOOKBINDER, MASTER

Our Campaign Aims

The Downing 360 Campaign looks to raise £40 million from gifts and legacies at all levels from alumni and friends to the College's Greatest Needs Fund and in three key areas.

These are the main aspirations for which we are seeking support:

ENHANCED EDUCATION

Substantially increasing the Downing Fellowship with five new Fellows in the short term to deliver exceptional College based teaching by supervisors with a deep knowledge of their subject and improving academic performance with a dedicated Student Study Skills Programme.

ENRICHING EXPERIENCE

Ensuring that a Downing education is accessible to all, removing potential barriers to a student's success when we can do so, and ensuring all members aspire to excellence and are equipped with skills for life.

SPACE TO SUCCEED

Creating new teaching and study spaces, making our historic buildings more sustainable and housing all students who wish to live on or near the domus.

Total investment required in Downing



- Philanthropy: £20m
- Borrowing: £20m
- Income: £20m

Downing 360 Campaign Remaining Target



- Enhanced Education: £5m
- Enriching Experience: £5m
- Space to Succeed: £3m
- Greatest Need: £5m

Many Downing alumni and supporters have already been incredibly generous, enabling us to secure over 50% of funding towards our Campaign goal. **THANK YOU!**

The Campaign aims to secure £40 million in philanthropic funding whilst building for the longer term in three ways. We also have ambitions to:



Increase the number of alumni and friends who have made a gift to College in their will to
500



Develop alumni participation in giving to College to
17%



Grow the College endowment from **£59m** to provide a stable income in perpetuity

ENHANCED EDUCATION

WE ARE A PLACE of education, where the exchange of ideas and inspiration from the best teaching can be life changing. Our Fellows are an essential part of what the Collegiate system provides, supervising and directing studies in all subjects and able to prioritise helping with individual student needs beyond the immediate academic requirements.

Yet Downing has one of the lowest percentages of teaching Fellows to students, meaning that less than 30% of supervisions are provided by Downing Fellows. This poses a threat to our reputation for excellence, especially in high demand subjects.

Our highest priority is to invest substantially in College teaching to ensure that we can provide our students with a intellectually demanding education of the highest standard. Our ambition is to increase the Fellowship from 48 to 60 to place Downing at the forefront of Cambridge Colleges in academic provision. We are seeking new Fellowships in five subjects: Law, English, Mathematics, Classics and Computer Science and to fully endow an existing Fellowship in Economics.

We seek to attract new Fellowships and postgraduate studentships to the Centre for Climate Repair at Cambridge (CCRC) led by Sir David King and based at Downing. CCRC advances world-leading research designed to limit and reverse the damage inflicted on our planet. Its Fellows will teach undergraduates and supervise postgraduates in related disciplines and offer paid internships for our students.

For our first Foundation Year scholars and those students coming from a socially or economically disadvantaged background, additional help can be required to prepare them for the rigours of Cambridge study. We need to be able to provide more individual support not only when they arrive at Downing but throughout their undergraduate career.

“Increasing our Fellowship is a major financial shift for the College, but teaching has to be a priority.”

GUY WILLIAMS, SENIOR TUTOR



Priorities

College Teaching: invest in five new posts in core subjects: Law, English, Mathematics, Classics and Computer Science; and fully endow the Economics Fellowship. **£3m**

Study Skills and Transition Programme: develop core academic skills for all students and a mentoring programme to equip them well for the rigours of a Cambridge education. **£500,000**

Downing 360 Academic Fund: provide support for supra-curricular activities which advance teaching; increase research expenses and support in order to recruit and retain the most engaged Fellows. **£500,000**

Climate Repair Fellowships: at the Centre for Climate Repair Cambridge (CCRC) linked to undergraduate teaching and postgraduate research. **£1m**

DR CHARLOTTE HAMMER
EVERITT BUTTERFIELD FELLOW

ENRICHING EXPERIENCE

WE BELIEVE THAT the education we offer should be built on ability and ambition, not held back by financial constraints. We want to be able to attract and support all who can thrive here; to put the best minds with the best academics and see the best work as a result.

Yet we at Downing also believe that the student experience is about much more than academic achievement. We want to put student welfare, whole-person development, and the student experience at the heart of this campaign with a step-change in our investment in this area.

Downing is a supportive community that values kindness and mutual support, where we celebrate each other's success and provide the tools and support to help young people grow and flourish. We want to build on this, with new programmes and resources that help students make the most of all that Cambridge offers, academically and extra-curricular; and equips them to go out as multi-dimensional individuals who can contribute to the world.

