

Ollie Bartlett (2008-2015)

During my seven years at Trevs, I completed three law degrees – an LLB, an MJur, and a PhD. However, I took far more away from Trevs than just academic qualifications. Confidence, self-awareness, an understanding of purpose and responsibility, the ability to talk to just about anyone... these are just some of the gifts that Trevs gave me, and which have shaped my career, and my life. Of course, the biggest gift of all was meeting my wife in my final year – we shared a wonderful year in Trevs, before starting the next chapter of life together. Looking back, this is what strikes me most about the college – the companionship and sense of belonging was so strong amongst Trevs students that it was almost impossible not to form lasting and meaningful relationships while you were there. Some of that was, for sure, down to the closeness – physical and emotional – fostered by the unique and delightful college buildings, events, and traditions. However, most of it can be attributed to the type of people who took the plunge and made Trevs their home for the three or four (or more!) years of their degree. I always maintained that, no matter how many groups of freshers came and went around me, Trevs was defined by its people – thus, as the years went by, Trevs continued to feel comfortably familiar (a great help when in the final throes of thesis writing!) but at the same time always seemed to feel fresh and vibrant. One thing never changed though, irrespective of who passed through the doors – the belief and dedication of every Trevelyanite to a college spirit that stood for fellowship, generosity, and the desire to be the best version of yourself possible. I certainly feel that Trevs drew out the best of me. My peers did me the honour of electing me to the position of JCR President, and then MCR President. Serving my fellow Trevelyanites in this way opened my eyes to the brilliance of everything that university students can be, and taught me skills that I continue to use every day in my career. I worked Trevs Bar for several years, played for several Trevs sports teams, took part in three Trevs Musicals, and became a College Mentor during my PhD years. Some of the best experiences weren't to be found in a club or society setting – a laugh and a couple of pints in the college bar of an evening, a chilled-out game of cards on the back lawn in the weekend sunshine, a heartfelt conversation on the walk down the hill to lectures... all were equally rewarding parts of throwing yourself into college life. Of course, all of these things were enormous fun, but they were also hugely formative – I left Trevs a truly changed individual. At the time, I felt that the fun of taking part and giving to the college and to your friendships was the goal, which is why I tried to do as much of it as possible. Now, I realise that what Trevs gave to me was just as, if not more important. I encourage all future Trevelyanites to do the same – coming to this special place, and immersing yourself in its community, is a transformative experience that I would gladly wish upon anyone.