Dear New College MCR Freshers of 2024,

Welcome to New College! The Middle Common Room (MCR) will be at the heart of your college community. I am so excited to be able to greet you all as you start this new stage of your life. As our newest members, I really hope you feel welcome here where you are sure to create many long-lasting memories.

New College is certainly not new, and you are now part of one of the oldest and most beautiful colleges in Oxford! The College was founded in 1379 by William of Wykeham and our college motto – which you will surely hear and see many times around College – is “Manners Makyth Man”. Putting my partiality aside, New College is not just special for its old age and many anecdotes, but our motto really does speak to the welcoming space we are lucky to have here.

The New College MCR is a student-run community for all graduate students at the college. As you will soon find, the MCR is a key part of the graduate Oxford experience. It is both a community and a physical space (located at the Weston Buildings and open 24/7, 365 days of the year). Our MCR consists of about 380 members and we are privileged to have people from a plethora of disciplines. Personally, I have made friends and had conversations here that have broadened my understanding of the world and challenged my existing ideas.

We are one of the most active MCR’s in Oxford and run a large number of events in all three terms. These include “BOPs” (Oxford parties), formal dinners, a termly salon, exchange dinners with other colleges, our staple whiskey and write event, wine tastings, competitive and recreational sports, artistic and cultural events, and much more! At these events you will get to interact with a wide range of students both from in and out of college. Our MCR at Weston is also specially equipped with free coffee during term, sports equipment for football/cricket (during winter) and tennis/badminton/punting (during summer), a squash court, and as many will later be thankful for - the rowing machines are also located at Weston. Moreover, we have a conveniently located on-site venue at New College, the South Undercroft, that is yours to use. Its through these activities and spaces you can meet our impressive and diverse community, amass new experiences, tap into intellectual conversations and make life-long friends.

I would also recommend exploring the many college and university wide societies, especially those you haven’t done before. Oxford is really special place in having many interesting and diverse people from across the globe who are pursuing a wide range of interests. Here, there is the opportunity to really expand your intellectual and recreational passions.

Our MCR provides numerous resources for mental, emotional, and academic welfare. There can be many ups and downs in your journey at Oxford, so please know that our welfare representatives and representatives for various identity groups are all here to help you navigate your experiences. As you will likely find, WhatsApp is the primary communication tool in Oxford and you will soon be invited to join our MCR group chat. Please do also make sure to join our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/238643112851948/) and to follow our [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/newcollegemcr/?hl=en)!

I know that however you got here, New College is sure to be a special and important experience. I am excited to see you soon and welcome you to our community!

Miriam Yakobashvili

MCR President 2024–2025,

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