

Merton College

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 July 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Governing Body, Officers and Advisers	Page 3
Report of the Governing Body	Page 8
Auditor's Report	Page 29
Statement of Accounting Policies	Page 32
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	Page 39
Consolidated and College Balance Sheets	Page 40
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	Page 41
Notes to the Financial Statements	Page 42

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The members of the Governing Body, who are Fellows of the College, are the College's charity trustees. The members of the Governing Body who served in office during the year or at the date of this Report are detailed below.

		1	2	3	4	5
Mr Charles Alexander		•	•	•	•	
Professor Judith Armitage		•	•			
Professor Rhiannon Ash			•			
Dr Anthony Ashmore	(appointed 1.10.16)					
Dr Ralf Bader			•			
Dr Duncan Barker	(appointed 6.2.17)				•	
Professor Alan Barr		•	•		•	
Dr Helen Barron						
Dr Joanna Bellis						
Professor James Binney						•
Dr Kathryn Blackmon			•			
Dr Richard Blakemore	(fellowship ended 31.8.16)					
Dr Michael Booth						
Dr William Bowers						
Dr Rachel Buxton			•	•		
Prof Mindy Chen-Wishart			•	•		
Frater John Eidinow		•				
Professor Artur Ekert						
Professor Radek Erban			•			
Professor Gail Fine						

Mr John Gloag		•				
Prof Véronique Gouverneur			•			
Dr Yegor Grebnev	(appointed 1.10.16)					
Professor Daniel Grimley			•			
Dr Matthew Grimley			•	•		
Professor Timothy Guilford			•			
Professor Steven Gunn			•			
Professor Matthew Higgins	(appointed 1.10.16)		•			
Professor Peter Holland						
Professor Simon Hooker			•			
Dr Matthew Hosty	(appointed 1.10.16)					
Professor Ehud Hrushovski	(appointed 1.10.16)					
Professor Lorna Hutson	(appointed 1.9.16)					
Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones			•	•	•	
Professor Minhyong Kim			•	•		
Professor Julian Knight	(appointed 1.10.16)		•	•		
Mr Jonathan Lee	(fellowship ended 30.9.16)					
Professor Irene Lemos				•	•	
Mr Timothy Lightfoot		•	•	•		
Professor Ian Maclachlan			•	•		
Dr Craig MacLean		•				
Professor Richard McCabe			•		•	
Mr Andrew Mackie		•				
Professor EJ Milner-Gulland						•
Professor Alan Morrison		•				•
Dr Micah Muscolino		•	•			
Professor Peter Neary						

Professor Béla Novák						
Professor Luke Ong			•			
Dr Kate Orkin						
Dr Sergi Pardos-Prado			•		•	
Professor David Paterson			•			
Professor Jennifer Payne		•	•			
Dr Thomas Phillips	(fellowship ended 30.9.16)					
Dr Jonathan Prag			•			
Mr Richard Rabone						
Dr Nicholas Ryder	(fellowship ended 30.9.16)					
Professor Simon Saunders			•	•		
Prof Alexander Schekochihin			•	•		
Professor Alexander Scott			•			
Dr Bassel Tarbush			•			
Ms Christine Taylor	(retired 28.2.17)					
Professor Sir Martin Taylor		•	•	•	•	
Professor Jonathan Thacker			•			
Professor Patricia Thornton			•		•	
Professor Ulrike Tillmann					•	
Ms Carina Venter						
Dr Miguel Walsh						
Dr Julia Walworth			•	•		
Professor Hugh Watkins						
Dr Guy Westwood						
Dr Michael Whitworth			•			
Professor Sir Andrew Wiles						
Professor Boris Zilber	(retired 30.9.16)					

Professor Nicole Zitzmann				•		
---------------------------	--	--	--	---	--	--

The following Fellows were appointed as members of the Governing Body on 4 October 2017:

Dr Evert van Emde Boas, Ms Hatice Yildiz, Dr Carlas Smith, Dr Emma Loftus, Ms Isabel Garcia Garcia, Dr Joshua Firth, Dr Matthew Thomson.

During the year, the major activities of the Governing Body were carried out through five main committees (further details on these committees are provided in the Report of the Governing Body below). The membership of these committees is shown above for each Fellow.

- 1** Finance Committee
- 2** Warden & Tutors Committee
- 3** Graduate Committee
- 4** Development Committee
- 5** Remuneration Committee

COLLEGE SENIOR STAFF

The senior staff of the College, are as follows:

Professor Sir Martin Taylor	Warden
Professor Judith Armitage	Sub Warden
Mr Charles Alexander	Finance Bursar
Mr Timothy Lightfoot	Domestic Bursar
Mr John Gloag	Land Agent and Estates Bursar
Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones	Chaplain
Dr Rachel Buxton	Senior Tutor
Dr Duncan Barker	Development Director
Dr Julia Walworth	Librarian

COLLEGE ADVISERS

Investment managers

Legal & General, One Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AA

Schroder & Co. Limited, 31 Gresham Street, London EC2V 1QA

Investment consultant

Cambridge Associates, 80 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL

Auditor

Critchleys Audit LLP, Beaver House, 23-38 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford OX1 2EP

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc, Oxford City, 54 Cornmarket Street OX1 3HB

Solicitors

Hewitsons, 7 Spencer Parade, Northampton NN1 5AB

Mills & Reeve, 112 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1PH

Penningtons Manches, 9400 Garsington Road, Oxford Business Park, Oxford, OX4 2HN

Surveyors

Savills, Wytham Court, 11 Westway, Oxford OX2 0QL

Other

Peninsula Business Services, 2 Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester M4 4FB

College address

Merton Street, Oxford OX1 4JD

Website

www.merton.ox.ac.uk

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Under the Charities Act 2011, the Governing Body presents its Annual Report for the year ended 31 July 2017 together with the audited financial statements for the year.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Merton College is a charitable corporation founded as a self-governing community of scholars first in Malden, Surrey, and then in Oxford, by Walter of Merton, Lord Chancellor of England and Bishop of Rochester, with royal consent under statutes dated 1264 and 1274. The full legal name of the College is 'The Warden and Scholars of the House or College of Scholars of Merton in the University of Oxford'. The term 'Fellows'

latterly replaced 'Scholars', and the Fellows together with the Warden, who is the head of the College, comprise the Governing Body of the College. The College registered with the Charities Commission on 15 November 2010 (registered number 1139022). Prior to that date the College was an exempt charity under section 3(5a) of the Charities Act 1993, as listed in Schedule 2(b) to that Act.

The names of all members of the Governing Body at the date of this report and of those in office during the year, together with details of the senior staff and advisers of the College, are given on pages 3 to 7.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing documents

The College is governed by its Statutes approved by Privy Council and dated 15 July, 2015.

Governing Body

The Governing Body is constituted and regulated in accordance with the College Statutes, the terms of which are enforceable ultimately by the Visitor, who is the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Governing Body is self-appointing, and membership is subject to review and renewal every seven years and lapses with retirement from office.

The Governing Body determines the ongoing strategic direction of the College and regulates its administration and the management of its finances and assets. It meets regularly under the chairmanship of the Warden and is advised by five main committees and thirty one ancillary or subsidiary committees, forums and panels.

Recruitment and training of members of the Governing Body

New Fellows are elected to the Governing Body on the basis of their knowledge of and contribution to education, learning and research within the College and the University of Oxford, or on the basis of their possession of professional and administrative qualifications and skills that will enable them to advise and assist other members of the Governing Body.

Recommendations concerning appointments to Fellowships are made to the Governing Body by committees convened specifically for the purpose and chaired by the Warden. Appointment committees include expert members recruited from outside the College, and academic appointments may be made by joint process with a faculty or department of the University of Oxford.

New members of the Governing Body are inducted into the workings of the College, including Governing Body policy and procedures, by the senior staff of the College, are provided written reference material explaining their roles and may attend external trustee training and information courses to keep them informed on current issues in the sector and on regulatory requirements.

Remuneration of Members of the Governing Body and Senior College Staff

Members of the Governing Body receive no remuneration or benefits from their trusteeship of the College other than as provided for by the Statutes of the College. Those trustees that are also employees of the College receive remuneration for their work as employees of the College which is set based on the advice of the College's Remuneration Committee, members of which are Fellows not in receipt of

remuneration from the College and external members. Where possible, remuneration is set in line with that awarded to the University's academic staff.

The remuneration of senior College staff is set by the Governing Body in line with market norms.

Organisational management

The Governing Body meets at least nine times a year. The work of developing and monitoring the implementation of its policies is mostly carried out by five committees, described below.

As part of the College's Strategic Review, a working group undertook a wide ranging review of the College's committees in order to streamline and enhance the governance of the College. The College implemented the key recommendations of the working group, approved by Governing Body, at the start of 2014-2015, having implemented the recommendation to create a new Graduate Committee in 2013-2014.

Finance Committee

The Committee is responsible for advising the Governing Body on all matters concerning finance, financial administration, investment, accounting and risk management. The Committee is also responsible for the administration of the terms and conditions of employment of non-academic staff (the Remuneration Committee is responsible for academic staff, and employment issues may also be considered by the Equality Forum). The Committee is chaired by the Warden and has up to fourteen members, including up to three members with relevant skills who are not members of the Governing Body and include the College Accountant. It meets at least six times each year. There is an Investment Sub-Committee consisting of five members of the Governing Body, including the Warden and four members who have relevant professional skills and experience and who are not members of the Governing Body. There is also a Benefactions Sub-Committee tasked with ensuring the appropriate use of restricted donations made up of five life members of the College.

Academic Committees ('Warden & Tutors' Committee' and 'Graduate Committee')

The Warden and Tutors' Committee has delegated authority to make and enforce regulations on all matters concerning undergraduates, including their academic work, welfare, recreational use of College facilities, and disciplinary matters. The Committee reports to the Governing Body its decisions on all matters of principle on these topics, and makes recommendations to the Governing Body on other relevant matters, including material changes to the range and focus of educational activities. The Committee is chaired by the Warden and its more than thirty members include the Senior Tutor, the subject Tutors, the Finance and Domestic Bursars, the Librarian, the Chaplain and the Academic Registrar. The Committee meets at least twelve times each year. Undergraduate representatives attend at least one meeting per term. Subsidiary

committees are responsible for considering student discipline, teaching needs, access and schools liaison, and student support.

