Reaching out, living in

The Castle Hill House development: affordable accommodation for talented students of all backgrounds
“Living in College-owned accommodation means I don’t have to worry about dealing with landlords. Having guaranteed accommodation in College removes the time and stress involved. Having to do this in the first term of first year was daunting and took up a lot of time.”
Gemma Roper, JCR President

The Castle Hill House development is a chance to attract more of the most talented students – and leave a lasting legacy for generations of St Peter’s scholars.
Our opportunity

- We are one of very few colleges that cannot house all our second-year undergraduates on site.
- We know that students of all kinds, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, desire the economic benefits and support that come from ‘living in’.
- We have acquired Castle Hill House, a freehold property next to the College in New Road, used for decades as The Conservative Association.
- It is extraordinarily rare to be able to purchase a piece of adjacent land in the crowded city centre. We now need to make maximum use of it.
- Castle Hill House will be a £15m redevelopment to build much-needed student bedrooms.

Recognising the significance of this opportunity a donor has agreed to match all donations made before the end of 2019, up to a total of £5m.

Oxford is the least affordable city in the UK. Lloyds Banking Group, Affordable Cities Review 2019

The Castle Hill House site is next to the College in New Road. It is incredibly rare to be able to purchase a piece of adjacent land for the specific purpose of developing student accommodation.
The development will help to create a supportive St Peter’s environment where second-year undergraduates can thrive and excel.

The Castle Hill House development

Castle Hill House will be a distinctive, attractive and sustainable development fulfilling three principal criteria: utility, functionality and aesthetics. We are working collaboratively with Oxford City Council on how the site will connect with the city as a whole on New Road. We will improve and open up a section of Bulwarks Lane, letting in light and viewpoints to make it safer and more accessible, and enabling us to see, and be seen by, the city. Construction is due to start in 2020, with an expected completion date of September 2022.

The development comprises:
- Two residential buildings
- 52 high-quality en-suite rooms
- Wildflower meadow roof, to help capture rainwater and increase urban biodiversity
- Eco-friendly Passivhaus design, to reduce energy use
- Landscaped gardens and outside spaces
- Common room opening out onto the lawn of Canal House.

Oxford advises students to budget 20% more than Cambridge to cover living expenses.

QS Top Universities
“St Peter’s is ideally situated within the City so living there means I can get to libraries and other colleges easily. Living in means that I feel a lot safer as the porters in the Lodge are always there and I don’t have to walk or cycle home in the dark on my own. Living in College means that I am close to Hall for reasonably priced hot meals.”
Ram Choudhury, Undergraduate

At St Peter’s, we are committed to improving access, and were founded on the principle of increasing opportunities for the less well-off. We provide extra support so that students can fulfill their potential.
The impact at a glance

With your support, this project will transform the future of the College. Specifically, it will enable us to:

- House second-year undergraduates and make the College a preferred destination for talented students, in particular those from less well-off backgrounds.
- Improve student welfare and make the College a more supportive place for those from all backgrounds who may otherwise find Oxford intimidating.
- Provide the college with financial income through expanded capacity for conferences and external events.
- Extend the College’s footprint.
- Continue the recent physical transformation enabled by the Perrodo project.
We will develop two buildings with 52 high-quality rooms, so that we can house nearly all our undergraduates in St Peter’s accommodation.
Pledge by 31 December and your gift will be matched

A visionary, anonymous donor has recognised the transformational potential of the Castle Hill House Project, and wishes to celebrate Mark Damazer’s tenure as Master. They have gifted the College a maximum of £5m to match all your donations pledged before the end of 2019.

If you studied here during Mark’s time, the donor will match your gift at a ratio of 3:1. So if you donate £100 the donor will give £300. For all other gifts, the donor will match at a ratio of 2:1. The remainder of all gifts exceeding £500,000 will be matched 1:1.

How we will thank you for your gift

We would be thrilled if you feel able to support us. We will thank you by name in our annual donor report and our College records. If you can give £1,000 or more (excluding the match), your name will appear on the donor recognition wall in the new building. If you are able to give £12,500, we will name a student room after you.

Please make your gift today.

“We need to do all we can to take this chance. With your help, we can sustain our exceptional educational community and recruit the most talented students from any background – so that they can come to Oxford, enjoy St. Peter’s to the full and thrive.”

Mark Damazer, Master
For more information, see: www.spc.ox.ac.uk/chh