

# RISE

— A CAMPAIGN FOR —  
**SOMERVILLE**



# SOMERVILLE

COLLEGE

*We are here to empower bright students from every background to meet the challenges and grasp the opportunities of tomorrow. Our aim is to provide a space to think, a place to belong and the chance to become exceptional.*



# FOREWORD

*from the Principal,*

JAN ROYALL



*“For over 140 years, Somerville has championed the values of equality, diversity, academic excellence, and public service and responsibility. Somervillians around the world have espoused these values and have gone on to become leaders in their fields, breaking down barriers and effecting change where it has been needed.”*

---

## *Examples of the many pioneering Somerville women include:*

**Cornelia Sorabji**, the first woman to read Law at Oxford (and the first Indian woman to study at a British university) who returned to India to advocate on behalf of women in Purdah;

**Eleanor Rathbone**, social activist and suffragist leader who became the first in a long line of Somervillians to enter Parliament;

**Janet Vaughan**, creator of the first British national blood bank, and head of the Medical Research Council team that arrived at the newly-liberated Belsen camp at the end of the war to help the starving prisoners;

**Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin**, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry for her work on X-ray crystallography that confirmed the structure of the vitamin B<sub>12</sub> and, to date, the only British woman to have won a Nobel prize in Science;

**Daphne Park**, ‘Queen of Spies’ and the highest-ranking woman in MI6 in her time who, as Principal

of Somerville, oversaw the first conversations about whether to admit men to the College;

**Indira Gandhi**, first woman Prime Minister of India, the world’s largest democracy.

**Margaret Thatcher**, first woman and first scientist Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; and

**Lucy Banda-Sichone**, Zambia’s first female Rhodes Scholar, lawyer and public defender, who founded the Zambia Civic Education Association.

## *Somervillians today are continuing in this tradition, notably during the Covid-19 pandemic:*

**June Raine**, Chief Executive of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), who has played a crucial role in the approval of vaccines and therapies during the Covid-19 pandemic; and

**Angela McLean**, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser during the pandemic, and Director of the Institute for Emerging Infections in Humans, University of Oxford.



## FOREWORD



*In the world of law, business, and entrepreneurship Somervillians have also made their mark:*

**Margaret Casely-Hayford**, lawyer, businesswoman and prominent advocate for diversity in education and public life, she was one of the first black British women to become a partner in a City law firm, and was named Black British Business Person of the Year in 2014, was chair of ActionAid UK and is currently chair of the Globe Theatre; and

**Sam Gyimah**, voted CBI Entrepreneur of the Future in 2005, he was elected to Parliament in 2010, served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to PM David Cameron, then became a Government Whip in 2013, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education in 2014 and Minister for Universities, Technology, Science and Innovation in 2018.

*Social and humanitarian campaigning and action are exemplified by two Somervillian alumni, linked by the profound impact they have both made in broadcasting and programming:*

**Esther Rantzen**, social campaigner and broadcaster, who founded Childline, the free confidential helpline for children and young people, and more recently The Silver Line, for older people; and

**Xand van Tulleken**, doctor, humanitarian and broadcaster, he was Médecins du Monde Head of Mission in Darfur in 2010, has published academic works on humanitarian medicine, and, with his twin brother Chris, has changed public health broadcasting through programmes such as *Operation Ouch*; *Trust me, I'm a Doctor*; and *The Twainstitute*. His reassuring yet authoritative style has been invaluable to conveying public health messages during the pandemic.

*This list is but an example of the many Somervillians who have made their mark on our world. Educating, nurturing, and empowering future generations who will forge and mould a better world is all important as we rise to meet the challenges and opportunities that are presented to us.*