In 2013-4 the College set up an equivalent body, the Graduate Committee, to consider all matters related to postgraduate members. It is chaired by the Warden and convened by the Senior Tutor, with academic membership representing all four divisions of the University, key College Officers including the Dean of Graduates and graduate student representatives. It meets six times per year.

There is also a Research Committee reporting directly to the Governing Body.

Development and Alumni Relations Committee

The Committee is responsible for the oversight and co-ordination of fund-raising and alumni relations activities undertaken by the College, for the recommendation of policy on fund-raising and alumni relations, and for the consideration of matters concerning the external relations of the College. The Committee is chaired by the Warden and has fourteen members, including the Development Director, two student representatives and three other members with relevant skills and experience who are not members of the Governing Body. It meets at least three times each year.

Remuneration Committee ('Committee on Stipends and Allowances')

The Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Governing Body concerning the remuneration and benefits of any member of the Governing Body who is employed by the College, or any College Officer who is not a member of the Governing Body. There are seven members of the Committee, no member of the Committee may be an employee of the College, and the chair and three other members may not be members of the Governing Body. The Committee usually meets once annually or otherwise as required.

Other Committees

Apart from the main committees, there are committees devoted to specific areas of College life including Buildings, Chapel and Patronage, IT Services, Library, and Sports. The Domestic Committee oversees all the domestic arrangements of the College. There are student representative members on most of these committees.

The Statutes & Bylaws Committee is tasked with reviewing the statutes and bylaws and meets at least once a term.

The day-to-day running of the College is delegated to the Warden, supported by the Sub Warden, Senior Tutor, Tutors, Bursars, Chaplain, Librarian and Development Director. The Warden attends meetings of nearly all the Governing Body's Committees.

Group structure and relationships

The College administers many special funds as detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

The College has a wholly owned non-charitable subsidiary, Merton Enterprises Limited, whose annual profits are donated to the College under the Gift Aid Scheme. The trading activities of Merton Enterprises comprise letting of the College facilities and merchandise sales.

The College is part of the collegiate University of Oxford. Material interdependencies between the University and the College arise as a consequence of this relationship.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objects and Aims

The College's Objects for the public benefit are; to advance education, learning, research, and religion through the provision of a college in Oxford or elsewhere.

The College's Aims for the public benefit are to achieve the highest outcomes in education, learning and research at national and international level; and to maintain the College Chapel as a place of public worship pursuing the highest standards of liturgical, homiletical, and musical excellence.

The Aims for the College's subsidiary are to help finance the achievement of the College's Objects.

Activities of the College

The College's principal activity is the advancement of education and learning, through provision of teaching and educational support, to approximately 650 resident undergraduate and graduate students who have been admitted as members of the College and who are engaged on a course of studies leading to the award of a degree in the University of Oxford, through the appointment or employment of Fellows and academic staff who are actively engaged in research, through the provision of accommodation and support facilities and through the provision of research grants to Fellows and students.

Public benefit

The Governing Body intends that the benefits of education and learning provided by the College should be available to the widest possible range of suitably qualified candidates, irrespective of background, and takes careful note of the guidance provided by the Charity Commission on public benefit, the advancement of education and fee-charging.

To this end, the College participates with the University of Oxford and other colleges and institutions in Oxford in an access bursary scheme to provide financial assistance to eligible home undergraduate students. See <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/> for details of the Oxford Bursary Scheme.

In order to encourage applications from excellent students who might not otherwise consider applying for admission to the College, the College employs a schools liaison officer and operates an outreach programme, including schools visits, visits to the

College, open days and provision of information, to establish and maintain contact with schools, school teachers and students.

The College retains a team of welfare and medical advisers, who provide support and confidential counselling to students and staff who are distressed or who have special needs, and who may authorise grants and funding for referrals for specialist professional treatment or advice.

Students are provided with opportunities to contribute to College policies and practices, through participation in College committees, through formal and informal interaction with College Officers and Fellows, and through voluntary surveys and assessment processes.

The College operates student support funds which may be used to make grants to any student in financial hardship, including grants to supplement funding shortfalls and grants for special academic needs.

The College provides scholarship funds to graduates and makes grants to all students for books and equipment and travel and other research related activities.

The College provides residential accommodation for approximately 300 undergraduates and 170 graduates.

The Equality Forum comprises seven members drawn from the Governing Body, four student members, four staff members and one external member. The Forum considers and makes recommendations concerning equality in all aspects of College life, including admission of students and student provision and progress, as well as employment issues. The Governing Body agreed in 2013-4 to appoint one of its members as Equality Adviser.

The College is open to the public during visiting hours throughout most of the year. There is a small admission charge. Chapel services are also open to the public as well as College members.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Undergraduate students

286 students were enrolled for undergraduate degree courses at the University of Oxford during the year. Of these, 256 were of UK/EU origin and 30 from overseas, 174 were studying humanities and social sciences and 112 were studying mathematics, medicine and physical sciences.

113 undergraduates held College scholarships during the year. 111 undergraduates were awarded College prizes for good work in examinations, and 16 undergraduates were awarded prizes for other academic work. 18 undergraduates were awarded prizes by the University of Oxford.

79 undergraduates were entered for final honour schools examinations at the University of Oxford, 38 of them (48%) obtaining class 1 degrees, 40 (51%) obtaining class 2.1 degrees, 1 (1%) obtaining class 2.2 degrees, and 0 (0%) obtaining a class 3 degree.

Further details of educational background, gender and course of study of candidates are contained in the following table:

	Class of degree				Total
	1	2.1	2.2	3	
Maintained schools	15 (37.5%)	24 (60%)	1 (2.5%)	0 (0%)	40
Independent schools	14 (53.8%)	12 (46.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	26
Overseas students	9 (69.2%)	4 (30.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	13
Male	24 (51%)	23 (49%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	47
Female	14 (43.8%)	17 (53.1%)	1 (3.1%)	0 (0%)	32
Humanities and social science	23 (47.9%)	24 (50%)	1 (2.1%)	0 (0%)	48
Mathematics and physical science	15 (48.4%)	16 (51.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	31

**Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding*

Graduate students

222 graduate students were enrolled for research study leading to the DPhil degree at the University of Oxford during the year, of whom 51 were studying humanities, 93 were studying mathematics and physical sciences, 35 were studying social sciences and 43 were studying medical sciences.

63 students were enrolled for other graduate degrees at the University of Oxford, including the EMBA/MBA, BCL/MJur, MSc, MSt, MPhil and BPhil.

57 graduates were awarded DPhil degrees and 44 graduates were awarded other graduate degrees during the year.

18 graduates were elected to College scholarships, 17 of whom took up their award, and four graduates were awarded College prizes for good academic work during the year. Five graduates were awarded prizes by the University of Oxford.

Scholarships, bursaries, grants and prizes

Expenditure during the year was as follows:

Undergraduates	
Oxford Bursaries	£75,107
Prizes	£20,497
Scholarships	£51,162
Other grants	£74,445
Graduates	
Scholarships	£667,807
Research and other grants	£84,371
All students	
Student support and book grants	£115,311

Welfare and special needs

The annual cost of staff time (Chaplain, Senior Tutor, Academic Registrar, Nurse, Doctor and Junior Deans for Welfare) and other cost of welfare provision (including a contribution to the University Counselling Services) is of the order of £65,000. As of June 2017, 13.6% of students had declared a disability to the University.

Schools liaison

The College engaged in 78 schools liaison activities during the year, either by itself or in conjunction with the University of Oxford or other Oxford colleges. These activities included visits to schools, visits to the College by groups of students from age 13 and study days at the College for sixth formers, with the aim of raising awareness of the application process, degree options, and teaching at Oxford in all constituencies at an early stage.

By agreement with the University, the College is engaged particularly in strengthening links with schools in Dorset, the London Borough of Merton and Wiltshire. The annual cost of employing a Schools Liaison Officer, together with associated costs, is of the order of £60,000.

Library

The College Library aims to provide support for teaching, learning, and research by members of the College and visiting researchers through resources, professional assistance, and creation of environments for productive study. The Library also contributes to the effective running of the College administration through management of records, archives, and provision of information. The Library and Archives Committee, which reports to Governing Body, has representation from fellows, undergraduates, and graduates. Decisions about library services are informed by regular user experience surveys and by maintaining staff awareness of best practice through participation in university and professional groups.

Timely access to printed books continues to rank as one of the library's most highly-valued services on annual surveys. This year 1439 books were acquired, of which 204 were donations. There were 8 donations of archival material. The Library's two buildings offer study environments which are well-used, and at times filled to capacity. A supplementary study room is available in Trinity Term.

Library and Archive staff assist members of the college, members of the wider research community and members of the public on a daily basis. This year staff responded to 250 written and 922 in-person enquiries.

The Library aims to care for special collections, archives, and heritage material to professional standards, to make them known to researchers and the public, and to make them physically accessible for teaching and for research. This year 105 researchers, of whom 68 were from outside Oxford, consulted special materials on-site. Library staff provided seminar sessions with primary research materials to 8 academic groups from Oxford and other universities. Images were supplied for 22 publications. As part of an ongoing initiative to make descriptive records of 19th- and 20th-century special material freely available, 623 records were added to the Oxford online catalogue (SOLO). The college loaned early printed books to two external exhibitions. Three exhibitions were mounted in the Library: 'The Merton Library before Mob Quad' (Autumn-Winter 2017); 'Hebrew Books at Merton' (March-September 2017); 'Zoltan Kodaly 1882-1967' (March – September 2017).

In support of the broader educational and learning objectives of the College, the Fellow Librarian organised visits to the college's historic buildings for 85 groups (primarily from the HE sector), and during the summer interpretative visits are offered to the public. The total number of attendees in 2016-2017 was 2649.

Fellows

In February 2017, Ms Christine Taylor retired as Development Director, and the College appointed a new Development Director, Dr Duncan Barker. In September 2016 Dr Jonathan Lee resigned his Junior Research Fellowship in Mathematics to take up a post at Microsoft. At the end of 2016-17, Dr Joanna Bellis resigned her Fitzjames Research Fellowship in Medieval English, and Dr Rich Rabone resigned his Junior Research Fellowship to take up a post at the University of Warwick.

Employment costs were, in respect of Teaching Fellows £977 thousand for the year, in respect of other teaching staff £260 thousand for the year and in respect of Research Fellows and other Fellows (including stipends paid to part-time College Officers) £409 thousand for the year.

Research grants of £126 thousand were made to Fellows during the year.