Life as a student is increasingly stressful and we are seeing many more demands

on our mental health services. We place the greatest importance on pastoral care and recently appointed a Head of Student Wellbeing. With expanded funding we want to employ two new Student Wellbeing Advisors to work with students experiencing difficulties.

As our first cohort of Foundation Year scholars join the College, we must provide them with dedicated academic and pastoral support designed to enable them to flourish at Cambridge and advance onto a full undergraduate degree programme here or elsewhere.

The Cambridge Bursary Scheme funded by the College, University and donors, helps 121 students at Downing each year. The programme is expanding rapidly by lowering the income threshold in order to offer bursaries to students from families in the 'squeezed middle', as well as those in the greatest financial need. For the first time, we are seeking gifts from alumni and alumnae to name student bursaries and from regular donors contributing at all levels. Together this support will enable the College to help many more students.



Priorities

Student Support: significantly expanding the Cambridge Bursary Scheme and establishing new named bursaries. **£3m**

Student Wellbeing Programme: fostering proactive wellbeing and personal resilience; increasing the team of professional advisors based in a new Wellness Centre. **£1m**

Foundation Year Programme: providing a Director of Studies, study skills support and mentoring to ensure participants succeed. **£250,000**

Futures Programme: equipping students with wider knowledge and skills for their future career path; this includes internships in the Centre for Climate Repair, Downing Enterprise and mentoring. **£250,000**

Evelyn Taylor (Law 2021)

WHEN I ARRIVED at Downing last year and moved into my room in Kenny A, it was the first time I had lived with silence. I was finally able to breathe.

I grew up with my mum in a flat on Grahame Park Estate in north-west London where gang culture and anti-social behaviour is everywhere and it's always noisy with sirens.

I am an only child and growing up with only my mum, who is Taiwanese, was difficult. English is not her first language, so from a young age I have always helped where I can, completing paperwork and helping with financial difficulties. The first time she was made redundant, I was in Year 7. We really struggled as there were months where we had no income and there was no one we could turn to for guidance. It is from this experience, that my passion to be an advocate of the law stems from.

Walking to and from school, I would pass pupils from the local independent school and I was curious to see what this other world looked like, so in Year 11 I decided to apply for a bursary and to see what would happen. I quickly discovered that I would have to tell my mum about my plans, as I came across the financial statement form. After countless interviews, I was offered a fully funded place at their sixth form.

I was thriving at sixth form. Unfortunately, with the arrival of the pandemic, my mum lost her job again. So we went back to the cycle of relying on food banks, completing countless forms, and always being on the phone to someone for advice. We didn't have internet access or a laptop at home but it was the school and one of my teachers, Mrs Bradley, who ensured I was still able to continue with my studies and provided an escape from home.

I was determined from the moment I started sixth form to make the most of every single opportunity and in the end, I was the only pupil to receive a place at Oxbridge.

I would like to thank every donor who has helped students at Downing. You make it possible for people like me to come here and it has changed my life. Thank you.

“You make it possible for people like me to come here and it has changed my life. Thank you.”

SPACE TO SUCCEED

WE MUST DO all that we can to engage with the threat posed by climate change, one of the greatest challenges of our time. The College is committed to lowering the impact of our living and working environment on the world's resources.

We need to preserve and upgrade our historic buildings to make them more sustainable, reduce our energy costs, and become less reliant on fossil fuels.

Many of our buildings have nurtured successive generations of students, but student life and teaching needs are changing, and we must equip the College to provide spaces fit for today's requirements. There is a growing demand from graduate students and Fellows to be able to live in Downing or on our boundary, in order to participate fully in College life. Development of new accommodation in the recently acquired buildings on Bene't Place and Regent Street will add greatly to what the College can provide. A longer-term ambition is to offer rooms to all students on or near the domus.

On the domus, we will be much more deliberate in repurposing existing buildings wherever possible.

A major upgrading programme of our historic buildings which includes substantial insulation, will drive down energy loss and usage. In time and with support, we aim to install solar panels and ground source heat pumps to generate power from clean sources to reach net zero emissions.

