

ST PETER'S COLLEGE

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From Dr Adam Kirrande

Professor of Physical & Theoretical Chemistry and Fellow in Chemistry, St Peter's College July 18, 2023

Dear Chemistry Fresher,

Congratulations on achieving your grades, and your place to read Chemistry at St Peter's College! I am writing to give you some information relevant to this course before you arrive.

In your First Year, you will be taking Inorganic Chemistry; Organic Chemistry; Physical Chemistry; and Mathematics for Chemistry. Some information about these courses can be found at <https://www.chem.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-study> and <https://www.chem.ox.ac.uk/coursestructure>. I would encourage you to look at these websites to familiarise yourself with the course.

Over the summer vacation, it is important that you spend some time to revise and consolidate your A-level work. This includes all of your subjects, *i.e.* chemistry and mathematics, and physics and/or biology if you took them. Your first tutorial will be in organic chemistry, and you will ease your first week in Oxford by revising your organic chemistry. For this, you might find the opening chapters of "*Organic Chemistry*" by Jonathan Clayden, Nick Greeves, Stuart Warren, and Peter Wothers useful. You may also look at the "*Foundations of Organic Chemistry*" primer by Michael Hornby and Josephine Peach. It is also a good idea to look at the Oxford Chemistry Primer on "*Foundations of Physical Chemistry: Worked Examples*" by Nathan Lawrence, Jay Wadhawan and Richard Compton, and "*Foundations of Science Mathematics*" by D. S. Silvia and S. G. Rawlings. Fluency in mathematics will help you throughout your course in Oxford and should not be overlooked. Finally, reading in inorganic chemistry can be found in "*Inorganic Chemistry*" by Weller, Overton, Rourke & Armstrong (Oxford University Press, 7th edition, chapters 1 Atomic Structure; 2 Molecular Structure and Bonding; 4 The Structure of Simple Solids; 9 Periodic Trends). Also, please learn the first 18 elements of the Periodic Table!

In addition to this chemistry related work, I would like you to complete the enclosed short questionnaire concerning study skills; it is important that you spend some time thinking about your study habits, and come to Oxford prepared to consolidate your strengths and improve in any areas that you feel you may be weaker. Spending some time reading about "How to Study" might seem to be unnecessary, but anything which helps you study more efficiently when at university is very valuable.

I trust that you will enjoy your summer, and I look forward to meeting you in October! Should you have any queries before then, please feel free to contact me at the address above.

Yours Sincerely,
Adam Kirrande