Lucy Cavendish College is one of the thirty-one constituent colleges of the University of Cambridge. It is also one of the newest, and least well known. In the five decades since Lucy Cavendish was founded, however, both the college and the many women who have studied there have been transformed in ways few people would suspect.

Here are ten facts about Lucy Cavendish College that you might not know.
Pioneers in women’s education

1. We are the only women’s college in Europe for students aged twenty-one and over

Lucy Cavendish is a unique part of the University of Cambridge; our undergraduates and postgraduates experience a great global institution at a warm, human scale.

2. We are subject-leading

We take applicants for all the courses on offer at the University of Cambridge, and our research students work at the cutting edge of everything from linguistics to engineering. At undergraduate level, we are particularly strong in medicine, veterinary medicine, English, social and political sciences, psychology and law.

3. We are as radical now as we were in the 1960s

The College was founded in 1965 to increase the opportunities available for women to work and study at the highest level. We remain committed to that mission today.

4. We help women fulfil their potential and their aspirations

Call centre supervisor turned lawyer. Banker turned medievalist. Keyboardist turned physician. We have contributed to the success of some of the most talented, motivated and interesting women around.

5. Our student body is truly international

Our three hundred and sixty undergraduates and postgraduates come from six continents and sixty-one countries. We play host to many visiting students and academics, too.

6. We celebrate creativity and achievements

We promote fiction by unpublished writers, and run conferences and festivals dedicated to the achievements of women in the arts, professions and public sphere, as well as events showcasing research by our community.

7. We welcome students whatever their background

Each year, at least a third of our first-time undergraduates come with Access Diplomas and comparable qualifications, rather than A-levels. A third of all our students receive financial support from Lucy Cavendish.

8. We show it’s never too late to learn something new

The majority of our students are in their twenties, but we also regularly accept women in their thirties, forties, and beyond.

9. We are a college for life

We are in touch with over two thousand alumnae, many of whom are trailblazers in their fields. Our honorary fellows include HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and Dame Judi Dench; the College President, Jackie Ashley, is a well known journalist and political commentator.

10. Our facilities are one of the best kept secrets in town

The College Library provides more space, per undergraduate, than any other in Cambridge. Our beautiful gardens are fully open to students, staff and alumnae: there are no ‘keep off the grass’ signs at Lucy Cavendish.