

Dear Freshers,

Congratulations on getting here! Getting into Oxford has probably been a rollercoaster so far, but now that the seemingly never-ending wait until results day is over, you can finally breathe a sigh of relief and be proud of your accomplishments. And, most importantly, you can start truly feeling excited about coming to New College! You have an absolutely incredible year ahead of you, and the JCR committee and I are so excited to welcome you to New College and to help you make the best of it.

The Junior Common Room, or JCR, is the name given to the entire undergraduate body, as well as our physical common room within college - it might seem pretty confusing at first, and is only the first in a very long list of Oxford jargon that no-one outside the university ever uses (plodge, collections, vac... the list goes on), but don't worry, you'll get used to it all in no time. The JCR committee is made up of around 30 elected students, and we represent your interests and help bring your concerns to college staff, as well as organise events that you can all enjoy and that help make your life while at university that little bit easier and more enjoyable. Ranging from welfare activities like welfare tea and picnics, to more social events like bops (college theme parties) and pub quizzes, and even to creative activities like Arts Week in Trinity term and the Christmas pantomime, there is always something going on and if you have an idea for an event that isn't already being planned, you can always bring it up in JCR meetings and get some funding to put it on!

Before I give you some more (unsolicited) advice, just a quick reminder to join the New College JCR [Facebook Group](#) and follow our [Instagram](#)! Information about events and other things going on in and around College will be mostly communicated there. Also, make sure to thoroughly read the **Freshers Guide**. I know it's quite a long document but it will put you up to speed with everything you need to know before getting here, and should also help calm your nerves a little!

Hopefully, you're excited about coming to Oxford. You're also probably incredibly nervous and that's totally normal! You'll shortly be packing up your entire life into a few suitcases and moving halfway across the country (or even the world!), only to be greeted by strangers and having to learn how to live on your own. No-one expects you to hit the ground running, and the best advice I can give you is to genuinely try to embrace it all: while pursuing your academic goals, throw yourself at as many new hobbies and experiences as you can, take every opportunity you're presented with, and keep an open mind. University really becomes what you make of it, and the more you put yourself out there, the more you'll get out of the entire experience and your interactions with those around you.

College will be, for the most part, the centre of your social life, and you've definitely chosen the best one. New is one of the most beautiful colleges in Oxford (I spent the entirety of Michaelmas just wandering around, in awe at the fact that I actually get to live here), and the university experience here is almost surreal. Even though we have quite a large undergraduate cohort, everyone is really friendly and welcoming, and you'll have lots of opportunities to get involved in college life: we have plenty of sports teams for amateurs and experts alike, a Greek play, music and choral performances, bops, garden parties, and so many more.

I know this has been quite long so thanks for taking the time to read it all! If you have any questions at all, please do send me or anyone on committee an email or Facebook message - we're all here to support you, especially during Freshers' Week. Our Freshers' team has put together such an amazing schedule, with a toga party, karaoke, and the iconic Freshers' bop (get your best granny costumes ready!), and I'm sure you'll have a great time. Even so, it's going to be quite an intense week, so don't be afraid to take some time off if you need it. And always know that we're here if you need to talk to someone or just need some advice!

I'm looking forward to meeting you all in a few weeks' time, and until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

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