

from THE PRINCIPAL
The Rt Hon. the Baroness Royall of Blaisdon MA



I am writing following the sad death of Shirley Williams in April of this year, a political giant and a beloved alumna of Somerville College. It is often said that she was the best prime minister Britain never had; her contributions to Parliament, her vision and values, her staunch support for the European Union and her championing of democracy internationally. Her impact on the British political landscape and the wider world will ensure that she will never be forgotten. I like to think that the seeds of her political genius were sown at Somerville when she came up after the war to read PPE. While here she was chair of the Oxford University Labour Club.

Here at her College, I am determined to ensure her legacy endures by endowing the Fellowship in Politics in Shirley's name. She was passionate about education, she was passionate about politics and she loved Somerville. My aim is therefore to safeguard this central post in PPE so that generations of future students will benefit from the same education that set Shirley Williams on the path to her outstanding political career.



PPE has just celebrated its centenary as a subject and the Department of Politics and International Relations is now ranked number one in the world. The **Shirley Williams Fellowship in Politics**, in this department and based at her former College, would be a very fitting and

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ongoing legacy to her. Professor Lois McNay, our current Fellow in Politics, has said: *“I would be deeply honoured to be the first Shirley Williams Fellow in Politics, and this is a most fitting legacy for an extraordinary Somervillian whose unique contribution in British politics will never be forgotten”*.



I have enlisted the very welcome support of Dick Newby and we have spoken to a number of people who are keen to be involved. I hope that you will also want to be a part of this very practical celebration of Shirley’s contribution to politics and education. In order to endow the Fellowship, I have to raise £450,000, and I would be immensely grateful for your help. All donations would be welcome and information on how to make your gift follows below. Naturally, Dick and I would be delighted to meet with you should you wish to discuss this further.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Royall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

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Shirley Williams Memorial Fund

For a bank transfer:

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Account name
Somerville College

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Please feel free to use the reference SHIRLEYWILLIAMS.

For an online gift:

To make an online payment, please follow this [link](#).

For any enquiries or assistance in making your gift, please contact Sara Kalim, Fellow and Director of Development at Somerville College:
sara.kalim@some.ox.ac.uk.