A GREAT CAMPAIGN
FUNDING THE FUTURE
Girton was founded on vision, energy and philanthropy. Like all UK higher education establishments the College thrived as public support for Universities grew. Today, however, the charitable underpinnings of this remarkable institution are more important than ever before. That is why we need a Great Campaign; so that promising students, whoever they are, can realise their potential to change the world. We aim, by 2019, for the first time since our foundation, to secure a sustainable financial future for the leading edge learning environment that is Girton College, Cambridge. We invite you to join us.

“Everything will depend I believe, on how we start.”

Emily Davies to Barbara Bodichon
1867
Introduction from The Mistress of Girton College, Professor Susan J. Smith

Girton is the gateway to a first-rate university education. One of the larger Cambridge colleges, Girton offers a world class learning experience across all subjects. Our reputation for excellence in Science and Social Science, and in the Arts and Humanities, is valued and upheld by teachers, students and staff alike. This, in turn, helps secure the international standing of the University as a whole.

Girton is an exuberant community! We recognise that music, the arts, sport, social life and personal development are vital to educational attainment and career building. That is why we invest so much to add breadth and value to every student’s degree.

This College is open to undergraduates and graduates, and to women and men equally, irrespective of family background and financial circumstances. We know and take an interest in every individual; we work hard to create a supportive, enabling environment. Girton thus maintains a longstanding tradition of inclusion, and enjoys a well-developed ethic of care. Students here have every opportunity to do the most they can to achieve the best there is.

I believe we are successful in what we do, and are richly rewarded for it. Measured by the accomplishment and engagement of alumni, the energies of the Fellowship, the qualities of our students and the expanse of the estate, Girton is very well endowed. Financially, however the College has little room for manoeuvre, either to manage exceptional circumstances or fully to follow its dreams.

We are a lean, efficient and prudently managed operation; and this will never change. But we have rarely had so much potential to enrich the lives, and shape the futures, of so many enterprising young people. So the plans are ambitious!

Our proposals are set out in this booklet. If they capture your imagination, as they have captured mine, please read on, and consider how you can help.

You may already be among the 8,000 former students and supporters with whom we are in touch. If so, you are part of a family that is among the most generous in Cambridge for contributing in cash or kind to the future of this College. You have helped lay the firmest of foundations.

Whether as an old friend or a new supporter, may I warmly invite you to join a Great Campaign. Please, add your momentum to an enterprise with proven ability to change the world!
2019 marks the 150th anniversary of the foundation of Girton College. Before the celebrations begin, we aim to realise some new and far-reaching plans and secure a sustainable financial future. This means adding substantially to the endowment. We have set a target of £50 million.

**What is this for?**

- To support scholarly excellence, nurturing the very best in teaching and research: target £10 million
- To realise the potential, as an educational resource, of our fine buildings, spacious grounds, first-rate facilities and loyal staff; to create a vital space for living and learning: target £20 million
- To achieve financial sustainability for a world-class enterprise, promoting excellence in diversity: target £20 million

**Why such a Great Campaign?**

In November 1867, author George Eliot (signing herself as M. E. Lewes) wrote to Girton’s founder, Emily Davies: a beginning made on a small scale, she urged, would be a hindrance rather than a furtherance of the vision that would become Girton. An institution capable of transforming lives and changing the world needs “A Great Campaign.”
Being part of collegiate Cambridge means that all our students have access to the many benefits of a world-class university. However, Girton strives for distinction, creating a personalised, research-infused learning environment that is packed with intellectual excitement, practical relevance and pastoral support.

Girton admits and directs the learning experience of students across practically the whole range of subjects offered at Cambridge University. Our success depends on the skills, commitment and enthusiasm of a large community of experienced scholars: our Fellowship. Girton’s Fellowship is large, diverse, and well-known for both research excellence and teaching quality.

Girton’s Fellows are responsible for tailoring degree subjects to students’ needs, and for delivering the entire curriculum in small group settings. They also extend an unparalleled measure of support, acting as personal tutors and working in teams that are on-call 24/7.

Securing and sustaining a Fellowship that is skilled, caring and at the intellectual cutting edge is one of the key means by which Girton adds value of all kinds to each and every degree.

A Great Campaign for Scholarly Excellence:
Target £10 million
We are proud that Girton has taken a lead within Cambridge in creating, and underwriting from our own endowment, a core set of career positions for world-class scholars. This enables us to safeguard the learning environment in all subjects, even those threatened by wider funding cuts. Furthermore, it means that students here are supported by dedicated, experienced teachers, working in well-coordinated teams, for the entirety of their degree.

But this is not a cheap undertaking: at least £10 million is required to underwrite in perpetuity our College-funded posts in Economics, English, History, Law, Modern and Medieval Languages and Mathematics. These are our priority subjects for funding, and for these we invite you to collaborate with one of our leading donors, who will match any gift you make (subject to limits).