The academic Fellows on the College's Governing Body included 20 Mathematical, Physical and Life Scientists, 21 scholars in the Humanities, 10 in the Social Sciences and 8 in the Medical Sciences. The research interests of Fellows are described further at http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/fellows_and_research/fellows.shtml

Chapel

Daily public services are held in the College Chapel during term. Sunday services have attracted an average congregation of 120. Combined congregations during the week (including the College's two choirs) totalled 350. Junior members participate in the

running of the Chapel. The Chaplain is also assisted by a Junior Chaplain and three Pastoral Assistants (students in training for ordination in the Church of England). During the course of the year, two infant baptisms, three confirmations, twelve marriages, the funeral of a member of staff, a service of thanksgiving for the life of a Fellow, and two memorial services took place in the Chapel. There were also three services of internment of ashes in Grove Meadow at the west end of the Chapel. Most Chapel collections are donated to charitable causes. In the year under review a total of £3,907 was donated to the Oxford Parent Infant Project, the Charlie Waller Memorial Fund, Leonard Cheshire Disability, Emmaus Oxford, Oxfam Syria Crisis Appeal, Cancer Research, the Wheatsfield Hospice, Leeds, Emily Peru Hope Trust, the Samaritans, Hymns Ancient and Modern, and Christian Aid. £745 was donated to the College's Student Support Fund. In terms of the Chapel's fixtures and fittings, a ramp was installed to enable wheelchair access between the Ante-Chapel and Chapel, and the candle fittings on the stalls were replaced. In March the Chaplain led a College pilgrimage to Rome. In April interviews took place to appoint a full-time Associate Chaplain and Career Development Researcher to assist the Chaplain in the day-to-day running of the Chapel.

Choral Foundation

A full complement of 22 choral scholars, eight volunteer singers and two organ scholars have sung and played the services during the year 2016-2017. In addition, a Girls' Choir was established in September 2016 consisting of 26 choristers drawn from eight schools across Oxford. The College Choir's core function remains the singing of three public services a week (on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday) in the College chapel, with the Girls' Choir singing an additional service on a Wednesday. During the course of the year, the College Choir recorded a CD of music by Richard Allain for the Delphian label and broadcast Choral Evensong live on BBC Radio 3 from the College Chapel in January 2017. The choir also broadcast Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3 from St Peter's Basilica, The Vatican, on the occasion of the singing of the first Anglican liturgy in St Peter's on 13 March 2017. In December 2016 the College Choir sang in St John's, Smith Square, London, taking part in their Christmas Festival, and in July 2017 gave two concerts in France. 'Passiontide at Merton' included a performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* and MacMillan's *Seven Last Words*. The fourth Merton Organ Festival promoted celebrity organists from France and the UK, including Olivier Latry from Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris, and a series of lunchtime concerts featured the Dobson Organ in the Michaelmas and Trinity terms.

Capital projects

During 2016-2017 the college completed work on two major projects; the installation of a lift giving improved access to the Hall and SCR rooms and also the conversion of

the basement of St Albans Quad staircase 1V to create five music practice rooms. There are no capital projects planned for 2017-2018.

Within routine property expenditure work continued on reducing energy consumption with the refurbishment of Rose Lane I and North Lodge.

Fundraising

Following the discussions that took place in January 2016 during the Governing Body's Strategic Weekend at Ditchley, in 2016-17 the College continued to pursue its fundraising focus on graduate studies, tutorial Fellowships and the development of capital projects that will provide a physical setting to rival any in the world. The College's Development Office also underwent a significant period of transition during the year with the retirement of the long-serving Development Director, Christine Taylor, and Alumni Relations Manager, Helen Kingsley, in addition to a change of Alumni Communications Officer.

During the last academic year the College received £1.98 million in new endowments and cash donations. A Tutorial Fellowship in Law was finally secured in full through donations and pledges, taking the total number of Fellowships now underpinned by philanthropy during and since the 750th Campaign to ten. The target of £2.57 million for Undergraduate Student Support set during the Campaign was reached in late 2016 with a generous gift from Richard Burns (1964). Moreover, the College decided to allocate a legacy of £100,000 from the estate of the late Robert Lowrie (1955) to add a further choral scholarship to existing set of awards within the College's Choral Foundation.

Of the overall cash received, £722 thousand represents monies pledged during the 750th Anniversary Campaign. £212 thousand was received in respect of the Tutorial System (including the Law Fellowship), £121 thousand was received for Buildings and Facilities (the Boat House project), and £583 thousand was received for graduate scholarships. Furthermore, during this period of transition for the College's Development function, £1.3 million was pledged in new funds, including unrestricted donations of £414 thousand.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income for the year, £13.363 million, was £114 thousand lower than the preceding year, which mainly resulted from a decrease in trading income of £240 thousand and donations and legacies (£42 thousand) and offset by increase in investment income up (up £198 thousand)

Total expenditure was £13.770 million, an increase of £770 thousand.

Net income showed a deficit of £407 thousand which, together with investment gains of £14.779 million, lifted total funds and net assets from £257.679 million to £272.051 million.

Reserves policy

The College's reserves policy is to maintain sufficient free reserves to enable it to meet its financial obligations in the event of an unexpected revenue shortfall and to provide a buffer that would ensure uninterrupted services.

Free reserves at the year-end amounted to £1.990 million (2015: £2.085 million), representing net current assets less creditors falling due after more than one year and designated reserve.

The College's target is to maintain free reserves at two to four months of expected expenditure. Year-end free reserves represented 2 months of expected expenditure.

Total funds of the College and its subsidiary at the year-end amounted to £272.051 million (2015: £257.679 million). This includes endowment funds of £251.007 million and unspent restricted income funds totalling £1.363 million.

Designated reserves at the year end comprised of the book value of tangible fixed assets of £19.031 million to be spent over their useful economic lives and £0.444 million representing an unrestricted donation received and designated by the Trustees for a graduate scholarship to be spent over the next ten to twenty years.

Risk management

The College has on-going processes which operated throughout the financial year for identifying, evaluating and managing the principal risks and uncertainties faced by the College and its subsidiary in undertaking their activities. When it is not able to address risk issues using internal resources, the College takes advice from experts external to the College with specialist knowledge. Policies and procedures within the College are reviewed by the relevant College Committee, chaired by the Warden. Financial risks are assessed by the Finance Committee and investment risks are monitored by the Investment Sub-Committee. In addition, the Domestic Bursar and domestic staff heads meet regularly to review health and safety issues. Training courses and other forms of career development are available, when requested, to members of staff to enhance their skills in risk-related areas.

The Governing Body, who have ultimate responsibility for managing any risks faced by the College, have reviewed the processes in place for managing risk and the principal identified risks to which the College and its subsidiary are exposed and have concluded

that robust systems are in place to manage these risks. The principal risks and uncertainties faced by the College and its subsidiary that have been identified are categorised as follows:

- Governance risks – e.g. inappropriate organisational structure, difficulties recruiting trustees with relevant skills, conflict of interest;
- Operational risks- e.g. service quality and development, contract pricing, employment issues; health and safety issues; fraud and misappropriation;
- Financial risks- e.g. accuracy and timeliness of financial information, adequacy of reserves and cash flow, diversity of income sources, investment management;
- External risks- e.g. public perception and adverse publicity, demographic changes, government policy; and
- Compliance with law and regulation- e.g. breach of trust law, employment law, and regulative requirements of particular activities such as fund-raising.

Strategies for managing the risks identified by the College as described above include, for example:

- Establishing the appropriate committees responsible for formulating recommendations to Governing Body;
- Providing appropriate training to all members of staff and at the induction of new Fellows;
- Ensuring accountability of College Officers to the appropriate committee and for the committees in turn to be accountable to the Governing Body;
- Developing and implementing key policies across the main areas of activity of the College, including, for example, admissions policy, health & safety policy, and information security policy; and
- Ensuring the appropriate insurance policies are in place and reviewed regularly.

The College identifies the risks it faces, the potential impact of each risk, the likelihood of recurrence, the severity of impact, and the steps taken to mitigate each particular risk in its Risk Register, which is regularly reviewed by the Finance Committee and approved by Governing Body.

Investment policy, objectives and performance

The College's investment objectives are to balance current and future needs by:

- achieving a nominal return on investment sufficient to maintain or increase the real value of the investments and meet the spending objectives of the College; and
- delivering this objective within acceptable levels of risk.

To meet these objectives the College's investments as a whole are managed on a total return basis, maintaining diversification across a range of asset classes in order to produce an appropriate balance between risk and return. The College does not use a fixed formal benchmark but compares performance with a wide range of investment indices and investor performance data. The College has made a number of direct and indirect investments that have explicit or implicit Socially Responsible objectives, but has not adopted a formal SRI policy. Investment strategy, policy and performance are monitored by the Finance Committee and its Investment sub-committee.

At the year end, the College's aggregate long term investments totalled £252.370 million, of which £223.779 million was general endowment and the composition of which is shown in the notes to the financial statements.

The overall total investment return on the general endowment before external expenses was as follows:

Annualised total net return %

Merton College	8.5%
MSCI World Index £	16.9%
Bloomberg Barclays GBP Global bonds	(1.6%)

The returns on the general endowment reflect the College's asset allocation, particularly its investment in property which returned 6.7% over the year.

The carrying value of the preserved permanent capital (the trust for investment) and the amount of any unapplied total return available for expenditure was taken as the

fair value of these funds as at 1 August 2002 (£88.933 million) together with the original gift value of all subsequent endowment received.

The Governing Body annually reviews the level and appropriateness of the unapplied total return allocated to income including a review of prospective investment returns, inflation and market risks. Any surplus arising during the year is reinvested in the College's general endowment.

On the total return basis of investing, it is the Governing Body's policy to extract as income 3.5% of the value of the relevant investments. However, to smooth and moderate the amounts withdrawn this 3.5% is calculated on the average of the year-end values in each of the last five years. Due to increasing investment values over the previous five years, the effective amounts withdrawn are currently less than the nominal 3.5% stated in this policy.

The equivalent of 3.5% of the five year average value of the securities and property investments was extracted as income on the total return basis in the year. The Governing Body will keep the level of income withdrawn under review to balance the needs and interests of current and future beneficiaries of the College's activities.

FUTURE PLANS

The Governing Body continues to consider how it can achieve the highest outcomes in education, learning and research at national and international level, and instigated a Strategic Review to consider the size and shape of the College and encompassing matters of academic policy, governance and administration. College staff and students continue to contribute to the plan.

