

The Freshers' Guide 2026

St Peter's College, Oxford

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE STARTING IN OCTOBER!

Welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS! All your hard work has paid off and you've made it! I hope you can rest easy now the burden of results has been lifted - you deserve it! We can't wait to welcome you to Peter's in October, and I hope you're excited about starting this new chapter, but there's no getting away from it, starting uni is a pretty universally nerve-wracking experience! So, if you're feeling nervous, rest assured that's completely normal, and everyone will be experiencing similar feelings!

We've created this guide to help try to allay some of the nerves by showing a little bit of what life is like at Peter's and demystifying some of the more unique aspects of Oxford life. Peter's is widely considered one of the friendliest colleges (which I can wholeheartedly confirm) - you'll be joining a super supportive and welcoming student body! This guide will also introduce to your 26/27 JCR Committee (I'll also explain what the 'JCR' is in a few pages time!). Along with a team of dedicated Freshers' Helpers, we will be communicating with you prior to your arrival in Oxford, running Freshers' Week, and acting as a support network for you as you settle into uni life!

My biggest piece of advice right now would be to read through this guide and keep checking your emails - you will most likely be hearing from college, your tutors and us over the course of the next few weeks with lots of info about starting in October. Please also join the Freshers' WhatsApp group - we'll be using it all throughout Freshers' to communicate with you about events (and for the rest of the year!)

BIG PETER'S LOVE!

- Emma, JCR Vice-Pres

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(Words/phrases with an asterisk* throughout the handbook are explained in the [Glossary!](#))

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The JCR

The JCR stands for 'Junior Common Room.' Somewhat confusingly, this represents two things:

1. The physical common room for undergraduate students, which can be found opposite the main entrance to Matthews Building. It is a social space, with a pool table and table football, and the JCR kitchen is attached to it. It is where BOPS* take place and where JCR General Meetings take place.
2. The collective undergraduate body at St Peter's. YOU are now a member of the JCR, like me and 370 or so other undergraduate students!

A JCR General Meeting (GM) is held fortnightly, usually in the JCR, and anyone can attend. The JCR's function is to represent their constituency (you!) and communicate with the governing body (the Master, tutors, fellows etc.), in order to ensure our College community can flourish, with everyone's voice heard and accounted for. In the meetings, motions are put forward, (sometimes) debated and then - sometimes - relayed to the governing body, depending on the gravity of the motion. The procedure for voting on motions is through voting online, via a form sent out after the meeting. Subject matter of motions can vary, from funding for plays, to social or sports events, to the purchase of new items for the common room. The JCR Committee refers to a group of roughly 25 students voted into positions by other members of the JCR. Pretty much all of the roles exist to cater towards our undergraduate body: food, accommodation, sports, arts, LGBTQ+, etc. All of us are also on the Freshers' Committee, alongside some extra helpers, meaning we're tasked with introducing you to uni - and Peter's - life.

Social media

@spc_jcr is super helpful to follow if you have instagram, lots of info on here.

And various sub-instas

@spcentz, @spc_bar, @arts_stpeters, and more!

(although this will also be communicated in other ways)

The JCR Committee 2026/27

JCR President: Mikey Johnson

Hi, I'm Mikey (he/him) and I study physics! I'll be your JCR President which means I act as a connection between the students and the college, and I will always make sure that your voice is heard. The JCR community is really friendly and welcoming - we are students too, so we've seen all the ups and downs of first year. I'm always approachable around college, be that in the dining hall, JCR or Plib (Peter's Library). Super well done

for securing your place at the best college - you will have such a good time here! Feel free to email / ask me in person if you have any questions or concerns:

michael.johnson@spc.ox.ac.uk

Vice-President: Emma Hamilton

Hi everyone! I'm Emma (she/her) and I study History and French, and I'm the one writing this handbook! As Vice-President, I'll be helping Mikey with his duties, helping to run and organise Freshers' Week (!!!!) and generally being a friendly face around college who you can reach out to with questions and concerns! Please feel free to say hi - you can usually find me in the JCR, plib (the entrance seats specifically) or at brunch on the weekends (not to be missed!) Starting uni is bound to be overwhelming, but it's worth remembering everyone will be feeling similarly anxious, and you'll have a whole committee at your disposal who went through the exact same experience to support you! Feel free to contact me at emma.hamilton@spc.ox.ac.uk, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Treasurer: Shlok Vora

Hey everyone! I'm Shlok (he/him) and I'm a second year Economics & Management student! This year, I'll also be your JCR Treasurer! I'll be looking after the JCR budget and helping make sure your money is spent on the things that matter most to students (I'd love to hear your ideas and feedback). I'm always happy to have a chat about anything at all, whether it's related to the JCR finances or any other questions or concerns that you have about general college life. Feel free to email me at: shlok.vora@spc.ox.ac.uk OR spc.treasurer@spc.ox.ac.uk. I look forward to meeting you all and a huge congratulations on your place at St Peter's!

Secretary: Dan Lloyd-Hurwitz

Hi all! I'm Dan (he/him) and study Geography and I'll be your JCR Secretary I'll be sending out weekly emails with key university and college information; please read them (they will be as concise as possible, I promise)! I am also organising the College Parents scheme, which will pair each Fresher with a Second Year 'parent' to help orient you all with Oxford life over the next year. Other than doing the job of an AI bot, I'll be playing SPC football and cricket, playing MarioKart in the JCR (you're not winning), dragging the fact I'm Australian, and otherwise meandering around uni. I hope you enjoy your first year, which—please remind yourself—is important, but a time to acclimatise, not grind for a Nobel Prize. Please feel free to reach out to me at daniel.lloyd-hurwitz@spc.ox.ac.uk.

Welfare Lead: Alfie Smailes

Hi! I'm Alfie (he/him), and I study physics. I'm glad to say I will be your welfare lead next year. In short, I am a member of the college's Health, Welfare and Wellbeing Team, and alongside your wonderful welfare reps (Jemima and Kirana) and all of the EDI reps on the committee, I help to look after the welfare of all undergrads. Be sure to look out for welfare initiatives when term starts! Outside of this, you'll find me playing sport, in particular rugby, rowing and cricket, or socialising in the JCR or over brunch. University is an amazing experience, though it can be overwhelming at times, but we are all here to ensure you are supported. Please don't hesitate to reach out - both over summer and when term starts, (alfie.smailes@spc.ox.ac.uk) but in the meantime have an amazing summer!

Returning Officer: Eddie Mitchell

Hello! I'm Eddie (he/him), reading Maths and Philosophy, and I'll be this year's Returning Officer. That just means I'll organise the elections for the following year's JCR roles, but those mostly take place in Hilary and Trinity* terms. Meanwhile, I'll also send you lots of emails asking you to vote on motions following JCR General Meetings; make sure your voice is heard! Other than that, please feel free to say hello. I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all—find me in the bar, at post-Parkrun brunch, rowing, or at the other end of edward.mitchell@spc.ox.ac.uk. Green and gold will suit you, I'm sure :)

Welfare Rep: Jemima Broadhead

Hey everyone! I'm Jem (She/her), I study music and I'm so excited to be one of your two welfare reps this year. My job is to make sure everyone feels safe, welcome and included here at Peter's (there's a reason we are known as the friendliest college), and to give a helping hand if you're worried or concerned about anything. I'll be around throughout freshers weeks so come for a chat anytime even if it's just to say hi! I can't wait to meet you all and huge congratulations for getting your place at Oxford! If you need anything, have any questions or you just want a chat, feel free to contact me at jemima.broadhead@spc.ox.ac.uk.