Other subjects also need your help. Close to half of our undergraduates study Natural, Medical, Veterinary or Computer Sciences, or Engineering. To stay at the leading edge, our teaching offer must be flexible and generous. Every penny donated to a Great Campaign for Scholarly Excellence will be used to achieve this.

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Generations of students, over many decades, have thrived in the space for thought provided by Girton’s magnificent Victorian buildings, with their expansive gardens, multiple on-site sports facilities, reliable infrastructure and wide range of services. A short bicycle ride away, Wolfson Court, at the heart of the West Cambridge science complex, provides a second home-from-home, whose developmental potential is enormous. The two sites combined place Girton squarely at the cutting edge of the University’s planned expansion to the North West of the city. Girton has literally become the gateway to Cambridge. To make the most of this, a Great Campaign will support two very special projects.

“Girton has literally become the gateway to Cambridge.”
1. A New Wing to Complete Ash Court

This ambitious project confirms Allies & Morrison as the successor to three generations of Waterhouses in the design and construction of the Girton site. Bringing the same vision, elegance and integrity to Ash Court as they did to the prize-winning library extension, this energetic team of architects is now creating a magnificent new residential wing.

In addition to 50 en-suite rooms, the development includes a spacious courtyard together with a leisure complex incorporating the existing squash court as well as a new gym, ergo room, changing rooms and refurbished swimming pool. The whole development is a model of best practice in sustainable building design.

Ash Court will be used by students throughout the academic year and, in summer, by conferences and weddings, as well as a wide range of scholarly, arts, crafts and leisure activities. As such, it will confirm Girton’s position as a premier ‘country house’ facility with some of the finest accommodation, public rooms and dining facilities in Cambridge. We invite our alumni and supporters to publicise and make use of this opportunity. Such advocacy will help Girton thrive every bit as much as a substantial donation.
The new wing also needs direct finance. Building at Ash Court is about to begin: we have enough funding in place to cut the turf! To complete the project however, we need help right away...

This is an opportunity for you to join a long tradition of benefactors whose names have already shaped the College: the Stanley Library, the Eliza Baker Courtyard, and the Duke Building to name but three. In that vein, it will take £5 million to name the new wing in its entirety, or £50,000 to name a room within it. Other naming opportunities include the courtyard, fitness centre, refurbished swimming pool and colonnade.

“Bringing the same vision, elegance and integrity to Ash Court as they did to the prize-winning library extension this energetic team of architects is now creating a magnificent new residential wing.”
Wolfson Court lies at the nexus of West Cambridge and the University Library. It is a deceptively large site. As the University expands to the North West a Great Campaign will allow us to transform Wolfson Court into a world-class graduate and research centre. There is scope almost to double the number of rooms (to perhaps as many as 250), to upgrade the infrastructure, and to remodel Wolfson Court’s wider role in providing accommodation, teaching space, and dining facilities for use by all College members. Our aim for 2019, the 50th anniversary of the opening of Wolfson Court, is to celebrate a renewed purpose for this site. Girton will once again take a lead, integrating the life and work of the postdoctoral, graduate, undergraduate and senior members of collegiate Cambridge.

“As the University expands to the North West a Great Campaign will allow us to transform Wolfson Court into a world-class graduate and research centre.”
Girton is one of the largest of the Cambridge University Colleges with a thriving community of almost 1,000 students, Fellows and staff. Girton is particularly ambitious in outreach, committed to inclusion, and determined to admit a diverse body of well-qualified students to a full range of undergraduate and graduate degrees.

It is, of course, costly to run an institution which adds value (breadth, depth and transformative experiences) to any degree, whilst supporting all-round personal development and encouraging students to reach their full potential during and beyond their time in Cambridge.

You may therefore be surprised to learn that Girton’s endowment and investment assets together amount to just under half the Cambridge average when measured on a per-student basis. So you can be sure that Girton runs on a lean budget; something the College is proud of, and does not plan to change.

However, the size of the current endowment – which is around £45 million – is insufficient to support an £8 million annual turnover in an institution as active and ambitious as Girton. It does not allow for adequate reinvestment into the buildings, and it is hampering the implementation of some exciting new plans.

“Unrestricted gifts that boost the endowment offer the College flexibility in uncertain times: this in itself is priceless.”

**A Great Campaign for Financial Sustainability in a World-Class Enterprise: Target £20 million**

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This could all change by 2019 if we add £20 million to our endowment, enabling a step-change of around ten per cent in the size of our operating budget.