The Strategic Review focused on five key areas: governance; size and shape; the student experience; administration and IT; and research. A sixth area – development – was added in 2013-2014 to consider the College's development activities after the Sustaining Excellence campaign, which was concluded in December 2014. A series of recommendations in each area have been implemented and work continues on several important initiatives. During the course of 2014-2015, the College began a review of the implications of the Strategic Review for its physical environment. This review identified several possible projects which are being considered further by the College. Two projects – the access lift and new music practice rooms – were started in 2015-2016 and completed in 2016 – 2017.

Admissions

Undergraduate applicants to Oxford are selected by the individual colleges working within a common framework to ensure that the same standards apply consistently across subjects – see further

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/decisions/common-framework?wssl=1>

Merton's overall application numbers in 2016-7 increased to 573, compared to 553 last year (including 13 applications for Biochemistry, reintroduced this year). Application numbers across the University increased to 19,926 from 19,144 the previous year.

For information on admissions at Merton compared with other colleges, see https://public.tableau.com/views/UoO_UG_Admissions2/AcceptanceRate?%3Aembed=y&%3Adisplay_count=yes&%3AshowTabs=y&%3AshowVizHome=no

Data on ethnicity is not available to the College through the UCAS or Oxford application forms. Analysis is undertaken by the University Admissions Office retrospectively on behalf of all colleges, and can be found at

https://public.tableau.com/views/UoO_UG_Admissions2/EthnicityandDisability?%3Aembed=y&%3Adisplay_count=yes&%3AshowTabs=y&%3AshowVizHome=no

Merton knows of 43 applicants who declared a disability. Eight of these received an offer from Merton and one received an offer from St Catherine's.

Postgraduate applicants are assessed by the relevant department or faculty and all those admitted are guaranteed a college place. Merton continues to attract substantially more applicants than it has places available.

The new financial framework for higher education shifts the burden from state financing to student fees. A key objective of the 750th Anniversary Campaign *Sustaining Excellence* was to build an endowment for student support of at least £2 million and to attract more funding for graduate scholarships. Student support remains a focus for our development activity post-Campaign.

Attracting the best students from the widest possible range of backgrounds requires more than financial support. Therefore, in the UK, the College continues to develop its schools liaison programme through a full-time officer, and aims to appeal to all constituencies by improving and enhancing web-based and electronic media and communications. The College continues to develop its recruitment of graduate scholars collaboratively with the academic faculties of the University of Oxford.

Fellows

For the new academic year 2017-8 the College has appointed four Junior Research Fellows in Zoology, Archaeology, Engineering/Biology, and History, and three Fitzjames Research Fellows in Ancient Greek, Music, and Medieval English Literature.

Chapel

The appointment of an Associate Chaplain and Career Development Researcher (following interviews in April 2017). The installation of a 19th century Russian icon of St John the Baptist (the gift of an alumnus). The replacement of halogen window lights with LEDs.

Choral Foundation

In the forthcoming year, the College Choir will give concerts in Oxford, London and Cheltenham and will combine with the Girls' Choir and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for a performance of Elgar's *The Apostles* in the Sheldonian Theatre in June 2018. 'Passiontide at Merton' will include the world premiere of Gabriel Jackson's *Stabat Mater* and a performance of Bach's *Mass in B minor*.

Capital projects

Further work continued on identifying opportunities to reduce energy consumption, and upgrades to the heating and insulation system of Rose Lane 1 – 4 continued in 2016 – 2017. Several larger capital projects reviewed by the special projects group as part of the College's strategic review remain under discussion.

Trading income

The T S Eliot Lecture Theatre provides the College with first class facilities that are attractive to third party users. Merton Enterprises has been able to broaden its customer base following a restructuring of the conference office and proactive marketing of these facilities. Conference income, including merchandising, was £680 thousand in the year.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Body is responsible for preparing the Report of the Governing Body and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Governing Body to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Governing Body have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Under charity law the Governing Body must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the College and of its net incoming or outgoing resources for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Governing Body is required to:

- select the most suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards including FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- state whether a Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applies and has been followed, subject to any material departure which are explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the College will continue to operate.

The Governing Body is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the College's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the College and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the College and ensuring their proper application under charity law and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Governing Body on 1 November 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

Warden

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF MERTON COLLEGE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Merton College (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 July 2017 which comprise the Statement of accounting Policies, the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and College Balance Sheets, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the College's Governing Body, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and the regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Members of the Governing Body those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the College's Governing Body as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and charity's affairs as at 31 July 2017 and of the group's income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Members of the Governing Body's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Members of the Governing Body have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Members of the Governing Body are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Responsibilities of the Members of the Governing Body

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting and Reporting Responsibilities [set out on page 28], the Members of the Governing Body are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Members of the Governing Body are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Members of the Governing Body either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/apb/scope/private.cfm. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Critchleys Audit LLP
Statutory Auditor
Oxford

Date:

Critchleys Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of sections 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Scope of the financial statements

The financial statements present the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), the Consolidated and College Balance Sheets and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the College with its wholly owned subsidiary Merton Enterprises Limited. The subsidiary has been consolidated from the date of their formation being the date from which the College has exercised control through voting rights in the subsidiary. No separate SOFA has been presented for the College alone as permitted by the Charity Commission on a concessionary basis for the filing of consolidated financial statements. A summary of the results and financial position of the charity and its material subsidiary for the reporting year are in note 13.

2. Basis of accounting

The College's individual and consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, in particular FRS 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The College is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity. The College has therefore also prepared its individual and consolidated financial statements in accordance with 'The Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with FRS 102' (The Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and on the historical cost basis, except for the measurement of investments and certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value with movements in value reported within the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA). The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below and have been applied consistently throughout the year.

3. Accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

In preparing financial statements it is necessary to make certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

In the view of the Governing Body, in applying the accounting policies adopted, no judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

In the view of the Governing Body, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

4. Income recognition

All income is recognised once the College has entitlement to the income, the economic benefit is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

a. Income from fees, HEFCE support and other charges for services

Fees receivable are recognised in the period in which the related service is provided and are stated net of any scholarships, bursaries or other allowances granted from the College's unrestricted funds, HEFCE support and charges for services and use of the premises.

b. Income from donations, grants and legacies

Donations and grants that do not impose specific future performance-related or other specific conditions are recognised on the date on which the charity has entitlement to the resource, the amount can be reliably measured and the economic benefit to the College of the donation or grant is probable. Donations and grants subject to performance-related conditions are recognised as and when those conditions are met. Donations and grants subject to other specific conditions are recognised as those conditions are met or their fulfilment is wholly within the control of the College and it is probable that the specified conditions will be met.

Legacies are recognised following grant of probate and once the College has received sufficient information from the executor(s) of the deceased's estate to be satisfied that the gift can be reliably measured and that the economic benefit to the College is probable.

Donations, grants and legacies accruing for the general purposes of the College are credited to unrestricted funds.

Donations, grants and legacies which are subject to conditions as to their use imposed by the donor or set by the terms of an appeal are credited to the relevant restricted fund or, where the donation, grant or legacy is required to be held as capital, to the endowment funds. Where donations are received in kind (as distinct from cash or other monetary assets), they are measured at the fair value of those assets at the date of the gift.

c. Investment income

Interest on bank balances is accounted for on an accrual basis with interest recognised in the period to which the interest relates.

Income from fixed interest debt securities is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

Dividend income and similar distributions are recognised on the date the share interest becomes ex-dividend or when the right to the dividend can be established.

Income from investment properties is recognised in the period to which the rental income relates.

5. Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. A liability and related expenditure is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation commits the College to expenditure that will probably require settlement, the amount of which can be reliably measured or estimated.

Grants awarded that are not performance-related are charged as an expense as soon as a legal or constructive obligation for their payment arises. Grants subject to performance-related conditions are expensed as the specified conditions of the grant are met.

All expenditure including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure categories in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

Support costs which includes governance costs (costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements) and other indirect costs are apportioned to expenditure categories in the SOFA based on the estimated amount attributable to that activity in the year, either by reference to staff time or the use made of the underlying assets, as appropriate. Irrecoverable VAT is included with the item of expenditure to which it relates.

Intra-group sales and charges between the College and its subsidiaries are excluded from trading income and expenditure in the consolidated financial statements.

6. Tangible fixed assets

Land is stated at cost. Buildings and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Expenditure on the acquisition or enhancement of land and on the acquisition, construction and enhancement of buildings which is directly attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use and amounting to more than £5,000 together with expenditure on equipment costing more than £5,000 is capitalised.

Other expenditure on equipment incurred in the normal day-to-day running of the College and its subsidiaries is charged to the SOFA as incurred.

7. Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of all relevant tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, in equal annual instalments over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold properties, including major extensions	50 years
Building improvements	20 years
Equipment	5 to 10 years

Freehold land is not depreciated. The cost of maintenance is charged in the SOFA in the period in which it is incurred.

At the end of each reporting period, the residual values and useful lives of assets are reviewed and adjusted if necessary. In addition, if events or change in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable then the carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment.

8. Heritage Assets

The College has a number of assets, including items of art and historic texts that meet the definition of heritage assets under the SORP. The College retains information concerning the cost or value on donation only for some of its heritage assets, but disclosure of this information would not give a fair picture of the total value of heritage assets held. The cost of obtaining fair values for the remaining heritage assets would not be commensurate with the benefits to users

of the financial statements. Therefore no cost or value is reflected in the financial statements for heritage assets.

9. Investments

Investment properties are initially recognised at their cost and subsequently measured at their fair value (market value) at each reporting date. Purchases and sales of investment properties are recognised on exchange of contracts.

Listed investments are initially measured at their cost and subsequently measured at their fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is based on their quoted price at the balance sheet date without deduction of the estimated future selling costs.

Investments such as hedge funds and private equity funds which have no readily identifiable market value are initially measured at their costs and subsequently measured at their fair value at each reporting date without deduction of the estimated future selling costs. Fair value is based on the most recent valuations available from their respective fund managers.

Changes in fair value and gains and losses arising on the disposal of investments are credited or charged to the income or expenditure section of the SOFA as 'gains or losses on investments' and are allocated to the fund holding or disposing of the relevant investment.

10. Other financial instruments

a. Derivatives

The College has not entered into any derivative contracts.

b. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with a maturity date of three months or less.

c. Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year of the reporting date are carried at their transaction price. Debtors and creditors that are receivable or payable in more than one year and not subject to a market rate of interest are measured at the present value of the expected future receipts or payment discounted at a market rate of interest.

11. Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, cost being the purchase price on a first in, first out basis.

12. Foreign currencies

The functional and presentational currency of the College and its subsidiaries is the pound sterling.

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies during the year are translated into pounds sterling using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into pounds sterling at the rates applying at the reporting date.

Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of transactions and from the translation of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the exchange rates at the reporting date are recognised in the income and expenditure section of the SOFA.

13. Total Return investment accounting

The College statutes authorise the College to adopt a 'total return' basis for the investment of its general endowment. The College can invest its general endowment without regard to the capital/income distinctions of standard trust law and with discretion to apply any part of the accumulated total return on the investment as income for spending each year. Until this power is exercised, the total return is accumulated as a component of the endowment known as the unapplied total return that can be either retained for investment or released to income at the discretion of the Governing Body.

Other endowments are invested with Schroder & Co Ltd which distributes on a total return basis.

14. Fund accounting

The total funds of the College and its subsidiary are allocated to unrestricted, restricted or endowment funds based on the terms set by the donors or set by the terms of an appeal. Endowment funds are further sub-divided into permanent and expendable.

Unrestricted funds can be used in furtherance of the objects of the College at the discretion of the Governing Body. The Governing Body may decide that part of the unrestricted funds shall be used in future for a specific purpose and this will be accounted for by transfers to appropriate designated funds.

Restricted funds comprise gifts, legacies and grants where the donors have specified that the funds are to be used for particular purposes of the College. They consist of *either* gifts where the donor has specified that both the capital and any income arising must be used for the purposes given *or* the income on gifts where the donor has required or permitted the capital be maintained and

with the intention that the income will be used for specific purposes within the College's objects.

Permanent endowment funds arise where donors specify that the funds should be retained as capital for the permanent benefit of the College. Any part of the total return arising from the capital that is allocated to income will be accounted for as unrestricted funds unless the donor has placed restrictions on the use of that income, in which case it will be accounted for as a restricted fund.

Expendable endowment funds are similar to permanent endowment in that they have been given, or the College has determined based on the circumstances that they have been given, for the long term benefit of the College. However, the Governing Body may at their discretion determine to spend all or part of the capital.

15. Pension costs

The costs of retirement benefits provided to employees of the College through two multi-employer defined pension schemes are accounted for as if these were defined contribution schemes as information is not available to use defined benefit accounting in accordance with the requirements of FRS 102. The College's contributions to these schemes are recognised as a liability and an expense in the period in which the salaries to which the contributions relate are payable.

In addition, a liability is recognised at the balance sheet date for the discounted value of the expected future contribution payments under the agreements with these multi-employer schemes to fund the past service deficits.

Merton College
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 July 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowed Funds £'000	2017 Total £'000	2016 Total £'000
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Charitable activities:	1					
Teaching, research and residential		4,731	-	-	4,731	4,761
Other Trading Income	3	680	-	-	680	920
Donations and legacies	2	346	388	1,242	1,976	2,018
Investments						
Investment income	4	2	934	5,040	5,976	5,778
Total return allocated to income	14	6,620	-	(6,620)	-	-
Total income		12,379	1,322	(338)	13,363	13,477
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities:	5					
Teaching, research and residential		10,549	1,080	-	11,629	10,693
Generating funds:						
Fundraising		597	-	-	597	593
Trading expenditure		603	-	-	603	895
Investment management costs		-	-	941	941	819
Total Expenditure		11,749	1,080	941	13,770	13,000
Net Income/(Expenditure) before gains		630	242	(1,279)	(407)	477
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11, 12	-	5	14,774	14,779	8,703
Net Income/(Expenditure)		630	247	13,495	14,372	9,180
Transfers between funds	18	(45)	(4)	49	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		585	243	13,544	14,372	9,180
Fund balances brought forward	18	19,096	1,120	237,463	257,679	248,499
Funds carried forward at 31 July		19,681	1,363	251,007	272,051	257,679

Merton College
Consolidated and College Balance Sheets
As at 31 July 2017

	Notes	2017 Group £'000	2016 Group £'000	2017 College £'000	2016 College £'000
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	19,031	18,372	19,031	18,372
Property investments	11	116,694	114,941	116,694	114,941
Other Investments	12	135,676	123,642	135,752	123,718
Total Fixed Assets		271,401	256,955	271,477	257,031
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		293	274	242	219
Debtors	15	2,023	1,782	2,093	1,878
Cash at bank and in hand		2,462	6,129	2,257	5,957
Total Current Assets		4,778	8,185	4,592	8,054
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	2,344	1,656	2,234	1,601
NET CURRENT ASSETS		2,434	6,529	2,358	6,453
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		273,835	263,484	273,835	263,484
CREDITORS: falling due after more than one year	17	-	4,000	-	4,000
NET ASSETS BEFORE PENSION ASSET OR LIABILITY		273,835	259,484	273,835	259,484
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22	1,784	1,805	1,784	1,805
TOTAL NET ASSETS		272,051	257,679	272,051	257,679
FUNDS OF THE COLLEGE					
Endowment funds	18	251,007	237,463	251,007	237,463
Restricted funds	18	1,363	1,120	1,363	1,120
Unrestricted funds	18				
General funds		1,990	2,085	1,990	2,085
Fixed Asset Fund		19,031	18,372	19,031	18,372
Graduate Scholarship Fund		444	444	444	444
Pension reserve	22	(1,784)	(1,805)	(1,784)	(1,805)
		272,051	257,679	272,051	257,679

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Governing Body of Merton College on 1 November 2017

Trustee:

Trustee:

Merton College
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 July 2017

	Notes	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	24	(6,184)	(5,602)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		5,976	5,778
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		13	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,706)	(409)
Proceeds from sale of investments		4,665	4,325
Purchase of investments		(5,299)	(3,747)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		3,649	5,947
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayments of borrowing		(4,000)	-
Receipt of endowment		1,242	1,381
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		(2,758)	1,381
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(5,293)	1,726
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		27,817	26,091
Change in cash and cash equivalents		(5,293)	1,726
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	25	22,524	27,817

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

1 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Teaching, Research and Residential		
Unrestricted funds		
Tuition fees - UK and EU students	1,279	1,324
Tuition fees - Overseas students	561	539
Other HEFCE support	239	233
Other academic income	125	148
College residential income	2,527	2,517
	<u>4,731</u>	<u>4,761</u>

The above analysis includes £1,400k received from Oxford University from publicly accountable funds under the CFF Scheme (2016: £1,439k).

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Donations and Legacies		
Unrestricted funds	346	267
Restricted funds	388	370
Endowed funds	1,242	1,381
	<u>1,976</u>	<u>2,018</u>

3 INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Subsidiary company trading income	337	326
Other trading income	343	594
	<u>680</u>	<u>920</u>

4 INVESTMENT INCOME

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>		
Bank interest	2	3
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<i>Restricted funds</i>		
Equity dividends	934	845
	<u>934</u>	<u>845</u>
<i>Endowed funds</i>		
Agricultural rent	1,369	1,273
Commercial rent	1,669	1,814
Other property income	453	451
Equity dividends	1,393	1,154
Income from fixed interest stocks	131	174
Interest on fixed term deposits and cash	25	63
Other investment income	-	1
	<u>5,040</u>	<u>4,930</u>
Total Investment income	<u>5,976</u>	<u>5,778</u>

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

5 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	2017	2016
	£'000	£'000
Charitable expenditure		
Direct staff costs allocated to:		
Teaching, research and residential	5,657	5,194
Other direct costs allocated to:		
Teaching, research and residential	3,982	3,551
Support and governance costs allocated to:		
Teaching, research and residential	1,990	1,948
Total charitable expenditure	11,629	10,693
Expenditure on generating funds		
Direct staff costs allocated to:		
Fundraising	336	317
Investment management costs	300	292
Other direct costs allocated to:		
Fundraising	171	190
Trading expenditure	603	895
Investment management costs	600	488
Support and governance costs allocated to:		
Fundraising	90	86
Investment management costs	41	39
Total expenditure on raising funds	2,141	2,307
Total expenditure	13,770	13,000

The 2016 expenditure of £13,000k represented £11,128k from unrestricted funds, £1,053k from restricted funds and £819k from endowed funds.

The College is liable to be assessed for Contribution under the provisions of Statute XV of the University of Oxford. The Contribution Fund is used to make grants and loans to colleges on the basis of need. Contributions are calculated annually in accordance with regulations made by the Council of the University of Oxford.

The teaching and research costs include College Contribution payable of £198k (2016 - £226k).

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

6 ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Generating Funds £'000	Teaching and Research £'000	2017 Total £'000
Financial administration	14	240	254
Domestic administration	9	137	146
Human resources	22	154	176
IT	22	368	390
Depreciation	58	974	1,032
Loss/(profit) on fixed assets	-	2	2
Bank interest payable	2	26	28
Other finance charges	4	64	68
Governance costs	-	25	25
	131	1,990	2,121

	Generating Funds £'000	Teaching and Research £'000	2016 Total £'000
Financial administration	12	223	235
Domestic administration	8	137	145
Human resources	20	135	155
IT	18	324	342
Depreciation	58	955	1,013
Loss/(profit) on fixed assets	-	8	8
Bank interest payable	5	77	82
Other finance charges	4	67	71
Governance costs	-	22	22
	125	1,948	2,073

Support and governance costs are attributed according to the estimated staff time spent on each activity.

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Governance costs comprise:		
Auditor's remuneration - audit services	19	16
Other governance costs	6	6
	25	22

No amount has been included in governance costs for the direct employment costs or reimbursed expenses of the College Fellows on the basis that these payments relate to the Fellows involvement in the College's charitable activities. Details of the remuneration of the Fellows and their reimbursed expenses are included as a separate note within these financial statements.

7 GRANTS AND AWARDS

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
During the year the College funded research awards and bursaries to students from its restricted and unrestricted fund as follows:		
Unrestricted funds		
Grants to individuals:		
Scholarships, prizes and grants	594	514
Bursaries and hardship awards	1	21
Total unrestricted	595	535
Restricted funds		
Grants to individuals:		
Scholarships, prizes and grants	311	266
Bursaries and hardship awards	185	157
Total restricted	496	423
Total grants and awards	1,091	958

The above costs are included within the charitable expenditure on Teaching and Research.