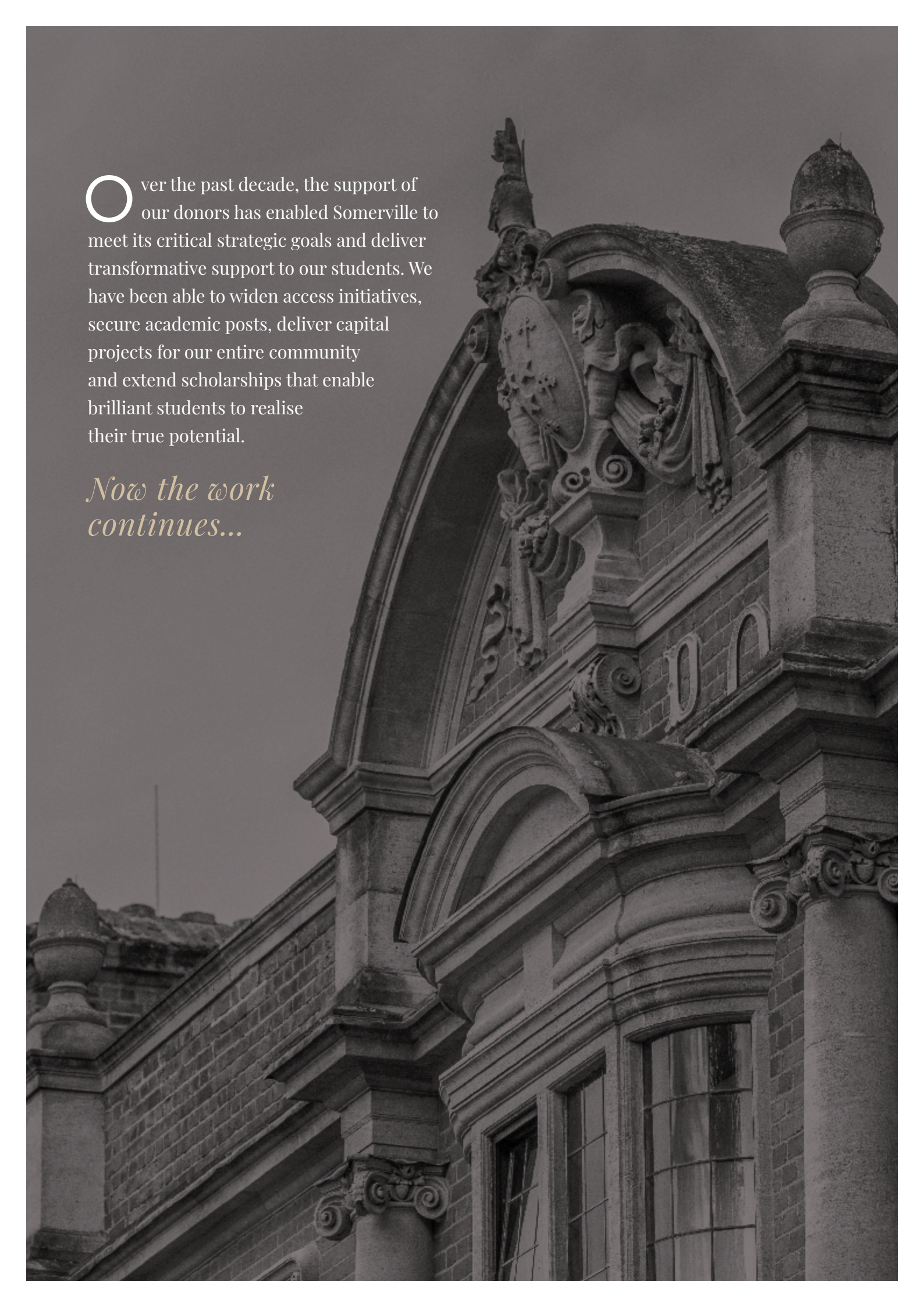
---

*It is for this reason that we are launching our RISE campaign. Resilience, Inclusivity, Sustainability and Excellence are at the heart of ensuring that Somerville will continue to equip the brightest young minds with the skills and tools they need to make a difference for us all and for those yet to come."*

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jan Rayner'.

Principal, Somerville College





O ver the past decade, the support of our donors has enabled Somerville to meet its critical strategic goals and deliver transformative support to our students. We have been able to widen access initiatives, secure academic posts, deliver capital projects for our entire community and extend scholarships that enable brilliant students to realise their true potential.

*Now the work continues...*



# RISE

— A CAMPAIGN FOR —  
SOMERVILLE

The 21st century has presented us with unparalleled challenges which Somerville is addressing through a five-year strategy supported by RISE, a long-term fundraising initiative. Organised around four founding principles – Resilience, Inclusivity, Sustainability and Excellence – RISE will enable us to meet the socio-economic challenges of the pandemic, inequality of opportunity, the impact of a changing climate, the need for emotional and mental wellbeing among our students and staff, and the perennial focus on academic excellence; values that we hold dear at Somerville.