Welfare Rep: Kirana Main

Hi, I'm Kirana (they/she), I am a second-year music student and I will be one of your Welfare Reps! You will probably see me around lots in freshers week, angeling* at BOPs throughout the year and hosting Welfare teas every Sunday. I will be around a lot in college this year, so am definitely looking forward to seeing you all!! If you have any questions ahead of term, feel free to email me at spet6314@ox.ac.uk. xx

Faith Rep: Freddie Chapman

Hi all, I hope you've had a great summer! My name is Freddie (he/him), and I'm your Faith rep this year. Irrespective of your faith, I'm here to make sure you have the proper

spaces to practice your faith, facilitate safe discussion and exploration of faith through connecting you to faith leaders in and around Oxford, and direct you to additional college resources, such as our multi-faith prayer room or the college Chaplain if needed. Feel free to email me whenever at freddie.chapman@spc.ox.ac.uk

LGBTQ+ (Including Trans And Gender Non-Conforming) Rep: Ranoo Jalal

Hey! I'm Ranoo (she/her) and I'm studying Theology and Religion. This year, I'll be your LGBTQ+ rep for the JCR. I'll be here to make sure that being at St Peter's is the most welcoming experience for you, no matter what. I'll act as the link between students and the college on LGBTQ+ matters! I'll always be around to talk, so if you need a chat, you can count on me. Feel free to email me ranoo.jalal@spc.ox.ac.uk if you have any LGBTQ+ related questions or concerns!

Entz Reps: Tilly Hind and Luci Kwasnica

Hey guys!! We're your events reps, Tilly (she/her, English) and Luci (she/her, Geography)! Our job is organising and managing events at Peter's to make sure they run smoothly and are super fun for everyone. As members of the entz team, we are here to make sure there are plenty of activities within college that you can do to destress and get away from studying. We aim to give everyone a variety of events to attend from BOP's to open mic nights, and quiz nights to club nights (and everything in between!!). As entz, we want to make sure everyone is included in college activities. Sober activities are just as much a priority to us as club nights and BOPs - so don't worry, there will be something there for you to enjoy! Throughout the year you will hear from us on our entztagram (ig: @spcentz) or through the 2026 fresher's WhatsApp group chat - so make sure you follow along to stay up to date with all the cool events that happen in college. Can't wait to see you all in fresher's week for a spectacular line up of events!! -entz xoxo

Access and Outreach Rep: Roman Jones

Hi everyone! I'm Roman (He/Him), studying history, and I'll be the access and outreach rep for College this year. I'll be helping organise and manage outreach programs in Enfield and Walthamstow (London), Merseyside and the Isle of Man as well as working to make St Peter's more accessible to state school applicants, so if you want to get involved with outreach volunteering or have any suggestions for outreach projects or how to make college more accessible feel free to come talk to me! I'm always open to new perspectives and, in true history fashion, I'm always free. To get in touch over email, feel free to contact roman.jones@spc.ox.ac.uk

Disabilities Rep: Katie Ashcroft-Jones

Hi! I am Katie (she/her) and I am studying History of Art. This year, I will be your disabilities rep! I know that moving away to university can be a really daunting

experience, and even more so if you have a disability, long-term/ chronic illness or condition. Having a disability can feel like an extra difficulty to navigate, but I will always be a friendly face around college to offer advice and support. I am sure that you will have an amazing time here: I have found Peter's, and Oxford University as a whole, to be so accommodating and supportive. Please do feel free email me if you have any questions or concerns! katie.ashcroft-jones@spc.ox.ac.uk

Internationals Rep: Raveen Akuretiyagama

Hi everyone! I'm Raveen (he/him), a second-year engineer, and I'll be your Internationals Rep in the JCR this year. I'm here to make your transition to living so far away from home as seamless as possible. That entails trying my best to answer any questions you might have, hosting international tea times, and many other events to stay tuned for! You're going to have an absolutely wonderful time here. Please feel free to email me at raveen.akuretiyagama@spc.ox.ac.uk if you have any questions or concerns!

Arts Rep: Cathrin Edwards

Hi! My name is Cathrin (she/her) I study Music and I'm so excited to be your Arts Rep! I love all things arts & crafts and theatre so expect fun activities to switch off from freshers week or work! It's so important to keep up a healthy work-life balance here, so get creative! All events will be beginner friendly, low-pressure and drinking-optional. Very open to suggestions so let me know what you're interested in! Feel free to pop me an email at cathrin.edwards@spc.ox.ac.uk - there's no such thing as a silly question:) Well done on being accepted to the loveliest college in Oxford! I can't wait to have a chat over a paint and sip!! X

Sports Rep: Elsa Bridge

Hey everyone! My name is Elsa (she/her) and I will be your sports rep for next year. I am here to help with anything sports related, and welcome any questions and enquiries you may have. I also can help with the Blues Scholarship that SPC offers, so please get in touch: elsa.bridge@spc.ox.ac.uk with anything. Ultimately, I really just want to encourage everyone to try and participate, there is so much on offer within college and uni-wide, at any level, and being part of a sports team is definitely an amazing experience and something to take advantage of at Oxford. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Food Rep: Will Frost

Will (he/him), Spanish and German. We are what we eat. Here for all your food concerns

Environment Rep: Isabel Rivaró

Hi my name is Isabel (she/her), I study Earth Sciences and I will be your Environment Rep this academic year! I hope to help raise awareness and money that could go towards funding environmental initiatives in college such as carbon labelling food items in hall, automatic lights in communal areas and run welfare bug hotel making! I am always open to hearing any new ideas you might have that might help reduce energy wastage or initiatives that could help make Peter's greener. Feel free to contact me with any queries or suggestions at isabel.rivaro@spc.ox.ac.uk

Social Media Rep: Chloe Burgess

Hii! I'm Chloe (she/her) and I study Spanish and Portuguese. This year I will be your social media rep, which means I'll be working hard to show off the best of St Peter's on our JCR social media. Look out for the JCR Instagram (@spc_jcr) around fresher's week, where I'll be posting top tips, guidance, and all things Peter's! For now though, you should just be super proud of yourselves for getting here. You have so much to look forward to! Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. You can contact me at chloe.burgess@spc.ox.ac.uk.

Socio-Economic Rep: Daisy Greenwood

Hi! I'm Daisy (she/her), I'm a second-year English language and literature student, and I'm your socioeconomic rep this year. I'll be here for you to ask about any financial concerns that you may have and also with any help you need for the transition to university in general - because it's a very difficult change to make alone! I have a google form that you can submit any questions/concerns to anonymously, which I'll answer as soon as I can, or if you see me around college feel free to grab me whenever for a chat! Here is my email, daisy.greenwood@spc.ox.ac.uk, and a [link to the google form](#). I hope you have a lovely start to the term!

Academic Affairs Rep: Elliot Shakespeare

Hi, I'm Elliot (he/him) and I study Earth Sciences and I'll be your academic affairs rep for the upcoming year! I'm here to support you with any issues related to your learning, such as tutorials, and to provide guidance on the study skills and exam-orientation sessions run by the College and the University. Feel free to email me at anytime at elliott.shakespeare@spc.ox.ac.uk and I'll aim to get back to you as soon as possible or I'm happy to chat if you see me in college!

Accommodation Rep: Reuben Van De Weyer

Hi! I'm Reuben, I study Linguistics and Spanish, and I'll be your accommodation rep for the year. I'll be available to answer any queries you may have about your second-year accommodation, as well as to help make sure that if you have any issues with your on-site accommodation, they are dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

Women's Rep: Ella Etienne Labelle

Hello everyone! I'm Ella (she/her), and I study archaeology and anthropology, and I'll be your Women's rep this year! As part of the welfare team, I want to be a friendly face around college and provide support to anyone. I will be especially involved in women's-related resources and events, like women's socials and in-college activities (VDs!). I'll be available for a chat in college or online, and I am excited for you all to start at SPC, it is a super special place!! You can reach me whenever by email:

ella.etiennelabelle@spc.ox.ac.uk. Can't wait for a fantastic freshers' week :)

Charities Rep: Sophie Keefe

Hi! My name is Sophie (she/her), second-year law student, and I will be your Charities Rep this year. I'm really excited to host lots of fun and interactive fundraising events and get the whole of Peter's involved with our charitable efforts. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like to suggest charities to support in the upcoming year. My email is sophie.keefe@spc.ox.ac.uk. I look forward to meeting you all and congratulations on getting here!