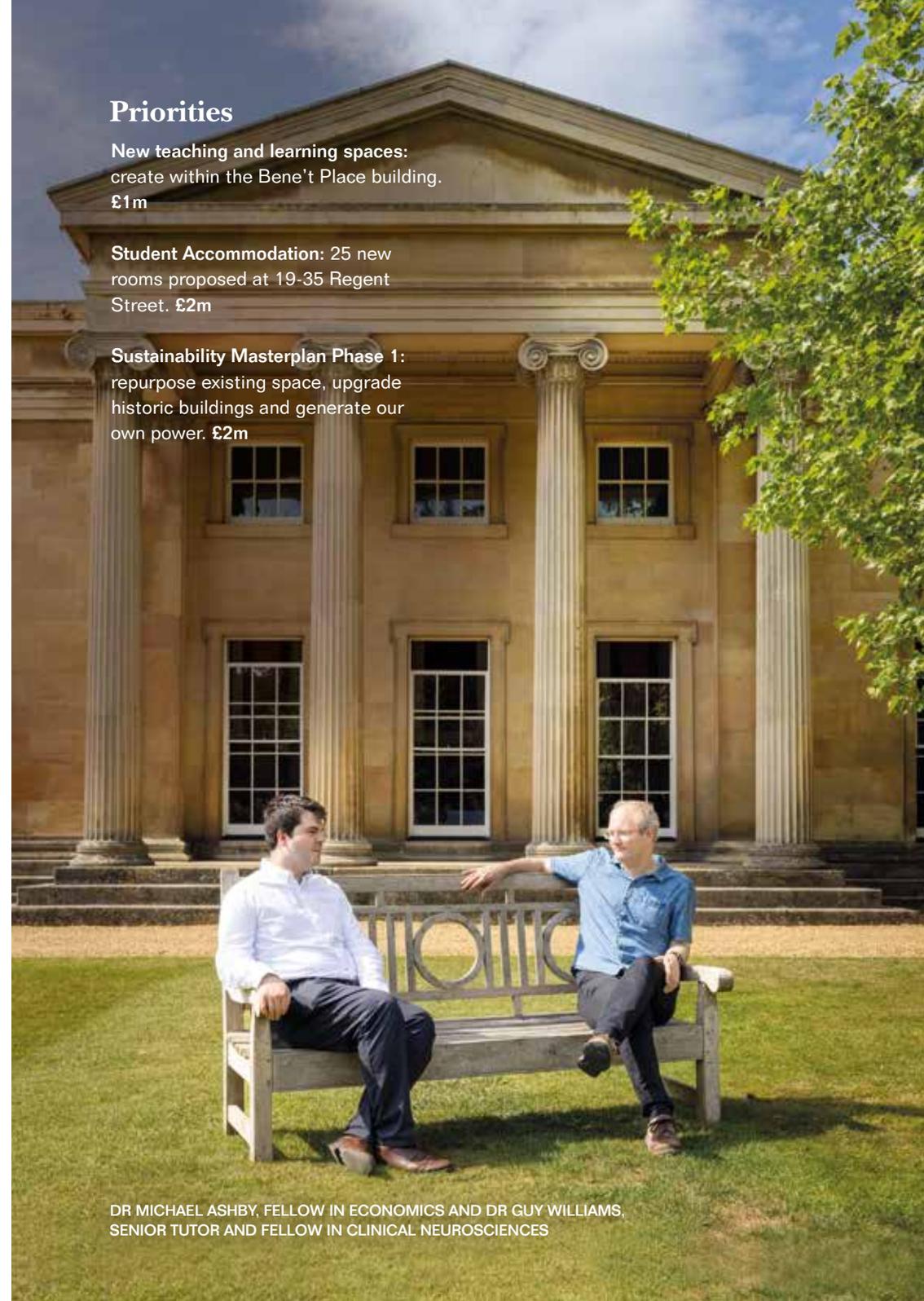
“We need to preserve and upgrade our historic buildings to make them more sustainable, reduce our energy costs, and become less reliant on fossil fuels.”

Priorities

New teaching and learning spaces: create within the Bene't Place building. **£1m**

Student Accommodation: 25 new rooms proposed at 19-35 Regent Street. **£2m**

Sustainability Masterplan Phase 1: repurpose existing space, upgrade historic buildings and generate our own power. **£2m**



DR MICHAEL ASHBY, FELLOW IN ECONOMICS AND DR GUY WILLIAMS, SENIOR TUTOR AND FELLOW IN CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCES



Downing has educated many people who have gone on to have an impact on the world and who have contributed to society in many different ways. Their achievements have been rooted in the academic excellence and sense of mutual support and kindness that our community nourishes. With this campaign, we can ensure that these shared values are what drives Downing towards an optimistic and ambitious future.

We invite you to be part of this next stage of Downing's journey in any way you can.

Connecting

→ Help us keep in touch with your year group, find alumni out of touch with College or host an alumni gathering.

Volunteering

→ Devote time and share your expertise as a Year Representative, member of the Alumni Association Committee, by coaching student sport or delivering a career talk in person or virtually.