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

8 STAFF COSTS

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
The aggregate staff costs for the year were as follows.		
Salaries and wages	5,406	5,097
Social security costs	480	382
Defined benefit scheme pension costs:		
Continuing charges	850	801
Pension provision change (see note 22)	(80)	(172)
Other benefits	195	194
	6,851	6,302

The average number of employees of the College, excluding Trustees, on a headcount basis was as follows.

	2017	2016
Tuition and research	39	37
College residential	84	87
Fundraising	6	6
Support	12	12
Total	141	142

The average number of employed College Trustees during the year was as follows.

	2017	2016
University Lecturers	19	19
CUF Lecturers	7	7
Other teaching and research	15	16
Other	9	10
Total	50	52

Redundancy payments are accounted for in the period in which the employee was informed of the decision. Where redundancy costs are uncertain, the figure in the accounts represents a best estimate. These costs will be met through unrestricted funds.

No employees (excluding the Trustees) received gross pay and benefits (excluding employer NI and pension contributions) exceeding £60,000 during the year.

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group & College	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost			
At start of year	29,309	2,066	31,375
Additions	1,436	270	1,706
Disposals	-	(51)	(51)
At end of year	30,745	2,285	33,030
Depreciation and impairment			
At start of year	11,481	1,522	13,003
Depreciation charge for the year	887	145	1,032
Depreciation on disposals	-	(36)	(36)
At end of year	12,368	1,631	13,999
Net book value			
At end of year	18,377	654	19,031
At start of year	17,828	544	18,372

The College has substantial long-held historic assets all of which are used in the course of the College's teaching and research activities. These comprise listed buildings on the College site, together with their contents comprising works of art, ancient books and manuscripts and other treasured artefacts. Because of their age and, in many cases, unique nature, reliable historical cost information is not available for these assets and could not be obtained except at disproportionate expense. However, in the opinion of the Trustees the depreciated historical cost of these assets is now immaterial.

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

10 HERITAGE ASSETS

The heritage assets held by the college comprise medieval manuscript books (327); medieval and early modern records of the college and its estates dating from the twelfth century (c10,000 pre-1800 items including deeds, surveys, court rolls, maps, and various other records); rare printed books (15th-19th centuries: c14,000; 20th-21st century: 3,500 rare editions and special copies); collections of personal papers (21 mixed-media collections); early astronomical instruments (5); 18th century globes (2); paintings, prints, and drawings (353); historic table and chapel silver (16); miscellaneous historic furnishings (e.g. chests, clocks etc). Most new acquisitions are by gift or bequest. Criteria for decisions on whether to acquire heritage items include complementarity with existing collections, the intellectual appropriateness of the college as repository, and the ability of the college to house the collection appropriately and make it available to researchers. The college does not dispose of heritage assets.

Heritage assets are managed by the Fellow Librarian and the Domestic Bursar under the oversight of the Library and Archives Committee and the Sub-Committee on Pictures and Historic Chattels. There are three full-time professional librarians and a professional archivist is employed three days per week. The college is a member of the Oxford Conservation Consortium which employs four accredited conservators who provide preservation expertise and treatment of individual items. Specialist advice is sought when needed. Heritage items are housed in a number of locations throughout the college with special security, fire detection and fire suppression in the main storage areas. The environments of storage areas and rooms housing significant assets are regularly monitored and managed under the guidelines in PAS 198:2012 Specification for managing environmental conditions for cultural collections.

Records of heritage assets are held in a combination of electronic and hard-copy formats. These are freely available for research consultation either online or on site. The college maintains a programme of exhibitions onsite and loans items for display in the context of public exhibitions in the UK and abroad.

Various heritage assets have been acquired during the last five years the value of which is immaterial, apart from a collection of works by and relating to TS Eliot received in 2012 and valued at £190,000.

11 PROPERTY INVESTMENTS

Group & College	Agricultural £'000	Commercial £'000	Other £'000	2017 Total £'000	2016 Total £'000
Valuation at start of year	63,220	33,911	17,810	114,941	116,790
Additions and improvements at cost	7	82	95	184	170
Disposals	(1,013)	-	(1,568)	(2,581)	(1,220)
Revaluation gains/(losses) in the year	414	3,888	(152)	4,150	(799)
Valuation at end of year	62,628	37,881	16,185	116,694	114,941

Estates land and property valuations as at 31 July have been made by the College Land Agent, a Chartered Surveyor, in consultation with an independent firm of Chartered Surveyors, the basis of valuation being market valuation. In a small number of cases valuations have been made solely by the Land Agent, the basis of valuation being market valuation.

12 OTHER INVESTMENTS

All investments are held at fair value.

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Group investments		
Valuation at start of year	123,642	113,668
New money invested	5,115	3,577
Amounts withdrawn	(3,710)	(3,105)
Increase in value of investments	10,629	9,502
Group investments at end of year	135,676	123,642
Investment in subsidiaries	76	76
College investments at end of year	135,752	123,718

Group investments comprise:	Held outside the UK £'000	Held in the UK £'000	2017 Total £'000	Held outside the UK £'000	Held in the UK £'000	2016 Total £'000
Equity investments	-	60,794	60,794	-	52,830	52,830
Global multi-asset funds	-	26,984	26,984	-	24,246	24,246
Fixed interest stocks	-	11,112	11,112	-	11,047	11,047
Alternative and other investments	10,768	5,956	16,724	9,240	4,591	13,831
Fixed term deposits and cash	17,242	2,820	20,062	11,204	10,484	21,688
Total group investments	28,010	107,666	135,676	20,444	103,198	123,642

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

13 PARENT AND SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS

The College holds 100% of the issued share capital in Merton Enterprises Limited, a company providing conference and other services on the College premises.

The results and their assets and liabilities of the parent and subsidiary at the year end were as follows.

	Parent College	Merton Enterprises Ltd
	£'000	£'000
Income	13,102	337
Expenditure	(13,509)	(261)
Donation to College under gift aid	-	(76)
Result for the year	<u>(407)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total assets	276,069	285
Total liabilities	(4,018)	(209)
Net funds at the end of year	<u>272,051</u>	<u>76</u>

14 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT TOTAL RETURN

The Trustees have adopted a policy of total return accounting for the College general endowment investment returns with effect from 1 August 2013. The investment return to be applied as income is calculated as 3.5% of the average closing value of the investments in each of the last five years. The amount applied as income for spending is included within the income section of the SOFA on the basis that this gives a clearer understanding of the financial position of the College. The preserved value of the invested endowment capital represents its open market value in 2002 together with all subsequent endowments valued at the date of the gift.

	Trust for Investment £'000	General Endowment Unapplied Total Return £'000	Total £'000
At the beginning of the year:			
Gift component of the general endowment	88,957	-	88,957
Unapplied total return	-	124,197	124,197
Total General Endowment	88,957	124,197	213,154
Movements in the reporting period:			
Gift of endowment funds	-	-	-
Recoupment of trust for investment	-	-	-
Allocation from trust for investment	-	-	-
Investment return: total investment income	-	5,040	5,040
Investment return: realised and unrealised gains and losses	-	13,146	13,146
Less: Investment management costs	-	(941)	(941)
Other transfers	-	-	-
Total	-	17,245	17,245
Unapplied total return allocated to income in the reporting period	-	(6,620)	(6,620)
Net movements in reporting period	-	10,625	10,625
At end of the reporting period:			
Gift component of the permanent endowment	88,957	-	88,957
Unapplied total return	-	134,822	134,822
Total Endowments	88,957	134,822	223,779

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

15 DEBTORS

	2017 Group £'000	2016 Group £'000	2017 College £'000	2016 College £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Trade debtors	426	360	398	312
Amounts owed by College members	46	81	46	81
Amounts owed by Group undertakings	-	-	98	144
Loans repayable within one year	12	20	12	20
Prepayments and accrued income	1,241	1,013	1,241	1,013
Other debtors	4	4	4	4
Amounts falling due after more than one year:				
Loans	294	304	294	304
	2,023	1,782	2,093	1,878

16 CREDITORS: falling due within one year

	2017 Group £'000	2016 Group £'000	2017 College £'000	2016 College £'000
Trade creditors	662	276	662	276
Amounts owed to College Members	33	83	33	83
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	-	-	1	5
Taxation and social security	544	291	433	231
College contribution	210	220	210	220
Accruals and deferred income	681	579	681	579
Other creditors	214	207	214	207
	2,344	1,656	2,234	1,601

17 CREDITORS: falling due after more than one year

	2017 Group £'000	2016 Group £'000	2017 College £'000	2016 College £'000
Bank loans	-	4,000	-	4,000
	-	4,000	-	4,000

In December 2016 the College repaid the loan facility to Barclays Bank plc.