## RISE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

*Click below to find out more about each of our campaign principles.*



## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

*Click here to find out how you can help us reach our campaign goals.*





Recent events have shown us that resilience is one of the most important qualities. Defined as ‘a speedy recovery from problems’ and ‘elasticity’, it conveys an ability to bend and flex in order to weather whatever storms may come our way. This is as true for an institution as it is for a person.

**Somerville is a broad community – students, academics and support staff.** The teaching and research of our academic staff provide Somerville’s bedrock; the support staff ensure the smooth running of the College. For Somerville to flourish, we must be responsible employers with a dedication to diversity and equality, providing those who work here with the environment and resources required for them to carry out their work to the best of their abilities.

**Over the past decade, through innovation and sound financial stewardship, Somerville has had one of the fastest growing endowments at Oxford,** increasing from £40m in 2012 to a valuation of £96m in July 2021. Whilst this growth is unprecedented in our history, our endowment is still significantly smaller than that of some of our Oxford counterparts and of international institutions, particularly in the US. It has enabled us to weather the immediate impact of the coronavirus pandemic, but at the cost of our reserves. Our ambition is to endow those subjects that are financially vulnerable, ensuring that as long as there is a Somerville, we will be

able to teach those subjects that are so important for a thriving academic community. This will mean an increase to the endowment of £12m that will protect the tutorial fellowships and assure Somerville’s financial resilience. An institution’s resilience is fundamental to its ability to continue to exist and flourish. Its resilience is built through: having a robust financial foundation; strong leadership; and a loyal and dedicated staff that can adapt to changing circumstances.



*Back*





Somerville was founded to include the excluded. It is in our DNA and as such it is a part of us that cannot change. What does change is the nature of the exclusion: students from disadvantaged backgrounds; BAME students; and students with disabilities.

**Somerville has a non-denominational foundation;** inclusivity is one of our founding qualities. One allegory has diversity as receiving a ticket to the ball, but inclusivity being invited to dance. We strive to ensure that all our students dance, regardless of background, gender, religion. We aim to celebrate the diverse nature of our community.

**Our access and outreach programmes encourage students to apply and aspire to the education that Somerville can provide. The Somerville Development Programme** focuses on the skills students require to flourish in their academic studies as well as developing an understanding of wellbeing and its essential part in fulfilling a student's potential.



**All students should be able to undertake their studies without financial worries.** The **Margaret Thatcher Scholarship Trust** provides full scholarships for students who have shown not only exceptional academic abilities, but have also proven they can succeed against the odds, overcoming disadvantage, disability, bereavement or other challenges that may have impeded them from fulfilling their potential.

The **Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development** offers scholarships to Indian students to enable them to carry out their vital studies at Somerville before returning to India where they can apply their research and bring about change where it is most needed.



In 2021, Somerville was recognised as a **University College of Sanctuary** for its longstanding commitment to welcoming students and academics who have experienced forced migration. This award also mandates the College to foster an inclusive and welcoming environment for refugee students today, to champion the rights of all displaced people through research and events, and to partner with local charities who help asylum-seekers to settle in the city. We are proud to have established the new Sanctuary Scholarships as part of our efforts to provide a guaranteed pathway to Oxford for bright students from a sanctuary-seeking background.

Somerville is committed to ensuring students have the opportunities to live and learn without impediment. A number of funds provide grants for travel, research, internships, innovative projects or hardship.

**Another part of inclusivity is to engage more effectively with our local, national and international community.** 'Once a Somervillian, always a Somervillian' is true for all our alumni, no matter where in the world they may be. Recent events have offered us the opportunity to develop the technologies to communicate and engage with the wider Somerville family all over the world. As we emerge from restrictions brought about by the pandemic, we will



continue to embrace these technologies that have proved so effective in strengthening our relationships.

We are involving our local community in the life of the College by fostering an open access culture; the Principal's Events are open to our neighbours, and we will be providing a space in College where local organisations can meet and host events. Our online events are open to all to view on the internet.