Bar Manager: Daisy Greenwood

Hi! I'm Daisy (she/her), I'm a second year English language and literature student, and I'm so excited to be your student bar manager for this year! I'll be organising various crafty and musical events along with the art and entz reps for you to enjoy when you're not in the library, and also scheduling shifts for anyone who wants to work behind the bar too (which I highly recommend to meet new people and try something new). As you've seen, I'll also be your socioeconomic rep so hopefully I'll be a familiar face to speak to, and I hope that the bar brings you nothing but fun and happy memories this year! It's a great social space to relax and debrief on stressful days, so I hope to see as many of you as possible and, in the meantime, make sure to follow our instagram [@spc_bar](#) for updates!

Unfilled JCR positions

For first-years:

- Chair - similar to the guy shouting 'ORDER' in the House of Commons. A great way to attend every meeting and get to know the committee. Introduces each motion and invites people to speak - super simple, but really helpful to have! (I was Chair last year - it's a great and very low maintenance way to get involved in the JCR Committee!)
- Freshers' rep - represents freshers' interests on the JCR committee
- Freshers' entz rep - will help out Tilly and Luci (2 year entz reps) in organising and running events.

For anyone:

- BAME rep - possible to have two reps for this!
- Trans and Gender Non-conforming rep - currently built into LGBTQ+ rep's role, but opportunity to have a separate rep

Meet your Freshers Helpers:

Freshers Helpers are people that will be around all of freshers week to help out, and throughout the year!

Tilly

Tilly (she/her), Philosophy and Theology! My piece of advice for freshers would be to always keep a bottle of wine or equivalent in your room for socials (and if you don't drink, keep a pint of milk)!

Hayden

Hi, I'm Hayden (he/him) and I'm a second-year studying History! Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, worries or if you just want a chat!

Amanda

Amanda (she/her). Subject: Engineering. Stock up on painkillers, tea and tissues to help you get through freshers' flu!

Angus

Hi, I'm Angus (he/him), one of the second-year biochemists. Don't be afraid to say hello to people in the older years - I promise we're not that scary!

Ella

Hi I'm Ella (she/her). I'm studying Economics and Management. My favourite thing about Peter's is how friendly and sociable everyone is, meaning it's easy to make friends!

Arrival

DATE OF MOVING IN: SUNDAY, 4TH OCTOBER

St Peter's has an amazingly central location, which can therefore be difficult for moving in. St Peter's is located on New Inn Hall Street, which is a zero emissions zone.

Therefore, if you don't have an electric vehicle, you need to pay a ZEZ charge for your vehicle ([HERE](#)), either 6 days in advance or before the 10 of October. You may also need to pay Oxford's temporary congestion charge if you pass through one of the charging locations on the way to St Peter's.

Depending on what time you arrive, there should be a reasonable amount of parking space on the left-hand side of New Inn Hall Street (approaching from George Street). If parked here, you will need to retrieve a 30-minute parking permit from the Porters Lodge (as well as your room key). If there's no space, Gloucester Green Car Park is also very nearby to College.

Then come find us - we'll be impossible to miss. Alongside your parents/guardians, we'll (try) help you move all your stuff in. We've been through the first-year rite of passage of moving everything in and out every 8 weeks, so it should be quick enough.

Once you've said your goodbyes, you might have that moment of realisation that this (uni) is actually happening, and you might feel alone all of a sudden. This is far from the truth! Firstly, introduce yourself to your neighbours! I ended up meeting some of my closest friends (who I'm living with this year) on my floor in Matthews on the first day! Plus, the Freshers' Committee will all be here, in the JCR/adjacent quad, probably yapping someone's ear off already about how much we love it here - we're not being paid, I promise.

*If you are going to be receiving a full rate maintenance loan, [CLICK HERE](#) to receive an 100% discount on the charge!!

Accommodation

Freshers' accommodation is across three buildings: Matthews, The Knee Building (previously known as New Building), or, Emily Morris (or Staircase IV). Whilst having slightly different layouts, each building's rooms will have a single bed, a desk, desk chair, a chair and coffee table, desk lamps, a sink, and lots of storage space.

Oxford - insisting on being different - also does accommodation differently to other universities. Rooms are arranged in corridors, but, unlike other unis, these aren't traditional student halls with shared kitchens. There is still, though, that same sense of community. Each floor has a few toilets and at least one shower (shared by everyone, of course).

In Matthews specifically, there are some kitchenettes (loosely speaking) at the end of the main corridors (i.e, not the floor 1 and 2 annexes) with some fridges, but the main kitchen is in the JCR. Still, though, most people choose to eat in hall during 1st year, as you pay an up-front sum of money via UPay for the forthcoming term on your Battels*. Moving in and out of Oxford each term isn't too taxing, as each room also has a 50cm x 50cm x 50cm metal safe (which can helpfully store for example your duvet, mattress topper etc. in the during the vacs - just remember to bring a padlock to lock it!).

There is also storage in College available for international students, contact Raveen (internationals rep) or Jess (a member of College staff) on

accommodation@spc.ox.ac.uk. You will have to get forms from the Porters to fill out, but the process is super easy! We also have Reuben as a dedicated accommodation rep for College - he'll be your first port of call if you have any accommodation questions prior to move in or throughout the year for that matter.

You can also access video tours of our accommodation buildings [here](#)!

Matthews Building

Rooms in Matthews have the advantage of being HUGE. They are plain, yes, but there is SO much freedom to experiment with doing it up. I put up posters, fairy lights, and photos from home (the pinboards are huge so you can really go to town!). Matthews rooms are situated around Mulberry Quad, alongside Staircase IV, meaning they're right next to the bar and the JCR, and the windows protruding outwards mean you can make a makeshift window-seat for yourself. The Matthews Annex Rooms are pretty close to the bar, so if you're an early sleeper I would suggest investing in ear plugs! I was on Matthews Floor 3, and I've tried to piece together a rough lay-out of the room from my photos. Handily for move-in days, the Matthews block has two staircases, one opposite the JCR and another next to the bar - your Freshers team will show you on the Sunday!

The Knee Building

The Knee building rooms are arguably slightly more stylish than Matthews - coming from a former Matthews resident (or at least feel slightly more modern). Just like Matthews, the building is 100% Fresher accommodation. One side faces the Chavasse Quad, whilst the other is now opposite the new Castle Bailey accom.

Emily Morris / Staircase IV

These rooms are cozy and spacious - with some rooms even having a partial wall separating your bedroom from a living room-type area. The toilets and showers are undoubtedly the nicest in college, and you have access to a small communal living area for studying or mealtimes! These rooms are also home to some 2 and 3 years, who you're therefore sure to see!

What to bring (and not)

I promise, when packing you don't have to overdo it! Unlike some other Uni halls, you won't necessarily need things like kitchen utensils, pots and pans etc (although there were plenty of people who did bring kitchen things if they were planning on regularly using the JCR kitchen). You'll get a sense gradually over the year how much you really need to pack - I do really recommend using the storage box in your room to its full capacity - so remember a padlock to lock it!

The essentials

- The basics: duvet & pillows, bed linen
- Towels (bath, hand, tea)
- Plates bowls and mugs (if not for tea or coffee maybe for lemsips in Michaelmas...) and lots of people brought a kettle (there are kettles in the Matthews kitchenettes), cutlery and (multiple) glasses (I only brought one and this quickly became pretty tedious)
- A PADLOCK for the safe
- An adaptor if you're an international student
- A pack of sponges and washing-up liquid (genuinely couldn't survive without, again in Matthews there are some in the kitchenettes, but those regularly go missing so it is still worth having your own!)