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

18 ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

	At 1 August 2016 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains/ (losses) £'000	At 31 July 2017 £'000
Endowment Funds - Permanent						
General Endowment	213,154	5,040	(941)	(6,620)	13,146	223,779
Fellowship Funds:						
Mark Reynolds History Fellow	1,740	1	-	-	115	1,856
Peter Braam Research Fellow	1,286	-	-	-	88	1,374
Jessica Rawson Modern Asian History Fellow	928	10	-	-	61	999
English Fellow	1,120	27	-	-	73	1,220
Chemistry Fellow	819	22	-	-	53	894
Philosophy Fellow	1,072	20	-	-	70	1,162
Law Fellow	361	96	-	-	21	478
Graduate Scholarship Funds:						
Ripplewood Japanese Scholar	577	-	-	-	40	617
Peter Braam Scholar	387	-	-	-	26	413
John Barton BCL Scholar	135	-	-	-	9	144
Christopher Duggan Scholar	-	456	-	-	7	463
Charles Manby Scholar	444	-	-	-	30	474
Moussouris Rhodes Scholar	789	-	-	-	53	842
Other	-	37	-	-	-	37
Student Support Funds:						
Taylor Family Foundation	356	250	-	-	30	636
Reed Directors of Music	696	-	-	-	46	742
Other	15	-	-	49	3	67
	223,879	5,959	(941)	(6,571)	13,871	236,197
Endowment Funds - Expendable						
Fellowship Funds:						
Dominic Welsh Mathematics Fellow	1,116	-	-	-	74	1,190
Douglas Algar Humanities Fellow	806	-	-	-	53	859
Economics Fellow	871	36	-	-	57	964
David Hay Medical Fellow	372	-	-	-	24	396
Christine Blackwell Fellow	1,664	-	-	-	104	1,768
Graduate Scholarship and Student Prize Funds:						
James Jackson Natural Sciences Scholar	739	-	-	-	56	795
David Stevens International Development Scholar	419	-	-	-	28	447
Merton Lawyers BCL/Mjur Scholar	355	-	-	-	23	378
Monica Barnett Law Scholar	151	-	-	-	10	161
John Moussouris Mathematics Scholar	604	-	-	-	40	644
Other	71	21	-	-	5	97
Student Support Funds:						
General Student Support	1,968	60	-	-	128	2,156
Howard Stringer Undergraduate Support	1,124	-	-	-	75	1,199
Undergraduate Student Support	319	193	-	-	23	535
John Roberts	522	4	-	-	34	560
Thomas Bowman	291	-	-	-	23	314
Gerald David Clayton	743	-	-	-	49	792
Choral Foundation	724	9	-	-	47	780
Compassionate Fund	323	-	-	-	22	345
Fitzhenry Biomedical Research Fund	135	-	-	-	10	145
Other Funds	267	-	-	-	18	285
	13,584	323	-	-	903	14,810
Total Endowment Funds	237,463	6,282	(941)	(6,571)	14,774	251,007
Restricted Funds						
Building Projects	61	121	(5)	-	-	177
Fellowship Funds	217	460	(421)	-	5	261
Graduate Scholarship and Student Prize Funds	490	259	(258)	(4)	-	487
Student Support Funds	178	204	(202)	-	-	180
Choir	6	84	(66)	-	-	24
Other Funds	168	194	(128)	-	-	234
Total Restricted Funds	1,120	1,322	(1,080)	(4)	5	1,363
Unrestricted Funds						
General funds	2,085	5,759	(11,770)	5,916	-	1,990
Fixed Asset Fund	18,372	-	-	659	-	19,031
Aidan Jenkins Graduate Scholarship Fund	444	-	-	-	-	444
Pension reserve	(1,805)	-	21	-	-	(1,784)
Total Unrestricted Funds	19,096	5,759	(11,749)	6,575	-	19,681
Total Funds	257,679	13,363	(13,770)	-	14,779	272,051

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

Comparative figures for the movement of funds are publically available on the College website in the 2016 financial statements (www.merton.ox.ac.uk/about/college-policies).

19 FUNDS OF THE COLLEGE DETAILS

The following is a summary of the origins and purposes of each of the Funds

Endowment Funds - Permanent:

General Endowment Fund	Corporate capital, including founder's capital, whose income may be spent for general purposes.
Fellowship, Graduate Scholarship, Student Support Funds and Reed Directors of Music	Donations made for perpetuity, whose income may be spent for the restricted purposes described.

Endowment Funds - Expendable:

Fellowship Funds	Donations made for the long term, whose income and capital may both be spent for the restricted purposes described.
Graduate Scholarship and Student Prize Funds:	
Student Support Funds	
Choral Foundation	
Compassionate Fund	
Fitzhenry Biomedical Research Fund	

Restricted Funds:

Building Projects	Donations made for specific College building projects before completion. Funds are transferred to the Building Project Fund within Unrestricted Funds once the building has been completed.
--------------------------	---

Fellowship Funds

Graduate Scholarships and Student Prize Funds	Unspent income generated from the permanent and expendable endowments above and donations made for restricted purposes which the trustees may spend at their discretion.
Student Support Funds	
Choir	

The General Unrestricted Funds represent accumulated income from the College's activities and other sources that are available for the general purposes of the College.

The Fixed Asset Fund represents the original cost less accumulated depreciation of the College's fixed assets.

The Aidan Jenkins Graduate Scholarship Fund represents an unrestricted donation received and designated by the Trustees for a graduate scholarship.

20 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2017 Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	19,031	-	-	19,031
Property investments	-	-	116,694	116,694
Other investments	-	1,363	134,313	135,676
Net current assets	2,434	-	-	2,434
Long term liabilities	(1,784)	-	-	(1,784)
	19,681	1,363	251,007	272,051
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2016 Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	18,372	-	-	18,372
Property investments	-	-	114,941	114,941
Other investments	-	1,120	122,522	123,642
Net current assets	6,529	-	-	6,529
Long term liabilities	(5,805)	-	-	(5,805)
	19,096	1,120	237,463	257,679

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

21 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

The Trustees of the College are the members of the Governing Body, primarily those Fellows who are employed to undertake teaching and research and who sit on Governing Body by virtue of their employment.

No Fellow receives any remuneration for acting as a Trustee. However, those Fellows who are also employees of the College receive salaries in respect of their employment. In the case of teaching and research posts, salaries are set with reference to pay scales applying nationally within the higher education sector and within the University of Oxford. Salaries are determined in all cases by the Governing Body on the basis of recommendations made by the remuneration committee, whose composition is described in the Annual Report of the Governing Body.

Trustees of the College fall into the following categories:

- (i) The Warden, who is the Head of College and chairs meetings of the Governing Body and its committees;
- (ii) Official Fellows, who are elected to the office of Tutor, Bursar, Librarian, Chaplain, Development Director or other office of the College;
- (iii) Professorial Fellows, who are senior members of the University of Oxford;
- (iv) Fixed-term research Fellows, who may be either junior career-development employees of the College, or senior academics who are not employed by the College.

College Officers and career-development research Fellows may be accommodated by the College. 32 Fellows were accommodated in houses, flats or rooms owned by the College during the year. Fellows who are eligible for accommodation but who are not accommodated are paid a housing allowance, which is included within the salary figures below.

Some Fellows receive allowances for work carried out as part-time College Officers, including the Sub Warden, student disciplinary officer and research supervisor. These amounts are included within the remuneration figures below.

The total remuneration and taxable benefits included below is £1,895k (2016 £1,802k). The total of pension contributions is £266k (2016 £268k).

Remuneration paid to trustees

Range	Number of Trustees/Fellows	2017	Number of Trustees/Fellows	2016
		Gross remuneration, taxable benefits and pension contributions £		Gross remuneration, taxable benefits and pension contributions £
£0-£999	1	200	-	-
£1,000-£1,999	1	1,134	-	-
£2,000-£2,999	-	-	3	8,294
£3,000-£3,999	1	3,322	2	6,679
£4,000-£4,999	2	9,044	1	4,722
£6,000-£6,999	1	6,342	1	6,300
£7,000-£7,999	2	15,490	1	7,424
£8,000-£8,999	1	8,644	2	16,858
£13,000-£13,999	-	-	1	13,782
£14,000-£14,999	2	29,441	1	14,334
£15,000-£15,999	5	77,351	5	77,420
£16,000-£16,999	4	65,487	3	49,822
£17,000-£17,999	1	17,163	-	-
£18,000-£18,999	1	18,501	1	18,568
£19,000-£19,999	1	19,015	1	19,918
£20,000-£20,999	2	40,858	1	20,537
£21,000-£21,999	-	-	2	43,546
£22,000-£22,999	2	44,218	2	44,472
£23,000-£23,999	2	47,068	3	70,235
£24,000-£24,999	1	24,172	2	48,957
£25,000-£25,999	1	25,028	1	25,884
£26,000-£26,999	-	-	3	79,920
£27,000-£27,999	3	82,984	-	-
£28,000-£28,999	-	-	1	28,142
£29,000-£29,999	-	-	1	29,370
£31,000-£31,999	-	-	2	62,705
£32,000-£32,999	2	64,265	-	-
£33,000-£33,999	1	33,611	1	33,709
£34,000-£34,999	1	34,389	-	-
£35,000-£35,999	-	-	1	35,827
£36,000-£36,999	1	36,803	-	-
£38,000-£38,999	1	38,343	1	38,478
£39,000-£39,999	2	79,423	-	-
£45,000-£45,999	1	45,506	1	45,803
£46,000-£46,999	1	46,916	1	46,524
£47,000-£47,999	1	47,792	-	-
£48,000-£48,999	-	-	2	96,987
£49,000-£49,999	1	49,676	-	-
£50,000-£50,999	-	-	1	50,214
£51,000-£51,999	1	51,576	-	-
£55,000-£55,999	1	55,840	1	55,002
£56,000-£56,999	2	112,960	1	56,997
£57,000-£57,999	1	57,533	-	-
£61,000-£61,999	-	-	1	61,541
£62,000-£62,999	1	62,599	1	62,516
£63,000-£63,999	-	-	1	63,398
£65,000-£65,999	1	65,163	-	-

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

£72,000-£72,999	-	-	1	72,892
£76,000-£76,999	1	76,177	-	-
£82,000-£82,999	-	-	1	82,993
£85,000-£85,999	-	-	1	85,462
£87,000-£87,999	1	87,962	-	-
£88,000-£88,999	1	88,412	-	-
£90,000-£90,999	1	90,744	-	-
£93,000-£93,999	-	-	1	93,026
£120,000-£120,999	1	120,959	1	120,037
£121,000-£121,999	-	-	1	121,065
£125,000-£125,999	1	125,875	-	-
£150,000-£150,999	-	-	1	150,104
£152,000-£152,999	1	152,606	-	-

15 Fellows were not employed by the College during the year and did not receive any remuneration. All Fellows, and all permanent employees of the College, are eligible for private health insurance. All Fellows may take meals in College, together with all employees, who are entitled to take meals while working.

Trustee expenses

No Fellow claimed any expenses for work as a trustee.

Other transactions with trustees

See note 28 Related Party Transactions.

Key management remuneration

The total remuneration paid to key management, including employer's national insurance contributions, was £2,352k (2016: £2,232k).

Key management are considered to be the Trustees of the College.

22 PENSION SCHEME PROVISIONS

The College is a member of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and University of Oxford Staff Pension Scheme (OSPS). These are multi-employer pension schemes both of which are in deficit. The College has recognised a provision for its commitments under the agreed deficit reduction plans for each scheme, in calculating these provisions the College has estimated that salary expense will increase at 2.5% p.a. and the liability is discounted at a 15 year corporate bond rate of 1.9% (2016: 3.25%).

Pension Schemes

The College participates in two principal pension schemes for its staff - the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and the University of Oxford Staff Pension Scheme (OSPS). The schemes are contributory defined benefit schemes (i.e. they provide benefits based on length of service and pensionable salary) and until April 2016 were contracted out from the State Second Pension Scheme. The assets of USS and OSPS are each held in separate trustee-administered funds. The schemes are multi-employer schemes and the College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of each scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, in accordance with the accounting standard FRS 102 paragraph 28.11, the College accounts for the schemes as if they were defined contribution schemes. As a result, the amount charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the schemes in respect of the accounting period.