**Our recent break with the EU presents further challenges** to the long-standing partnerships we have built over decades. We will continue, to foster these relationships that are vital to academic enquiry and research, and will continue to offer the brightest minds across Europe the opportunity of a Somerville education.

*Back*





Our changing environmental climate is one of the greatest global challenges we face. The breadth and scope of what needs to be achieved can seem overwhelming. Addressing the issue is complex and manifold, with responsibility lying on everyone's shoulders.

**Actions are important and we are continually exploring the changes needed to be a responsible citizen of this world** and we have the will and commitment to implement them. The initiatives developed so far to address our own impact on the environment are:

- An undertaking to become a carbon-neutral college by 2040 as part of the Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership
- divestment of all investments in fossil fuels
- Appointment of a climate change champion on the Governing Body
- Adoption of sustainable food and travel policies
- Roll-out of energy, light, heating and insulation upgrades around the College

To this end, we are investing in a sustainability audit with an independent company that has advised the University and other colleges around Oxford as well as other organisations in the South East.



Having formerly hosted the Global Oceans Commission and the establishment of the Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development, Somerville has shown its commitment to discourse, learning, and research into this area. Our academics have advised governments and decision-makers around the world from the challenges of sustainable cooling systems to the conservation of our oceans. We have partnered with agrochemical company UPL to host a new conference, OpenAg, that looks at the development of sustainable agriculture.

By addressing our own responsibilities and actions, and by furthering academic research and understanding of climate change and its impacts, we at Somerville are embracing the role of responsible citizenship. The generations that come after us deserve no less.



*Back*





*Martin Fellermeier, Oxford Thatcher Scholar, in his laboratory at the Weatherall Institute*

Somerville has long been a byword for excellence. With world-renowned academics and alumni, Somerville has nurtured and developed the talents and intellectual curiosity of its students, enabling them to make their mark in the world.

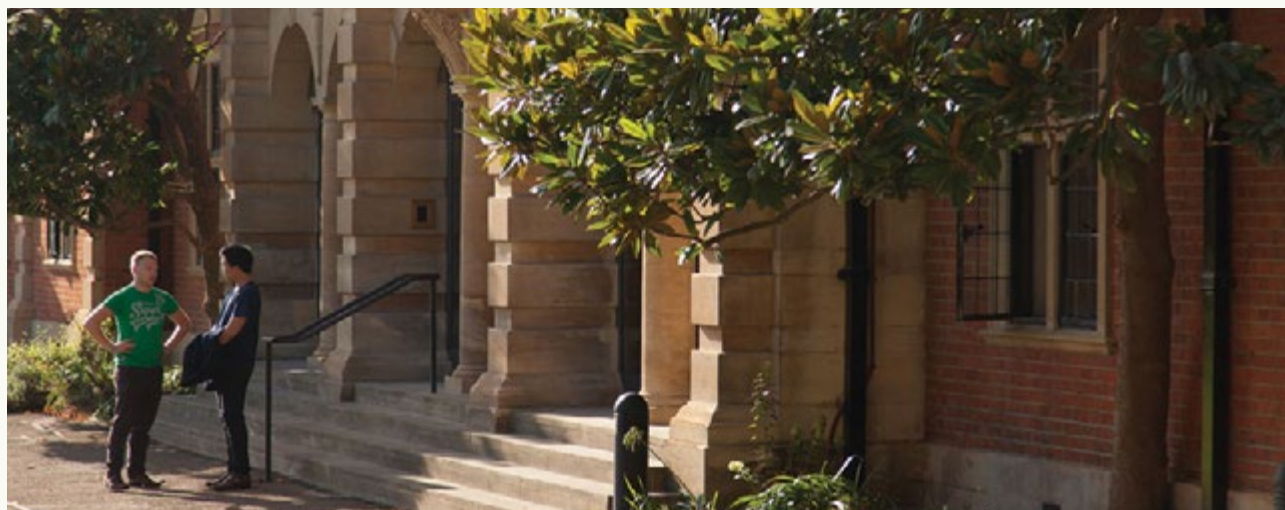
**Excellence, in our research, our teaching, our students and their outcomes is something for which we continually strive,** and at the heart of achieving this is the recruitment and retention of our world-class academics. We must attract the very best minds to Somerville who, through their research and publications, drive forward our understanding of our world, enrich the intellectual life of the College, and further build its global reputation. We will provide for our academics the resources that enable them to balance their research, teaching and family life without a need to sacrifice any one of them.