Friends and supporters are sometimes reluctant to donate cash sums – small or large – to boost ‘the endowment’. Perhaps they are not aware that this is the single most effective way they can help. Perhaps they do not realise that – where endowment gifts are substantial – donors can still name prizes, bursaries or even Fellowships and buildings after themselves or in memory of others. Perhaps they need reassurance that every donation is carefully stewarded and wisely spent.

Unrestricted gifts that boost the endowment offer the College flexibility in uncertain times: this in itself is priceless.

Other priorities as the endowment grows include: widening recruitment within the UK and internationally; expanding the hardship fund; enhancing transferable skills; growing the graduate bursaries; supporting young scholars to build their research careers; improving infrastructure; keeping at the forefront of innovation in IT; building the many and varied collections; maintaining our heritage and improving the estate.
There are Three Ways of Joining our Great Campaign

Donate Directly
A Great Campaign takes off from a firm foundation thanks to pledges and gifts already committed by a number of generous alumni and supporters. Please add to this momentum. Small gifts are every bit as important as large ones; that is what a truly Great Campaign is all about.
Just think what could be achieved!

• Twenty leadership level donations of £500,000 will more than cover the costs of Ash Court
• If half those listed on our Roll of Alumni give £25 per month for the life of the Campaign, collectively (with Gift Aid) this would safeguard every priority subject by 2019

Gifts may take the form of lump sums, or can be given through regular subscription. They can be received as cash, shares or other financial instruments. Girton College is a charity, so giving is usually tax-efficient. Donations are most effective when added to the endowment, though they may also be directed to specific funds. Whether small or large, every gift is precious; every penny wisely spent.

For more information or to talk about donating directly contact our Development Office on +44 (0)1223 766672 or development@girton.cam.ac.uk.

Leave a Legacy
By remembering Girton in your will, you can help create a home-from-home for generations of scholars to come.

Here is a startling fact: if the typical Girtonian household were to leave ten per cent of their estate to the College, this alone could, by our 200th anniversary, increase the endowment by around £125 million at today’s prices!

For more on how you can help us play the ‘long game’ of financial sustainability please contact our Development Office on +44 (0)1223 766672 or development@girton.cam.ac.uk.
Boost our Business

Girton College has two sites, both in stunning locations. One is set in a spacious rural estate with a country house ambiance; the other close to the buzz of the city centre with a quintessentially modern feel.

The Girton site, licensed for weddings, has a wide range of stunning public rooms, supports some of the best on-site sports facilities in Cambridge, employs celebrated chefs and offers a flexible range of accommodation. Wolfson Court is best suited to day conferences and short courses, with smaller public rooms, lovely courtyards and a vibrant kitchen. Both sites are available for hire.

Our flagship development on the Girton site – Ash Court – is especially geared to our project of ‘selling the summer’. This new wing will strengthen the College’s position as an elite venue for events of all kinds. In addition to weddings, reunions and business meetings, we particularly encourage events that make use of the resources and facilities of the College and are an extension of the learning experience here. And if you can sell our services at other times of the year, so much the better!

Helping us ‘sell the summer’ to the limits of our capacity – to your friends, colleagues and business associates – will be as effective in supporting our operating costs as adding £12 million to the endowment.

For more information, contact our Conferences Office on +44 (0)1223 338975 or conferences@girton.cam.ac.uk
Girton’s future depends on the success of our Great Campaign. So we must measure that success financially. But this is just the start. There are around 800 students in the College at any one time; yet Girton proper comprises more than 8,000 alumni and friends. This wider family is an important source of the energy, identity and imagination that drives us forward. Joining a Great Campaign is about being part of the Girton community in every sense.

To recognise your support, all those who give in cash or kind (except those who request anonymity) are listed in an appropriate College publication. For substantial gifts, donors’ names may be posted as inscriptions, carvings or engravings in a public area of the College. Additionally there is an annual ceremony commemorating benefactors to the College, followed by a Foundation dinner to mark the generosity of living donors.

We also celebrate your generosity in other ways. These include:

- Membership of a Great Campaign to all who donate, pledge or leave a legacy of £500 or more; an opportunity to join the Campaign in other ways as the fundraising effort gains momentum.

Recognising your Generosity
• Invitations to participate in a wide variety of events at Girton, as well as in regional and international venues, which celebrate the scholarly aspirations, and the scientific, artistic and sporting achievements, of the College.

• For those able to give at a leadership level: an option to mark those gifts by naming Fellowships, Bursaries and buildings; and an opportunity to attend some key College events as guests of the Mistress.

By supporting a Great Campaign you are securing the future of a radical institution whose uncompromising quest for excellence in diversity stands for everything educators should be proud of. With your help, we can seize the opportunity to write a new chapter in Girton’s inspiring story.

On behalf of the Fellows and students of Girton today, and for generations to come, thank you for sharing this vision.