

ST PETER'S COLLEGE

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From Professor Adam Kirrander and Professor Matthew Fuchter (Chemistry Fellows at St Peter's College)
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Dear Chemistry Fresher,

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

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

Over the summer vacation, it is important that you revise and consolidate your A-level (or corresponding) work. This includes all 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 is essential and will help you throughout your course in Oxford. *It 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, we 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. The course in Oxford is rewarding, but also intense and challenging.

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

Yours Sincerely,
Adam Kirrander and Matt Fuchter