**An important part of providing that support is to nurture and champion early career academics** who for so long have struggled with poor pay and short contracts. These young academics are the future fellows and professors; we have a responsibility to develop their talents and skills in teaching and research, providing them with first-hand experience that in turn can support our fellows to manage that important research/teaching balance.

**The academic reputation of a college plays a vital part in attracting the brightest students** They want to know that their intellectual curiosity will be stimulated and challenged by their tutors. We aim to attract the best students also by providing scholarships and funds to free them from financial worries and enable them to focus on their studies. We have also developed the unique

**Somerville Development Programme** that provides academic, personal and career skills to all our students through seminars, workshops and mentoring that are delivered at events, through personal interaction and, lately, through online platforms.

**At the heart of our pursuit of upholding and enhancing Somerville's academic excellence is our commitment to play our part in making the world we live in – locally, nationally and internationally – a better place.** For the last 140 years, Somervillians have gone out and made significant impacts in their fields, from the pioneering lawyer Cornelia Sorabji in the 19th century, the first woman to study Law at Oxford and the first woman to practice law in India and Britain, up to our fellows currently working on therapies for Covid-19.



*Back*



# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

To discuss ways you can support Somerville's RISE campaign, please contact  
Sara Kalim, Director of Development at [sara.kalim@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sara.kalim@some.ox.ac.uk)








To make a donation, please click [here](#).



*The following initiatives have been identified to address the five objectives of Somerville's five-year strategy, and deliver against each of our RISE priorities.*

## Objective 1:

To inspire the brightest students from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply to Oxford and Somerville and to eliminate barriers to a successful application.

INITIATIVE	COST	RISE PRINCIPLE
<b>Somerville Teacher Continued Professional Development (CPD) Programme</b> Somerville academics will hold twilight subject sessions for secondary school teachers over the academic year which will culminate in a day at Somerville where they will gain further information, support and guidance on how to help their students who wish to apply to Oxbridge.	£5,000 <i>p.a.</i>	 Inclusivity
<b>Outreach events</b> Throughout the year, Somerville arranges and executes outreach events with schools in the areas assigned by the University. We have also started talks with other colleges about building consortia that could reach even further.	£6,500 <i>p.a.</i>	 Inclusivity
<b>Access staff</b> Somerville employs two members of staff in its Access Office, one full-time and one part-time. The access staff coordinate all our outreach events and are the point of contact between the College and schools.	£43,000 <i>p.a.</i>	 Inclusivity
<b>Refugee Scholarship</b> Somerville is committed to being an environment that is welcoming to refugees as a continuation of our foundation of inclusivity and tradition of support through the decades. Having been recognised as a College of Sanctuary in 2021, we have now welcomed two Sanctuary Scholars, and aim to continue to support those who, despite enormous personal challenges, have shown commitment to their studies and gained a place at Somerville.	£15,000 <i>p.a.</i>	 Inclusivity
<b>Somerville participates in the following Oxford-wide initiatives:</b> <i><a href="#">Read more about the impact of these programmes here:</a></i>		
<b>UNIQ Summer Schools</b> UNIQ offers first year A-Level students the chance to fully immerse themselves in Oxford undergraduate life. Following a programme of study in their chosen subject and taught by Oxford academics, up to 1,350 students spend a week at Oxford, experiencing undergraduate life at first hand and learning how to make the best possible university application. Somerville will take part in the UNIQ summer schools accepting 50 UNIQ students and 6 staff living in College for 4 nights over Easter.	£2,310 <i>p.a.</i>	 Inclusivity
<b>Universify</b> Similar to the UNIQ summer schools, Universify is a programme that brings potential Oxbridge students to Somerville. However, the Universify programme is for pupils in Year 10, the year before they take their GCSEs. Last year 157 pupils who took part.	£68,000 <i>p.a.</i>	 Inclusivity
<b>Target Oxbridge</b> Target Oxbridge is a free programme that aims to help black African and Caribbean students and students of mixed race with black African and Caribbean heritage increase their chances of getting into Oxford or Cambridge. Around 160 students spend a 3-day residential in Oxford. Since 2012, Target Oxbridge has helped 81 students to secure Oxbridge offers. Somerville has taken five students on the programme.	£6,400 <i>p.a.</i>	 Inclusivity

## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

### Objective 2:

To enable all students to fulfil their potential at Somerville and beyond.