In the event of the withdrawal of any of the participating employers in USS, the amount of any pension funding shortfall (which cannot be otherwise recovered) in respect of that employer will be spread across the remaining participating employers and reflected in the next actuarial valuation of the scheme.

However, in OSPS the amount of any pension funding shortfall in respect of any withdrawing participating employer will be charged to that employer.

The College has made available the National Employment Savings Trust for non-employees who are eligible under automatic enrolment regulations to pension benefits.

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

Actuarial Valuations

Qualified actuaries periodically value the USS and OSPS schemes using the 'projected unit method', embracing a market value approach. The resulting levels of contribution take account of actuarial surpluses or deficits in each scheme. The financial assumptions were derived from market conditions prevailing at the valuation date. The results of the latest actuarial valuations and the assumptions which have the most significant effect on the results of the latest valuations and the determination of the contribution levels are for the two schemes shown in the following table.

	USS	OSPS
Date of valuation:	31/03/14	31/03/16
Date valuation results published:	24/07/15	28/04/17
Value of liabilities:	£46.9bn	£661m
Value of assets:	£41.6bn	£528m
Funding surplus / (deficit):	(£5.3bn) (a)	(£133m) (b)
Principal assumptions:		
Investment return	5.2% pa (c)	-
Rate of interest (periods up to retirement)	-	'Gilts' + 1.2%pa
Rate of interest (periods up after retirement)	-	'Gilts' + 1.2%pa
Rate of increase in salaries	RPI + 1%pa (d)	RPI + 1%pa
Rate of increase in pensions	CPI pa (d)	Average RPI/CPI pa
Mortality assumptions:		
Assumed life expectancy at age 65 (males)	24.2 yrs	22.4 yrs
Assumed life expectancy at age 65 (females)	26.3 yrs	24.7 yrs
Funding Ratios:		
Technical provisions basis	89%	80%
Statutory Pension Protection Fund basis	82%	67%
'Buy-out' basis	54%	42%
Estimated FRS 102 Total Funding level	77%	82%
Recommended employer's contribution rate (as % of pensionable salaries):	18% (e)	23% decreasing to 19% from 01/08/17 (f)
Effective date of next valuation:	31/03/17	31/03/19

a. USS's actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2014 takes into account the revised benefit structure effective 1 April 2016 agreed both by the Joint Negotiating Committee and the Trustee in July 2015 following the Employers' consultation which concluded in June 2015. Key changes agreed include: for Final Salary section members, the benefits built up to 31 March 2016 will be calculated as at that date using pensionable salary and pensionable service immediately prior to that date and going forwards will be revalued in line with increases in official pensions (currently CPI); all members will accrue a pension of 1/75th and a cash lump sum of 3/75ths of salary each year of service in respect of salary up to a salary threshold, initially £55,000 p.a., with the threshold applying from 1 October 2016; member contributions will be 8% of salary; a defined contribution benefit for salary in excess of the salary threshold at the total level of 20% of salary in excess of the salary threshold; and optional additional contributions payable into the defined contribution section from 1 October 2016 of which the first 1% of salary is to be matched by employer contributions. Further details about the changes may be reviewed on USS' website, www.uss.co.uk. For the period up to 1 April 2016 the employer deficit contribution was 0.7% p.a. of salaries based on the assumptions made. After allowing for those changes, the actuary established a long term employer contribution rate of 18% pa of salaries for the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2031. On the assumptions made and with the salary threshold and defined contribution section implemented this gives rise to deficit contributions of at least 2.1% p.a. of salaries. At 31 March 2016 USS reported that the funding deficit had increased to £10.0 bn (83% funded). The valuation as at 31 March 2017 is underway.

b. OSPS' actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2016 identified a required long-term employer contribution rate of 17.3% of total pensionable salaries, with a funding deficit of £133 m. The valuation results reflect a number of changes to benefits that were agreed following an Employers' consultation in early 2017, including from 1 April 2017 a change in indexation based on the average of RPI and CPI, from 1 October 2017 a defined contribution section for new entrants and from 1 April 2018 breaking the final salary link for certain members and increased employee contributions. The actuary has certified that the recovery plan should eliminate the deficit by 30 June 2027. The next triennial valuation is due with an effective date of 31 March 2019.

c. USS' actuary has assumed that the investment return is 5.2% in year 1, decreasing linearly to 4.7% over 20 years.

d. USS' actuary has assumed that general pay growth will be CPI in year 1, CPI + 1% in year 2 and RPI + 1% pa thereafter. It is assumed that CPI is based on the RPI assumption (market derived price inflation of 3.6% p.a less an inflation risk premium) less RPI/CPI gap of 0.8% p.a.

e. As noted above (note a) the USS employer contribution rate is 18% of salaries from 1 April 2016. Prior to that date it was 16% of salaries. The total employer contributions include provisions for the cost of future accrual of defined benefits (DB) (net of member contributions to the DB section), deficit contributions, administrative expenses of 0.4% of salaries and from the implementation of the salary threshold the employer contribution towards defined contribution benefits including employer matching contributions and certain investment management costs relating to the DC section.

f. As noted above (note b), the OSPS employer contribution rate required for future service benefits in the defined benefit section alone is 17.3% of total pensionable salaries from 1 April 2018. The employer contribution rate was 23% from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017. It was agreed that the employer contribution rate would be 19% for both defined benefits members and defined contributions members who join on or after 1 October 2017. Part of the contribution for defined contribution members would be paid to the defined benefit section to cover the deficit recovery plan, the provision of ill-health and death-in service benefits and the expenses of administering the defined contribution section.

Sensitivity of actuarial valuation assumptions

Surpluses or deficits which arise at future valuations may impact on the College's future contribution commitment. The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

Assumption	US\$ Change in assumption	Impact on US\$ liabilities
Initial discount rate	increase / reduce by 0.25%	decrease / increase by £0.8bn
Discount rate in 20 years' time	increase / reduce by 0.25%	decrease / increase by £1.1bn
RPI inflation	increase / reduce by 0.1%	increase / decrease by £0.8bn
Rate of mortality	more prudent assumption (mortality used at last valuation, rated down by a further year)	increase by £0.5bn

Assumption	OSPS Change in assumption	Impact on OSPS technical provisions (from 80% funded at 31/03/16)
Valuation rate of interest	decrease by 1.0%	68%
Rate of pension increases	increase by 1.0%	69%
Life expectancy	more prudent assumption (life expectancy increases by 3 years)	72%

Deficit Recovery Plans

In line with FRS 102 paragraph 28.11A, the College has recognised a liability for the contributions payable for the agreed deficit funding plan. The principal assumptions used in these calculations are tabled below:

	OSPS	US\$
Finish Date for Deficit Recovery Plan	30/06/27	31/03/31
Average staff number increase	nil	nil
Average staff salary increase	3.00%	2.50%
Average discount rate over period	1.55%	1.90%
Effect of 0.5% change in discount rate	£1.4m	£5.8m
Effect of 1% change in staff growth	£2.9m	£12.5m

An OSPS provision of £1,299k has been made at 31 July 2017 (2016 - £1,335k) for the present value of the estimated future deficit funding element of the contributions payable under this agreement, using the assumptions shown.

A US\$ provision of £485k has been made at 31 July 2017 (2016 - £470k) for the present value of the estimated future deficit funding element of the contributions payable under this agreement, using the assumptions shown.

Pension charge for the year

The pension charge recorded by the College during the accounting period was as follows:

Scheme	2017 £000's	2016 £000's
Universities Superannuation Scheme:		
Continuing charges	291	279
Pension provision change	(1)	(45)
University of Oxford Staff Pension Scheme:		
Continuing charges	549	512
Pension provision change	(79)	(127)
Other schemes – contributions	10	9
Total	770	628

A copy of the full actuarial valuation report and other further details on the scheme are available on the relevant website: www.uss.co.uk , www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/epp/pensions/schemes/osps.

23 TAXATION

The College is able to take advantage of the tax exemptions available to charities from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income and gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No liability to corporation tax arises in the College's subsidiary company because the directors of this company have indicated that they intend to make donations each year to the College equal to the taxable profits of the company under the Gift Aid scheme. Accordingly no provision for taxation has been included in the financial statements.

Merton College
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 July 2017

24 RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS

	2017 Group £'000	2016 Group £'000
Net income	(407)	477
Elimination of non-operating cash flows:		
Investment income	(5,976)	(5,778)
Endowment donations	(1,242)	(1,381)
Depreciation	1,032	1,013
Loss on sale of fixed assets	2	8
Decrease/(Increase) in stock	(19)	(20)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(241)	(153)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	688	341
(Decrease)/Increase in pension scheme liability	(21)	(109)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(6,184)</u>	<u>(5,602)</u>

25 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	2,462	6,129
Endowment assets cash	20,062	21,688
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>22,524</u>	<u>27,817</u>

26 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 July the College had no annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases.

27 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The College had contracted commitments at 31 July for future capital projects totalling £127k (2016 - £994k).

28 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The College is part of the collegiate University of Oxford. Material interdependencies between the University and the College arise as a consequence of this relationship. For reporting purposes, the University and the other Colleges are not treated as related parties as defined in FRS8 ("Related party disclosures"). Members of the Governing Body, who are the trustees of the College and related parties as defined by FRS 8, receive remuneration and facilities as employees of the College. Details of these payments and reimbursed expenses as trustees are disclosed separately in these financial statements. The following trustees had mortgage loans outstanding from the College at the start and/or end of the year.

	2017 £'000	2016 £'000
Professor J Armitage	0	9
Professor M Kim	278	278
Dr J Walworth	19	22

Interest is charged on the above loans at either 75% of the Santander mortgage rate for existing borrowers, or at a maximum of 1% above the base lending rate of Barclays Bank plc. All loans are repayable within 20 years or immediately in full when the Fellow demits from office, if earlier. The College has ceased to make loans on these terms.

The College has made equity housing loans to the following Fellows who are employees on the basis the capital sums repayable are linked to the value of the property on which the loan is secured. These loans are repayable in full when the Fellow demits from office and are classified as property investments in the balance sheet.

	2017	2016
Mr J Gloag	60	60
Dr P Thornton	360	360
Dr M Whitworth	155	155

29 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There are no obligations arising from events occurring before the date of the balance sheet whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of events not wholly within the College's control.

30 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There are no material events occurring after the date of the balance sheet where disclosure is deemed to contribute to a proper understanding of the financial position.