Dear Orielensis,

Happy New Year! It gives me enormous pleasure to thank you for the support you have given to Oriel College in the last financial year.

We thought you might like to see a snapshot of what has been accomplished with the £1,921,000 raised (cash received, fig. 1) between 2017 and 2018; the impact of donations such as yours should not be underestimated. Your generous support enables us to nurture our students and researchers, widen access to Oriel and Oxford, and care for and improve our buildings and facilities.

Last year £289,000 was donated towards student support which, along with funds raised in previous years, has allowed us to award bursaries and financial support in a variety of different ways. For example:

- £27,000 supported 80 students through travel grants, enabling them to improve their knowledge of their subjects outside of the classroom.
- £80,000 went towards Oxford Opportunity Bursaries awarded to undergraduate students (means-tested bursaries jointly funded by the College and University);
- £55,000 in financial assistance grants were given to Oriel students who required urgent financial support in exceptional circumstances, meaning they could concentrate on their studies rather than taking paid work during vacations.

The College was also involved in some 150 outreach events, working with state school students aged 10-18. This work seeks to empower talented young people by developing an understanding of the admissions process and increasing confidence in their abilities.

There have also been many teaching and research highlights: including the charity Against Breast Cancer funding two Junior Research Fellows; the funding of a French Lectrice (language tutor); Santander funding our Spanish tuition; and a number of other Fellowships continuing to be funded by the generous support of Orielenses and friends of the College and trusts.
The fabric of the College has also been maintained and improved with your help. Oriel has undertaken a full internal refurbishment of the Goldie Building on our Rectory Road site. Goldie accommodates 18 students, and all the en-suite bedrooms and communal kitchens have been fully refurbished (figure 2) – this has been warmly welcomed by our students. Furthermore, the much-loved ‘Doll’s House’ (Staircase 12) has also received a face-lift with work including a new lime rendering and redecoration of the front facade, plus roof and glazing repairs (figure 3). The Doll’s House is now looking very smart next to the other recent Third Quad developments. Last but not least, work began on 3 Magpie Lane and the Provost’s Lodgings refurbishments.

The support that you, and fellow Orielenses, have given over the past year is hugely appreciated and much needed. Thank you again and we look forward to seeing you at future events.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Power
Fellow and Director of Development