Optional

- Decorative stuff, including but not limited to: fairy/LED lights (battery-operated), push pins and photographs, art, posters, extra cushions and blankets (esp if you're planning on sitting in/by the windows in Matthews), plants, post it notes and a whiteboard (became very handy for prelims revision)
- An iron (if you think Matthews floors 1 & 3 or Emily Morris is too far to travel for ironing)
- A drying rack (I brought a small folding one, which I left in my box over the vac, and would definitely recommend bringing one)
- A mini-fridge - I found this super useful for keeping things like milk and snacks close at hand. You'll need to register it with the porters due to potential disposal costs (but this is super easy). You can also check with the porters for if you can leave it over the vacs (I was able to fit mine in my storage box) The JCR kitchen has fridges and Matthews some small ones, but these can get quite full.
- A diffuser (NO CANDLES allowed, so a good alternative)

Domestic features

Scouts

Nope, not just the camping thing in the UK. It's just another Oxford term everyone uses to insist on being different, referring to the staff who are at work cleaning the JCR, bathrooms, etc. in the early morning, and come to your rooms later on to collect your rubbish. Each room has two bins (general waste and recycling), so be sure to leave your bins outside your room if you do not want to be disturbed (there are a few horror stories of what some people's Scouts have seen, and they often don't hear you call out when they knock). Seeing as they may see you at your most vulnerable (at death's door with

Freshers' flu etc.), and clearing out your rubbish, I'd recommend getting to know yours or even buying them a present/card at the end of 8 week as a token of gratitude.

Washing

Matthews has a washing machine and a dryer behind the kitchenettes on Floors 1 and 3, whilst Staircase IV (Emily Morris) has some on its ground floor. The system has recently changed to not requiring a top up card and can be paid for by contactless card/your phone, just beside the machine. You can also pay via the Circuit Go app, which you can also use to show you if the machine is free, but I warn you it's not 100% accurate. It's fairly self-explanatory, but don't forget to press start after paying (you wouldn't be the first if you do...)

Printing

Printing at Oxford is also pretty straightforward. You can buy a printer if you think you're going to rely on it a lot (some tutors prefer essays etc on paper), but the online printing system is fine, and each print only charges a few pence to your Battels*. All you need to do is email print.colour@spc.ox.ac.uk or print.mono@spc.ox.ac.uk, and you collect it from printers in the library or the bottom of Emily Morris with your bodcard.

The Plodge

The Porters' Lodge will be your first point of contact with St Peter's College, being located immediately after you enter through our green double doors. Being staffed 24/7, they should serve as your first port of call should you have any issues (security or accommodation-wise). Their number should be on your pinboard in your rooms when you arrive, and you can find it in the Student Administrative Handbook. Make sure you get to know them, as you'll be judged less for getting noise complaints or your more absurd requests. They are all genuinely so, so nice, have seen it all (through the Plodge is the only entrance open most nights), and are so willing to help. They're also responsible for delivering you your mail in your Pidges*, such as carnations delivered by your College parents during exam season, and where you go to collect any parcels ordered to you whilst you're at College.

Food

Hall hours

- Breakfast: 8:00am-9:00am
- Lunch: 12:00pm-1:30pm (Brunch is served on weekends between 11:00am and 12:30pm)
- Informal Hall: 5:30pm-7:30pm; 5:30pm-6:30pm on Formal days.
- Formal Hall: 7:30pm-around 9:00pm.

However, check the [website](#) as these sometimes change!!

Brunch is known by many as the best meal in hall, and I highly recommend going (for the food but it is also a really great social time!)

Informal Hall

This applies to the majority of meals eaten in College. It is canteen style, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, with a meat option, two vegetarian/vegan options, and sides such as salad, with fruit, yoghurts and other desserts also being available. Your UPay balance is stored on your Bod Card*, which is just scanned at a cash register; your UPay can just be topped up by logging on to your SSO on their website or downloading the UPay app. You pay for what you get, rather than a specific price for 'lunch', but you will have prepaid money onto UPay (around £370/term) through your battels.

JCR kitchen

As mentioned, you'll probably need your own cutlery, plates, etc, but the JCR kitchen does have pots, pans and the like (I was terrified of accidentally using someone's pot, but unless it is labelled, pots/pans should be ok for your use - if you brought one and don't want someone using it, label it or keep it in your room). It has a microwave, toaster and eight hobs - but no oven.

Formals

I thought I'd do a whole page for this one, because formals are so fun here!! We were recently voted (and we're proud of it) best formal hall by *Cherwell* (a university-wide student newspaper). Formals can seem pretty intimidating, but they're reasonably cheap (£15.00 for 3 courses!!) and not as serious as you'd perhaps imagine. Yes, we wear gowns over some formal wear, and a grace is usually read out at the start of each meal, but it's just you with your friends - this time in suits and dresses.

Formals usually run twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays), but Peter's run additional excuses to dress up throughout the year: off the top of my head, the ones I can remember are the Week 8 JCR Christmas Dinner, a BAME formal, a queer formal, a choir formal, a Burns Night formal, as well as formals affiliated with different SPC sports teams (boat club, rugby club etc. etc.). They are all loads of fun and if you get the chance I highly recommend them! They're also great excuses to listen - on Thursdays - to the chapel choir.

All your dietary requirements are catered for, and you - and any guests you may purchase tickets for (anyone) - are served a three course meal, but have to BYOB*. You sign up for formal hall via UPay (tickets come out two weeks in advance). Tickets go extremely quickly, so I'd recommend getting on UPay asap when tickets are released if there's a particular formal you want to attend - particularly if you want to bring guests.

You can bring two guests on Tuesdays and one on Thursdays - lots of people bring friends and family from home to formals, as well as friends from other colleges throughout the year (a great way to get invites to other college formals)

You cannot resell or pass on your Formal Hall tickets (bought via UPay, see below) but you can cancel for a full refund before the booking deadline.

I.T.

I can also imagine, since your offer has now been finalised, that the emails have already begun flooding in (sorry) telling you to do this, that or the other. There are, however, some (very laborious, but very easy) things you can do proactively now in order to ensure you don't have any IT-related issues in October. Things such as setting up your SSO (Single Sign-On - as the name suggests, it's an authentication scheme that allows you to login to independent, but related, software systems using one set of credentials, such as SOLO, OXAM etc. - Microsoft Authenticator will play a pretty significant role in your time at Oxford) and Remote Access Account are great to do in the coming weeks so that you don't have to do them hungover during Freshers'. Although this may seem like a lot, College fine-tuned the setting-up process, handing out clear instructions on how to get connected (they'll be printed in your room when you arrive). Also, as I may have mentioned once or twice, the Freshers' Committee will be around all week to help!! It could certainly be argued that Oxford conforms to its stereotype of being reluctant to embrace change due to its age-old traditions, but I.T. is (although seemingly complicated at the start) in reality, very straightforward. Our system is absolutely crucial for accessing Wi-Fi, but also for finding exam resources, books in specific College libraries and the like.

Peter's provides high-speed internet access to all Freshers, in all accommodation blocks, with network extenders in every second/third room, and has I.T technicians available during office hours on the ground floor of Staircase III. If you have any trouble with anything technology- related, don't hesitate to ask them, or email them on it-help@spc.ox.ac.uk. The College library also has computers with internet access if you ever need it. Now your place is confirmed, the university will assign you an email address and username, with a password you'll be able to change later.

As the manifest links in this handbook might have implied, every email address is structured forename.surname@spc.ox.ac.uk; your username is always an abbreviation for your College followed by four random numbers - i.e spet1234. Both of these will be up there with oxygen and water in terms of how crucial they are for your survival here over the coming years - you'll be contacted by everyone at this address, College- and university-wide. Also, something to keep in mind: sometimes, when you need to log into an Oxford resource, your regular email address doesn't work; in this case, your username (again, take spet1234 as an example) @ox.ac.uk will!!

Money

University will likely be the first time you've had to deal with managing money towards rent, food and other expenses, and so managing your money carefully is essential. Here are some tips on budgeting and managing money throughout the year.

Budgeting

Making a budget gives you a realistic insight into your expenses + income. I found it helpful to establish a monthly budget prior to starting uni, dividing my budget up into categories like food, going-out, laundry, which made it easier to see where most of my money was going each month. There are also a huge number of discount apps that you have access to as a student - I'd recommend getting a UniDays and Student Beans account, as well as all the supermarket points cards (Nectar Card, Tesco's Clubcard etc.). Too Good to Go is also a really good app for food discounts. I'd also recommend a railcard if you've not got one already - I got the train to and from Oxford each term, so this was super helpful!