INITIATIVE	COST	RISE PRINCIPLE
<b>Somerville Development Programme</b> The Development Programme provides academic, personal and career training for all Somervillians in College. This is done through a series of workshops developed to meet the needs of new students requiring academic and time management skills, to wellness and mindfulness classes for finalists and others who might be feeling the pressure, as well as interview skills, networking and CV writing courses, and presentation skills. Through the Somerville Development Programme, we can ensure that disadvantaged students do not find the first weeks at Oxford overwhelming and it can support them as their needs evolve over the terms and academic years.	<i>approx.</i> <b>£30,000 p.a.</b>	<div>Resilience</div> <div>Inclusivity</div> <div>Excellence</div>
<b>Counsellor and Welfare Officer</b> On site College counsellor and Welfare Officer for students and staff who can help with concerns, anxieties and other worries that Somervillians may have.	<b>£45,000 p.a.</b>	<div>Resilience</div> <div>Inclusivity</div>
<b>Scholarships</b> The Margaret Thatcher Scholarship Trust and the Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development provide full scholarships for the most academically excellent students enabling them to focus on their studies and experience all the benefits that Oxford has to offer without financial worries. Our ambition is to have at least 20 endowed scholarships within the two scholarship programmes.	<b>£5m</b> <i>(endowed)</i>	<div>Resilience</div> <div>Inclusivity</div> <div>Sustainability</div> <div>Excellence</div>

### Objective 3:

To create an academic environment that encourages and supports high quality teaching and research.

INITIATIVE	COST	RISE
<b>Endow the fellowship</b> The ability to recruit and retain the very best academics is fundamental to the intellectual life and reputation of a College. By endowing the fellowship, we can demonstrate security of tenure as well as being able to pay our academics what they deserve. It allows us to be creative and bold in the support that we can offer them in the form of allowances and personnel.	<b>£12m</b> <i>(endowed)</i>	<div>Resilience</div> <div>Excellence</div>
<b>Funding for early career academics</b> Somerville recently spearheaded the Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship in conjunction with the Department of Chemistry. This fellowship recognized the difficulties of young academics coming back into research following a break in their career. It is this type of venture that is so important in nurturing and supporting younger academics.	<b>£50,000 p.a.</b>	<div>Resilience</div> <div>Inclusivity</div> <div>Excellence</div>
<b>Funding a new Economics fellow</b> We are seeking to fund the next five years of a brand new domus fellow in Economics which has a strong naming opportunity.	<b>£50,000 p.a</b> <i>for five years</i>	<div>Excellence</div>



## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

### Objective 4:

To engage more effectively with local, national and international communities.

INITIATIVE	COST	RISE PRINCIPLE
<b>Investing in technologies to execute Somerville's objectives</b> <p>The lessons learned as a result of the pandemic have taught us creative and forward-looking solutions for dissemination of teaching, mentoring, student outreach, fundraising and communications. These technologies have allowed us to pivot to an online offering thereby greatly strengthening our global relationships. As with all technology, there are costs associated which are incurred annually, and the hardware required will need updating on a regular basis. We are establishing a Tech Fund to cover these costs, and within which the various platforms can be sponsored.</p> <p><b>(Achieved)</b></p>	£50,000 <i>p.a.</i>	<div>Resilience</div> <div>Inclusivity</div> <div>Sustainability</div> <div>Excellence</div>

### Objective 5:

To become a carbon neutral college by 2040.

INITIATIVE	COST	RISE
<b>Sustainability Audit</b> <p>Identifying the key areas to address and the actions required to achieve net carbon zero status by 2040.</p>	£25,000	<div>Resilience</div> <div>Sustainability</div>
<b>Appointment of a Climate Change Champion on the Governing Body</b> <p>This person would drive forward our green audit as well ensure the implementation of the audits findings and recommendations.</p>	£15,000 <i>p.a.</i>	<div>Resilience</div> <div>Sustainability</div>

**RISE**  
— A CAMPAIGN FOR —  
**SOMERVILLE**