



HOMERTON  
CHANGEMAKERS

**Summer School 29 Sep-5 Oct  
Summary and Observations**





## From Students: Outcomes

**Confidence, communication, impact, awareness** and **inspiration** are the keywords in the student feedback.

*Beyond my expectation!.. I was going to treat it as a week of self-reflection, looking at the type of person I'd like to become and what career I'd like to do. Not only was this fulfilled, I was able to implement this new mindset into intriguing and interesting discussions.*

*I feel I've been empowered on this programme to continue my journey in life with a changemaker mindset. I feel I've acquired a changemaker pair of glasses to continue life with, and continue my career.*

*mostly my awareness has been raised... I have a lot to think about and reflect, especially in learning lessons from previous experiences.*

*Its about far more than you making a massive difference: it's about you becoming a better person...*

*It was incredibly inspiring, empowering, connecting, whilst promoting a deep introspection.*

*Although I have rated myself quite lowly on some of those qualities [resilience etc] Changemakers has put me onto a path of find my source of self confidence and therefore my voice.*

*[I'm] more confident in meeting new people and trying new things.*

*..dealing with procrastination, developing personal markers of success, understanding personality and skill traits better*

For many students the week was unexpectedly and profoundly **enlightening** - as structured self-reflection met with team-work, project completion, interdisciplinary conversations and in-depth encounters with research. Working with students from across the college was a particularly welcome aspect, especially for part-time graduate students who felt it was a new level of integration into college life. And 80% of students named specific challenges that Summer School had helped them deal with: from **leadership** and communications to workload management, **finding a voice**, & **career** envisaging.



## From Students: Motivations

Students were asked to outline their reasons for wanting to join Summer School as part of the application process in July

*I want to step out of my comfort zone. Throughout my degree I have come to realize that this is the scenario when I feel most alive (PhD, Theoretical Physics)*

*I know my weaknesses... I hope that taking part in the summer school will help me develop into a more personable leader and help me manage the perfectionism that oftentimes causes me to prioritise ineffectively (UG, English)*

*...to emerge from the Changemakers program as a more developed person and to have obtained skills not covered by a traditional Cambridge degree (UG History)*

*Learning how to act pragmatically in an environment in which I do not have a huge amount of experience, from people who are experts within this field, is something that will undoubtedly be invaluable to me at this stage in my life (UG Law)*

*Like many students, I am unclear on which field I will enter into after university... the basis of the programme in the current global climate, especially considering the 4th industrial revolution and climate change, is another reason I am writing to apply. Knowing how to act, and how to maximise our performances in such an unprecedented time is essential for any successful career. (UG Music)*

*..there seems now to be an opportunity which can bridge the gap between my education and my (future) achievements, light up the darkness of my confusion, and show me the way of wielding my theoretical strength, and that is Changemakers. What I hope to learn is, in a word, a map, which shows me the path to use my Cambridge degree. (UG Land Economy)*

*.. to widen the skills of students so that they are more prepared for a world in which academic excellence is a necessary, but not a sufficient condition (UG NatSci)*

*I want to invest in developing my leadership, innovation and management skills.. to get some real perspective on how to make a difference. (PhD Toxicology)*



# Summer School by Numbers

- 50 students - 38 undergrads & 12 postgrads - from 24 disciplines
- 10 post-doc/Phd tutors; 10 faculty and guest mentors
- 1 head of evaluation; 1 strategic advisor, 1 Programme lead; 2 assistants; & 1 Academic Director
- 11 Big View Sessions; 2 'In Conversations'; 2 Atelier Dinners; 10 workshops; 8 Tools Sessions; 1 Field Trip; 1 Film Screening; 50 one-to-one coaching sessions
- 640 student hours (16 hrs for 40 students in 9 small groups) of facilitated work on the 'Changemaker Initiative': applying Systems Thinking and tools learned during the week to develop a solution-orientated project - presented to the entire group
- 13 coffee breaks, 7 lunches, 6 dinners, 1 formal hall
- 57 documents, 27000 words, 1 Slack Channel, 175 scholarly references
- approx, £47000, @ £940 per student (accommodation, catering, teaching, materials, film and photography, field trip)



For us this is a testament to the **pertinent**, **timely** and **compelling** nature of Changemaker, both as a big idea and a specific summer school programme.

On the basis of feedback collected via interview, survey & anecdote, and our increased capacity to deliver c/o accrued and resources, improvements for next year will include:

- more hands-on sessions
- more opportunities for informal meeting and conversation
- more time to reflect, including daily, structured feedback, then collated at the end of the week for each student
- pre-session e-introductions and small-group work
- a follow up workshop and initiative fund to which students can apply.

More immediately, following this intense start-up phase **we now have:**

- an evaluation and assessment plan; protocols for recruiting tutors and faculty; methods for teaching core elements including systems thinking and the change initiative



- a library of teaching materials, and references and resources across the four pillars of leadership, resilience, enterprise and responsibility
- a growing network of people who wish to support the work - through mentoring, advising on start ups, perhaps cash
- a student mail list and Ambassadors Group (meeting termly)

Stage 1 of Changemaker is complete. Our work now is to align our regular termly programme with our larger strategy; to integrate Changemaker principles across the college's teaching and research; and to develop an even more effective, more focused pedagogy that links a student's Tripos work with the attribute-oriented teaching we offer in Changemaker.