Leaving a Legacy to the College

Creating a Will can often feel like a daunting prospect but it can be an opportunity to reflect on your life as well as thinking of how you can make a difference to the future.

With so many options emerging to make a Will, from online providers or the more traditional format direct with a solicitor, the process itself need not be so intimidating.

Many alumni have already made the decision to support the College with a gift in their Will, and for this we are extremely grateful. To date we have been notified of over 130 planned gifts that range in size, with each gift having the potential to make a real difference. The income stream from legacies is becoming more vital to the College and in the last financial year we received a total of £694,500 for a variety of funds including capital projects and student support.

In 2006 we established the Winston S. Churchill 1958 College Society to thank all individuals who pledge, or indicate that they will give, a gift in their Will to the College. We hold an annual event to celebrate these planned gifts.

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The process of making a Will inevitably leads to reflection on life so far: which experiences provided the greatest benefits and most important influences? Several stages of my education were significant, but my time at Cambridge is the stage I would most regret having missed and therefore the one I would most wish others to experience.

I have rose-tinted memories of the week I spent deliberating the details of my Will. Everyone was so nice to me. But not everyone I contacted was efficient in following up my request for information. The Development Office at Churchill was superb at explaining procedure and also providing details of their various Appeals. Reading the stories of students who have benefitted from the Student Hardship Fund, Winston Churchill Top-up Bursary and Palestinian Scholarship was inspiring. I recommend this to anyone considering making a legacy. Feeling connected to the current generation of students at Churchill was a strong motivator to provide in my Will for the needs of future generations.

R Stott (U87)

