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Dr Alum
1 Smith Road
London



6 September 2021

Dear XXXX

I would like to thank you for your invaluable support over recent months which has helped us secure £XXX,XXX of unrestricted funding. This assisted us enormously last summer during the early, uncertain phases of the pandemic. Thank you. I hope that, given the wonderful generosity you have demonstrated, you will appreciate this update and understand our continuing need for support.

The pandemic has touched all our lives over the last 18 months. During that time, the actions and decisions the College has taken have been powerful demonstrations of the fundamental values of our community: our extensive financial support to our students regarding rents during the national lockdowns; our priority to provide a normal student experience coupled with the safety and wellbeing of all members of the College; our decision to admit as many able students as possible from less advantaged backgrounds; our action to top up furlough payments to staff members to 100% of their salary. Fitz's commitment to supporting all members of our community is something that we are immensely proud of.

The toll of the pandemic on the College's finances has been heavy. For our financial year ended July 2021, we expect to record the largest deficit in our history (higher than the £1m deficit recorded last year). The College has responded by taking steps to substantially shrink our expenditure to ensure that we live within our means and reduce the deficit going forward. But we know that philanthropic support for our core educational mission is also a critical part of the future, enabling us to continue caring for our community and invest in our strategic priorities as we emerge from COVID-19.

The pandemic's long-term impact will continue to be deeply felt by our students throughout the academic years ahead. It is therefore important that we seek to provide them with the support they need to thrive in their studies. To assist in this goal, we are investing in specialist well-being staff, enhancing further the strong support structures that the College has in place. In parallel, we want to ensure that we continue to attract and admit more students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and that we have the funding to provide additional bursaries and maintenance support for them.



On behalf of the College community, I am asking if you can financially support Fitzwilliam at this critical time by making a gift. Please join the 1,194 other alumni who have made a gift in the last 18 months to help the College provide support for our students as we return to a new normal. If 40 donors made a gift of £40 per month over a year with Gift Aid, we could fund an additional 24 College undergraduate bursaries which would make an enormous difference for those students who need our support the most.

This may be one of the most challenging periods in the College's history, but with your generous support, we can continue to thrive as an academic community supporting young people from the moment they consider university, through their undergraduate and graduate studies and as they go out into the world to make a positive impact on society.

Thank you.

Rod Cantrill
Bursar