Banking

First off, upgrade your account to a student one. Banks love students (because of how much we spend), and so offer varying rewards to try and get us to sign up with them (memberships, increased overdraft limits, free money, or transport discounts). However - sadly - many of such offers are only available if you've lived in the UK for a minimum of three years. Also make sure you know how much overdraft you have with these banks, as a student they often offer you a certain amount of interest-free overdraft. Also, make sure your card is on the contactless payment service on your phone (e.g ApplePay), in case you lose your physical card.

If you are lucky enough to be in a position to have some money saved up (e.g from building societies and the like), I'd talk to your bank to discuss where to put it (although you probably already know). Banks offer different ways to save/invest, with varying levels of risk/reward, such as through Stocks & Shares accounts, online savings accounts or ISAs. I'd also recommend sorting out your student bank account prior to Freshers' Week, as they can take a few weeks to process - i.e if you go into your overdraft due to paying Battels, and you have a classic current account, you'll be charged interest...

Battels

From the Latin battualia -> bataille in Old French -> batayle in Old English -> battel. Derives from the vicar of the Church of Saint Peter (!!) in York incurring debts and his next of kin having to pay 'battels' (i.e his dues) after he died to compensate. So it is related to our battle in English. Battels just refer to the bills due to College by Friday of

2nd week each term, covering everything accommodation related (i.e. utilities), food, fines, printing charges etc. If you have any issues with paying your battels on time, reach out to our Student Finance Officer (katie.pullen@spc.ox.ac.uk). Also, we are all also students having to do the same thing - reach out to one of us, but especially Daisy, if you have any student loan-related queries or need help budgeting.

More money

'Treat your degree like a full-time job' is something you might hear in Freshers' Week. It follows, then, that you aren't allowed an (official) part-time job during term time. To be honest, you wouldn't have the time for one anyway (not to stereotype Oxford too much). If you are looking for work in term-time, I'd recommend picking up some shifts in the bar (you do get paid), as it's also a great way to get to know the whole College, and Daisy is keen to get as many of you guys signed up as possible (email daisy.greenwood@spc.ox.ac.uk if you're interested)! There are also some vac opportunities, such as the Easter Telethon, as well as different access and outreach programmes. The Student Ambassador Programme enables you to represent St Peter's at different outreach events - each College is assigned a different region of the UK to engage with prospective applicants - ours is Merseyside. Alongside this, there's also the opportunity to be a paid Social Media Ambassador for the College.

Grants and bursaries

Different sources of income also exist alongside student loans. The added bonus with these is that they don't need to be paid back (with interest, like UK maintenance loans). One thing about Oxford's generational wealth is that, having accumulated over a millennium, Colleges are in the position to give back to its students, in the form of academic grants, both from College and from departments. You get paid for doing well academically, too, for receiving a 1st Class Honours/being top in your year at College for your subject. In a nutshell, the JCR, College and entire university are ready to provide various grants to fund living costs, trips, art projects, sporting endeavours, etc. etc. etc. Also, the university itself provides bursaries/Crankstart Scholarships for UK students from lower income households. Scholarships are also awarded in the choir (as some of you probably already know), and for receiving a Distinction in Prelims*.

Where else can I go?

If you've exhausted these options, the first thing to do (unless your problem could easily be solved by Katie) is to contact your funding body, e.g., Student Finance England. Peter's can contribute towards the cost of obligatory field trips (Biology, Earth Sciences etc.), and voluntary ones. Katie is available Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 4:00pm, and is based in the Finance Office in Staircase III; anything you say to her will be completely confidential!

Oxford: the city

Shops and restaurants

Your must knows for shopping are the following: High Street, Cornmarket Street and Westgate Shopping Centre. All three of them are located within five minutes of College. Cornmarket Street is mainly food-related, with a bunch of tourist/Harry Potter memorabilia shops, too. Westgate has the UK shopping classics, such as H&M, Urban, Primark etc. (with a newly opened Sephora!) alongside pricier outlets, and Oxford High Street has all kinds of shops (e.g Shepherd & Woodward, where you get your subfusc*).

The Covered Market is a great place (sometimes) for reasonably- priced lunch, but, for stocking up on food in bulk/getting meal deals, or for buying other essentials, Tesco and Sainsbury's are, again, a stone's throw away from College. Get a Clubcard/Nectar Card!!. If you're feeling fancy, M&S is on the next street from College (Queen St), and can be reasonably priced in some areas.

George Street has a bunch of nice restaurants that are reasonably priced or with deals on, e.g. Franco Manca and their weekday student discount, and Bella Italia sometimes have £5 pasta deals, but, if your parents/supporters are visiting, you could try the top level of Westgate. The views are amazing, and it's home to many - pricier - restaurants, and some mid-range ones like Nando's or Pho. Also some great food places in the neighbourhoods slightly further out, like Jericho and Cowley. Some very popular student spots are Najar's (Lebanese wraps, about a fiver), Westgate's and Cornmarket Itsu 30 mins before close (50% off) (a personal fav), and Mission Burrito by the Oxford Union (super close to Peter's) (30% student discount on Wednesdays). Don't forget to try ask for a student discount, anyway.

Coffee shops

Oxford has some fantastic independent cafes, both just to grab a drink and to do some work - here are some Peter's favs:

- Greens Cafe - right next to Peter's (Westgate direction). A Peter's student staple - and there's 10% off for Peter's people if you show your bod card!!
- Society - Also right by Peter's, en route to the Oxford Union Building. Really lovely atmosphere, they make fancy coffees and hot chocolates, and it is always filled with students.
- Art Cafe - on the way to Westgate, good coffee and food - was one of the (literally) coolest places I could find in Oxford during the Trinity heatwave last year
- Love Coffee - Greek coffee shop on the High Street, great atmosphere and lovely staff,

- Independent Cafe - adorable cafe with great coffee opposite Christ Church Meadows!
- Crosstown - in a side-street from Cornmarket, very close again
- Brothers - in the Covered Market
- The Missing Bean - there's one on Turl Street and one by the law faculty (really good coffee)
- Black Sheep - a favourite on Mondays because they have a £2 coffee deal, and 20% off with Unidays for the rest of the week
- And many more!! Most of these places have loyalty card schemes too, so remember to pick one up if you're a serial coffee drinker to get a free drink!

Books and libraries

Essays (or problem sheets for the STEM inclined) will inevitably become a big part of your life at Oxford, and when set essays or work for lectures/tutorials (or tutes), there's a high chance you're going to need to borrow a book from a library. There is our College library, the Plib* (Peter's library), open 24/7 (interpret that as you wish, that does not mean that you should be there 24/7), split into 3 floors including Pleaven (Plib Heaven) and Plungeon (Plib Dungeon). The university also has the Bodleian Libraries - a gigantic collection of libraries, some department-specific, across the entire city. In College, borrowing a book is easy - all you need to do is scan your Bod Card after scanning the book's barcode. If you're lucky enough, though, you might be able to access some books online using SOLO. In Bodleian Libraries, you may have to ask the librarian to check out books.

Also, following results day, you've probably been sent a reading list, so I'd recommend getting in touch with your College parent* to ask what books they bought/borrowed. There's a giant resource of second-hand books out there, such as used books on Amazon or websites such as AbeBooks, but make sure you're buying the edition recommended by your tutor. What I will say is that your reading list may (may) look bigger than it actually is; I know, from my experience, a lot of recommended background reading is contextual, for example - not essential essential, but really helpful if you're interested and have read the primary texts first.

Nightlife

Peter's Bar

...is the first thing people from other Colleges bring up when you tell people you go here (it is the very first thing I heard about Peter's). And for good reason: i.e., it's a welcoming, friendly, sometimes (very) loud place to be. The drinks somehow (sometimes)

outcompete Spoons in terms of pricing (£1.50 Jägerbombs!), and it is usually always busy - a rarity for a College bar. Tuesdays and Thursdays are the main nights to be in the bar (people wine drunk after formal, and Imbibations - rugby drinks), but it's also active for any and all things such as darts competitions, pub quizzes, painting etc. etc. No other College bar rivals it - Balliol, the second-best bar, can't even match up (regardless of what they'll try to tell you).