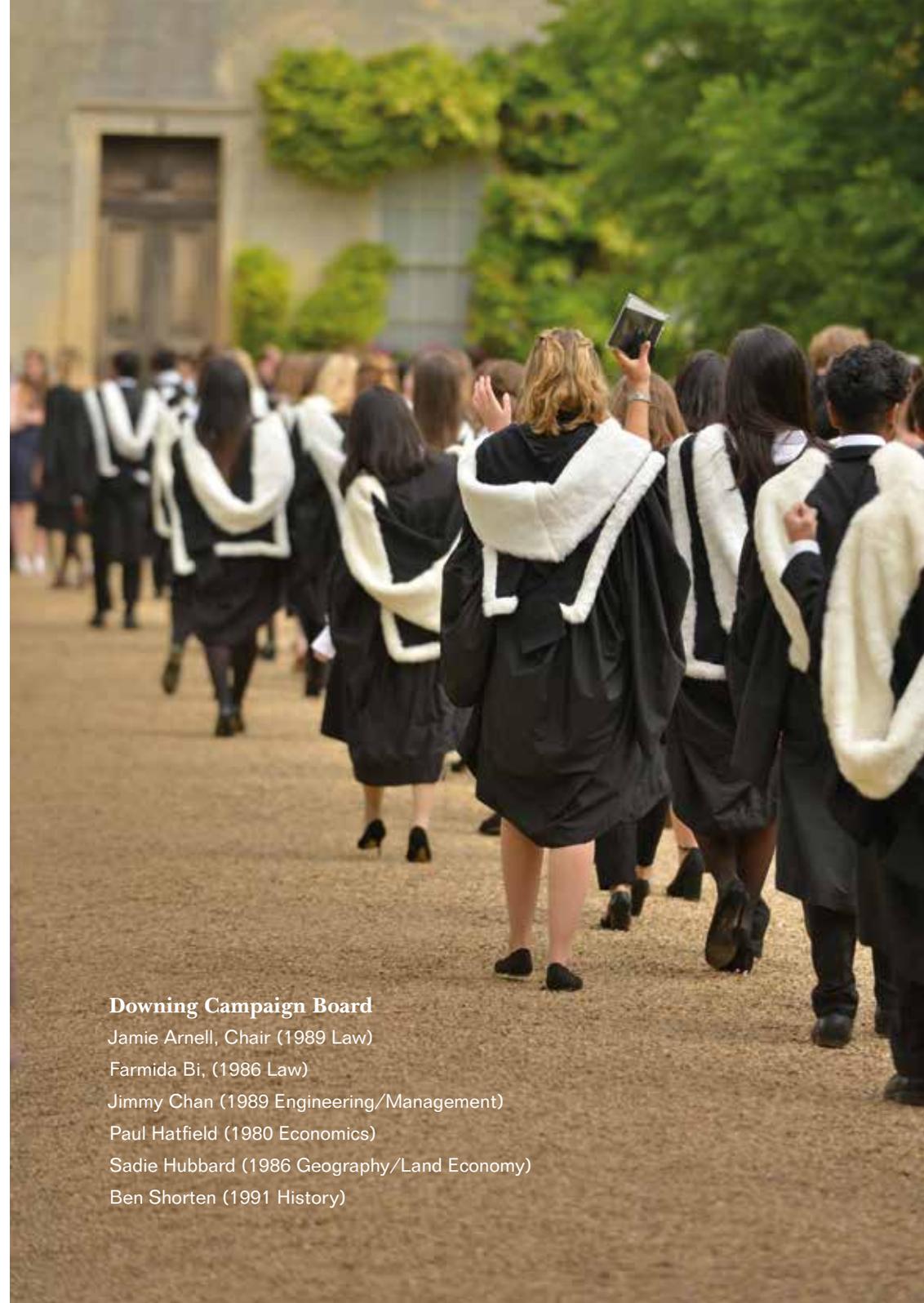
Giving

→ Donate at any level you can afford and encourage your classmates to participate too.

Legacies

→ Consider making a gift in your will to help future generations of students.

Please contact Jo Finnie Jones, Development Director at development@dow.cam.ac.uk, or a member of the Campaign Board for a conversation on how you might join us in this shared endeavour.



Downing Campaign Board

Jamie Arnell, Chair (1989 Law)

Farmida Bi, (1986 Law)

Jimmy Chan (1989 Engineering/Management)

Paul Hatfield (1980 Economics)

Sadie Hubbard (1986 Geography/Land Economy)

Ben Shorten (1991 History)

“I gained a lot from my journey with Downing. I want to help the next generation to get as much as I did from the experience. We should all ask ourselves, what will I do for those coming after me?”

JIMMY CHAN (ENGINEERING 1986)



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Photography by Martin Bond and Perry Hastings