The Crosskeys is our signature College drink, and comes in Mango, Passion Fruit, Grapefruit, Cherry, Apple, Ice, Atlantis, Orange, and Summer Fruits flavours.

BOPS And College events

A BOP = Big Organised Party. They're pretty much always themed, last from 9pm-12am, and take place in the JCR. We have BOP Angels looking out for you guys in case you drink too much/are overwhelmed. Alongside BOPs, Peter's run events such as the Christmas Party, the annual Garden Party, and Commemoration Balls (not annually), alongside excursions such as to Isis Farmhouse. Other - larger - Colleges run big events, such as Queerfest and Wadstock, both of which take place in Wadham; and some Colleges (not ours) let you bring in guests, so if you meet people at other Colleges that invite you into theirs, that's always fun!

Clubs

You may be apprehensive about the nightlife here, and although I'm sure many student cities have it better, Oxford is better than expected - being a massive student city. If you're interested, I'd recommend downloading the main apps for buying tickets ahead of time and getting discounts (Fixr, Fatsoma and TBC in particular (esp. for fresher's week)).

BRIDGE

Bridge is now Oxford's biggest club (since Atik shut down in the Pandemic), and the biggest night is Thursday. It's got two floors, but, to be honest, don't expect to be seeing many people on the second one on a non-Thursday; huge smoking area, recognisable songs. Parkend is also here on Wednesdays, which is the big night out for sports teams.

PLUSH

Plush is the biggest LGBTQ+ club, with Tuesdays being the best day to go. Some would argue there is nothing better on a Tuesday than recession pop and a stripper pole. However, it is underground - beware the Devil's Drip.

THE BULLINGDON

No, not the David Cameron one. It's situated in Cowley (meaning you'll see lots of second-years there) and hosts lots of different nights from genres other than pop - e.g, drag shows, DnB/jungle, and different decades of music.

INDIE FRIDAYS AT THE 02

If indie music is your thing, this is the go-to club! Very popular, but it is a bit more of a walk to get there, as it is in Cowley.

There is also Varsity, Thirst and more. Remember there is no pressure to go if you'd rather do something else! There's a real mix of people here, some in the club every week and some who go once in Freshers' and then never again - trust me whatever your vibe is, you will find your people! The bar and pub culture is also really good at Oxford - our bar, other college bars, and the pubs are a great going out option if clubbing isn't for you!

Pubs

Here's a list of our favourite Pubs in Oxford:

- Turf Tavern
- The White Rabbit
- Head of the River
- The Jericho Tavern (where Radiohead played their first ever gig)
- The Lamb and Flag
- The King's Arms
- O'Neill's (people go for sports, right next to College)
- The Royal Blenheim (super close by, again)
- The Four Candles (right next to College)
- ...and the Swan and Castle (these latter two are Wetherspoons).

Non-drinking activities

Film & theatre

The JCR organises film nights from time to time, and there'll certainly be one during Freshers' Week.

Oxford has an Odeon which does an amazing student discount, a Curzon on the top floor of Westgate (a film theatre called the Phoenix Picturehouse in Jericho (screens more niche films), and a The Oxford Cinema & Cafe (my fav option, be warned it is aggressively air-conditioned).

There are, genuinely, countless theatres across Oxford staging student productions, and, in addition, many Colleges (such as ours), do garden plays in Trinity term. The OUDS does all things student theatre-related. Peter's has a thriving drama community - there's loads of us (myself included) who'd be happy to chat, not least Cathrin, who is not only all things Art, but also a dedicated member of the OUDS community, who'd be happy to answer any and all questions about getting involved in student theatre.

Museums

There are three main museums in Oxford:

1. The OUMNH (Museum of Natural History) is located near Uni Parks, displaying collections of skeletons, fossils and rocks (its a beautiful building inside, and it's also been in lots of films, so might look familiar to you!)
2. Alongside this is the Pitt Rivers Museum, located to the east of the OUMNH and focusing on the anthropological side of the earth.
3. Then, of course, is the Ashmolean - it offers everything, is right next to Peter's, and looks stunning.

There's also Modern Art Oxford, right next to college, which has a nice cafe and I'm reliably informed is a bit of a hidden gem!!

The great outdoors

Despite being a busy city, Oxford has super easy access to fantastic natural spaces. My favourite walk in Oxford is through Christchurch Meadows (cows and riverside views included). Other great spaces are Uni Parks and the Botanic Gardens. Port Meadow and Hinksey Lake are also favourite spots for wild swimming (excellent for the heatwaves - although their cleanliness is disputed, dunk your head at your own risk...).

The arts

Like I just mentioned, Peter's puts a big emphasis on the arts alongside sport and has a thriving arts scene. We have writers, editors and designers for all of the major publications in Oxford, such as Cherwell (the student newspaper), the Isis Magazine, and the newly-revived Oxford Forum (political magazine).

There are so many opportunities to get involved in the arts here at Peter's, such as through open mic nights (which do essentially end up turning into karaoke nights, probably with a rendition of Angels at the end - sung at the end of every BOP/college celebration), jazz evenings, and recitals/performances in chapel. There are multiple events daily during Arts Week (Trinity term), so keep that in mind!

Cathrin will also be putting on lots of Arts events throughout the year, like Paint and Sip in the Bar - The Welfare Officers also ran a 'painting and mocktails' last year, so keep an eye out for things like this!! follow @arts_stpeters (and @spc_bar) for info on lots of these events!

Crosskeys Productions is Peter's student production company (OUDS runs through several independent student production companies putting on several shows each

term - you aren't limited to just your own college in terms of drama options!) Peter's runs a Panto in Michaelmas term (I did this last year and it was so much fun, the perfect way to be introduced to the drama scene at Oxford) and a Garden Play in Trinity. You can also take part in Drama Cuppers in Michaelmas term (a Freshers' competition between colleges). Contact Cathrin if you have any questions, and in the meantime I would recommend joining the OUDS Facebook page (where all the auditions get posted). If this is all a tad confusing (believe me I was very confused as to how to get involved this time last year, don't worry, we'll have some music and drama induction sessions in Freshers' for you to clarify things and ask questions. There are also a plethora of opportunities to get involved in music at Peter's. Both the (newly renovated, very fancy) music rooms and our College chapel have pianos in them, which means you can practice informally if need be (these rooms need to be booked). We also have our weekly lunchtime recitals - you'll know they're happening because the whole quad will suddenly become filled with beautiful music. Our choir also performs evensong twice a week, on Thursdays and Sundays, with other events scattered across term. If you're interested in getting involved, get in touch with Quintin (quintin.beer@spc.ox.ac.uk), the director of music here at Peter's (he's also who to contact about being added to the piano room practice list so you can book the practice rooms - you don't have to be a music student to do this!).

Sport and fitness

Being a Collegiate University, Oxford does sport on both an individual College level, as well as university-wide. All you need to do to get involved in sport at Peter's is want to! It's just a matter of enthusiasm, and willingness to turn up - all the College teams are constantly looking for people to join. Obviously, it's harder to get yourself a Blue (i.e. represent the university's first team at any sport), because the uni recruits from all Colleges. It's also worth noting that some sports, being more niche - e.g. shooting, water sports and MMA - are only run at the university level. The College Freshers' Fair will showcase all the sport Peter's has to offer - some things, like Sunday run club, are more recreational but some of our teams participate more seriously at collegiate league level, like our football team (@spcfootballclub on Instagram) and the Bravehearts (the second team, promoted for the second year in a row I'm reliably informed), rivalling our rugby club, who've made it to Cuppers finals and semi-finals in recent years - follow @spcRFC on Instagram. The cricket (@spccricketclub) and tennis clubs (also competing against other colleges) ran casual social sports events in Trinity last year, which you should keep an eye out for, they are great fun! Rowing is also huge at Peter's, with the whole college getting involved in Summer VIII's either as rowers or spectators. All the sports on offer will have induction sessions during Freshers' - so it's perfect for first timers!

Here is a by no means exhaustive list of sports we offer here at Peter's...

- Rowing (both sexes)
- Football (both sexes)
- Rugby (both sexes)
- Touch rugby (mixed, no-contact)
- Netball + mixed netball
- Cricket (mixed)

As for fitness, there are two main gyms in the city centre: PureGym, by Pembroke College, and BuzzGym, on the top floor of Westgate.

The college parent scheme

Now that you've made your offers, you'll soon probably receive an email from a random second year, introducing themselves as your College parent. This is just a second year studying your subject, who basically acts as a mentor, for both academic and general College life. In most cases, your parent is College 'married' to someone studying a different subject to you - although the enforcement of this rule is flimsy, and some people are married to two people. Having two parents also means you get to have a College sibling. On the whole, it's a great (and laughably weird) way to be introduced to some second years whilst starting out, just so you don't forget we exist!! Also, depending on your luck, you could end up becoming good friends with yours - I genuinely became really good friends with my college mum. So check your emails/download Messenger (Facebook) to not miss their introduction!! If, by the way, yours doesn't reach out after a while, contact Mikey (michael.johnson@spc.ox.ac.uk) and he'll point you in the right direction. Similarly, also, if your parent doesn't know an answer for something, I guarantee they'll know someone who does.

Most marriages take place in the first few weeks of Michaelmas, but there is absolutely no need to rush into one. Some people decide to get married pretty informally, some of my friends staged full ceremonies with vows, suits and all. My only other advice would be to marry someone you think you'll be able to get along with throughout your degree (think of your children if you end up splitting) - this also means try not to marry someone you're attracted to.

Health, Wellbeing and Welfare

Website: <https://www.spc.ox.ac.uk/student-life/health-wellbeing-welfare>

The College has an entire Health, Wellbeing and Welfare Team, consisting of both staff and students, who are dedicated to looking after you. Here's just a list of things they can help with, in case you're unsure/don't know if your issue warrants approaching welfare:

- Communicating with your tutors in the event of issues/illnesses affecting your academic performance
- Directing you to additional sources of support, such as the University Counselling Service
- Advising you on access arrangements for disabilities and liaising with the Disability Advisory Service (DAS). I'd advise contacting the DAS directly now if you know you're going to be in need of additional support - it just makes your life that bit easier, come October! DAS can arrange any necessary exam adjustments for you.
- Advising and guiding you on any problem that arises, and simply just listening to you!

Here's a list of College staff, working office hours, that you can contact if you're struggling:

- Dean for Welfare - Eleanor Tingle (eleanor.tingle@spc.ox.ac.uk) - mental health professional who works as SPC's (not just the JCR's) welfare lead. She's absolutely lovely, and a familiar face around College. I would highly recommend sending her an email if you have any concerns at all.
- College Nurse - Kate Tempest (kate.tempest@spc.ox.ac.uk)
- Student Finance Officer - Katie Pullen (katie.pullen@spc.ox.ac.uk) - trained in helping you with all things money (such as hardship fund applications, budgeting etc.)...
- Two Welfare Officers (DPhil students who are trained to provide support - even at night): Alyx (she/her, alyx.hutcheon@spc.ox.ac.uk), alongside Marcelo (he/him, marcelo.sampaidecoutomelo@spc.ox.ac.uk)
- Of course, there are also undergraduate welfare representatives on the JCR Committee. Alfie (Welfare Lead), Jemima and Kirana can be contacted at any time, by email or Messenger, using the links in their profiles provided.

On top of that, anyone at Peter's would be happy to help you if you're struggling!

The Welfare Cupboard

On the ground floor of Staircase IV (Emily Morris), in a room near the exit to Peter's Bar, is a cupboard known as the welfare cupboard, which contains the following, FYI:

- Condoms
- Lube
- Pregnancy tests
- Pads, applicator/non-applicator tampons, liners and menstrual cups.
- Earplugs

Ensure complete and enthusiastic consent and do whatever you want, but try to be safe! Also, more specific things related to sexual health such as STD tests and PrEP can be arranged by getting in touch with [Sexual Health Oxfordshire](#) (more on that later).

Also, get in touch with anyone on the Health, Wellbeing and Welfare team if you have any additional questions.

Also, look out for emails when members of staff bring their dogs into College, welfare walks, and free hot chocolate from the Welfare Reps in the quad.

However, the BEST THING about welfare here is our Sunday Welfare Teas, which provide free food to everyone in the JCR/Mulberry Quad. Another reason why joining Facebook is imperative - you can comment requests on the weekly post in the JCR group chat. Honestly, these are such a lifesaver if you've been stuck in the library all Sunday - free snacks and an opportunity to socialise - what more could you want?

One of the best things about the JCR welfare is that they can provide refunds for pregnancy tests, if you send receipts to any of our reps. Also, they can subsidise 40% of any prescription you request (up to 60% for bursary students), all you have to do is fill in a form. Once you turn 19 (in full time education) in England you have to pay for your prescriptions, so this is an absolute lifesaver! Of course, this private information is kept completely confidential.

More resources

Oxford University Counselling Service

This service offers professional counselling to any student requiring it. You can self-refer to the counselling service by emailing counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk and asking for sessions. You will need to complete and return a form before being given an appointment. The service offers a choice of in- person or online meetings. Usually the support offered is short term. The website has a great deal of useful information, including links to resources, books and even their own podcasts. They also offer discussion groups, workshops and well-being events. For more information see [Counselling and mental health, University of Oxford](#). Counselling Service, Worcester Street, Oxford, OX1 2BX Tel: 01865 270300

Nightline

Staffed by trained student volunteers, and available via phone call or IM every night throughout each term, 8pm-8am. Nightline supports both Oxford University and Oxford Brookes students. Every call is confidential and you can speak with them about anything. For example if you feel isolated and just need to speak with someone in the middle of the night, you can call them up. If you've just finished an essay but all of your friends are already asleep, or if you're finding a specific module difficult, or if you're

struggling to balance both your university friends and your friends at home, Nightline can offer advice. They're always open to new volunteers, too, so, if you're interested, it might be worthwhile visiting them at the University Freshers' Fair during Freshers' Week. [Need to talk? Call Nightline tonight](#) - Tel. 01865 270270

Student Advice Service (Student Union)

[Introducing Oxford SU's Student Advice service](#) | University of Oxford; OUSU Offices, 4 Worcester Street. The SAS is an impartial, confidential advice and information service run by the (reformed, following controversies) Oxford University Student Union. They can advice on a range of issues, including pregnancy, housing issues, or just plain academic problems. You can access their support by completing the online form at the bottom of the webpage.

The Samaritans

[Oxford Samaritans](#) Available by calling 116 123, available in person Saturdays 3pm-6pm, with no charges. You can find them at 60 Magdalen Road. The Samaritans are a nationwide organisation, who, despite their name, offer support to anyone - atheist or religious - and specifically specialise in helping people struggling with suicidal thoughts. Once again, everything is confidential. A similar, 24/7 text-based service you can go to is Shout (website linked, or text 'Shout' to 82258).

Sexual harassment and violence support service

Available at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/supportservice> or supportservice@admin.ox.ac.uk. This service is run by professionals specifically trained in responding to incidents of sexual harassment and violent; they specifically offer a non-directive response - meaning you're completely in control of any action you'd like to take - and offer a variety of potential routes to go down in the case that you do. It caters towards any student whatsoever, regardless of age or gender. There are also other services supporting those who have experience sexual violence, including Survivor Space Survivor Space Oxfordshire, and the nearest SARC is at Bicester: Solace SARC – Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

Some final advice

Thank you for making it this far (I'm sorry about the length, but hopefully some of it at least has been useful). I'll share some of the best advice I've been given over the course of my first year, including plagiarising some of last year's handbook (and I'm sure handbooks before that) - shout-out India and her predecessors!

Go for it!! - but remember Freshers' isn't everything

Freshers' week is Freshers' week. It's pretty insane, but it's an experience that allows you to meet loads of people - and all different kinds of people. Truly, I made some of my best friends during Freshers', but I also didn't meet some of my best friends till much later in the year, both inside and outside of college. I hope you have a fantastic time, but it isn't the be all and end all - you've got three or four years at college to make fantastic memories - you don't have to cram it all into a week!

What I mean by this is you're allowed to make mistakes! Most people are hyper-conscious of how they're acting in Freshers' week, but do not worry if you feel like you have embarrassed yourself - everything doubtlessly becomes a funny anecdote somewhere down the line.

Know your limits - and keep yourself healthy

This applies both academically speaking and not. St Peter's College is fantastic for proving that work-life balances do work in Oxford. Peter's achieves high academic attainment without sacrificing happiness and your social life. By all means, try your best, but this means keeping yourself at a happy and healthy enough level that you're able to this - please take breaks! And don't succumb to comparing yourself to others - you earned your place here, you deserve it, and I for one am sure you're going to thrive here at Peter's!

Of course, your degree is going to take up a significant chunk of your time here, and it is the reason you're coming after all. But one of my biggest take-aways from last year is how impressive the wealth of opportunities are that Oxford offers you outside of your degree. Trying a new sport, getting involved in a society, taking up a leadership position, auditioning for a play or an orchestra are fantastic ways to make lifelong lasting memories and friends. And I promise you, it is possible to stay on top of your academic commitments and throw yourself into all the other wonderful aspects of Oxford life - as nice as Plib is, no-one should be fully utilising its 24/7 opening hours. Uni is the perfect time to try something new - so many clubs offer trial sessions, so if it's not for you - it's no problem!

Really make an effort with your tutors

Your tutors are ordinary people, and like the students, from many walks of life. I guarantee that tutorials will become much more fun if you make an effort to get to know them! We're very lucky at Peter's, because like the students, I have not met a tutor who is not a genuinely lovely person.

Get on Facebook and get a Clubcard

Yes, its archaic, and yes, I hate Facebook as much as the next person, and yes I also thought it was ridiculous to be downloading Facebook in 2025, but it makes communicating to larger groups of people so much easier. Alongside our JCR page, Facebook groups are also how loads of sports teams, and the drama and music groups communicate. Having a Clubcard (and nectar card, and even perhaps a Boots Advantage card) will save you up to hundreds over the year, so I also recommend that!!

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and don't stress too much about starting uni - you deserve to relax and enjoy the rest of your break!

Sent with one final big Peter's love <3

- Emma Hamilton, JCR Vice-Pres

Glossary

ESSENTIAL: TERM NAMES

- **Michaelmas** - October - December
- **Hilary** - January - March
- **Trinity** - April to June

The week you arrive at College - before term starts - is referred to as 0 week. Previous handbooks have explained this is called 'noughth' week (and a google search says this is another Oxford specific term), but I've only ever called it week 0 - presumably it can be called either. Your 0th week in Michaelmas will be Freshers week, whilst 0 weeks in Hilary and Trinity usually include COLLECTIONS*. Also, whilst term officially lasts between weeks 1 and 8, examinations in 1 year sometimes run into 9 week (from experience I can confirm if you do History or Modern Languages, you sadly will have 9 week exams)

Angeling/Angels: at college events (like BOPs - see below), a few JCR members will be designated '**sober angels**' - they'll be there to make sure your welfare is prioritised and everyone can enjoy themselves safely

Battels: The payment of tuition fees and College charges (accommodation, food, printing, JCR membership etc etc.)

Black Tie: Specific dress for the most formal of events - e.g a College ball. Men's black tie = dinner jacket with a black bow tie; women's = any smart attire.

A Blue: Awarded to you if you play sport for a University first team. They say you graduate Oxford with either a First, a spouse or a Blue.

Bod Card: Your student ID card (Bod is short for Bodleian, if you hadn't guessed already). It's like an all-access pass to the city.

BOP: Big Organised Party. College parties held in the JCR which normally have a fancy dress theme. Side note - I'd learn the lyrics to Angels by Robbie Williams if I were you...

Bumps: The main two College boat racing events (Summer XlIs and Torpids) are bumps-style races, consisting of divisions of 13 boats lined up behind one another racing to bump the boat in front.

BYOB: Bring Your Own Bottle (of anything)

Collections: exams taken in College at the beginning of every term, useful for assessing your own progress. This means you might sometimes have to set aside a week at the end of each vac to prepare for them.

Cowley: The area around Cowley Road (shocker) where many Peter's people live out in their second year.

Crew Date: Officially when a dinner is held at a restaurant between two different sports teams (between or within College). Can also just be things such as pub crawls.

Crosskeys: The official drink of the St Peter's College bar. I've listed the regular flavours here, but sometimes these change, and we have had Slushkeys for major events like the Garden Party in the past.

Entz: Just short for entertainment. They run all the events, including, but not limited to, pub quizzes, karaoke nights, garden parties, BOPs and (once) mini golf.

Fifth Week Blues: The Oxbridge term for when you're halfway done through term, with halfway to go, and your worrying lack of energy gives you a hopelessness that makes you a tad depressed. Personally, I think there's a danger of the placebo effect here - the more people keep talking about the fifth week blues, the more likely they seem to manifest. Don't worry though - welfare usually organise some fun extra activities to combat any mid-term sadness.

JCR: The JCR stands for 'Junior Common Room.' Somewhat confusingly, this represents two things: The physical common room for undergraduate students, which can be found opposite the main entrance to Matthews Building. It is a social space, with a pool table and table football, and the JCR kitchen is attached to it. It is where BOPS* take place and where JCR General Meetings take place. It is also the term for the collective undergraduate body at St Peter's. YOU are now a member of the JCR, like me and 370 or so other undergraduate students!

Master's Collections: An informal meeting with your tutor and the Master of the College where you all discuss your academic progress. It'll happen at least once during

your degree, but multiple times if you're on a course longer than three years. The same happens at the end of every term with your main tutor (these are Tutors' Collections).

Matriculation: The traditional ceremony at the University of Oxford (and Cambridge) at the end of Week 1 each term where you officially become a student of the university. You go to the Sheldonian Theatre, have Latin read at you by the Vice Chancellor for 10 minutes, then leave.

Finals: The exams you take in your final year, to determine what classification of degree (1st, 2:1, 2:2 or 3rd class) you graduate with.

Gown: A black cloak that you wear over your sub fusc for exams and matriculation, as well as over your formal clothes in Formal Hall and your normal clothes in Collections.

Iffley: The area around Iffley Road, parallel to Cowley Road.

Hack: The term used to describe people involved in the Oxford Union, who - stereotypically - feign interest in people's personal lives in order to secure their vote in union elections.

Matriculash: For international students, a common idiom in (the UK's) English to express getting drunk is to 'go on the lash' (origin disputed). This word, then, just refers to the part of the day that follows the formal ceremony - let's leave it at that.

Mayday: Celebrating Mayday is a folkloric tradition in Oxford, with lots of Morris dancing. It usually consists of clubbing on the 30th and (hopefully) making it to Magdalen Bridge at 6am to hear Magdalen's choir sing.

MCR: Middle Common Room - the same as the JCR, but for postgraduate and mature students.

Oxford University Student Union: The official Student Union, of which some Colleges (including us) are members. They're, for example, supposed to advocate for equal student treatment across Colleges.

Oxford Union: A debating society with its own library, bar and, of course, debating chamber, that hosts extremely famous guest speakers (Tom Hanks, Nancy Pelosi, José Mourinho), as well as a ball every term. Debates take place every Thursday from 8pm onwards. (Life) membership is optional, at around £285 - I'd consider it if you're interested in debating, politics and the like.

Pidge: Short for Pigeonhole - everyone has their own one, alphabetically placed by surname, where any deliveries go. Bigger parcels are left behind the Porter's desk.

Plib: Nickname for Peter's library. Similarly, the **Plungeon** is 'Peter's library dungeon' (underground floor), and Pleaven is 'Peter's library heaven' (top floor).

Plodge: Nickname for the Porter's Lodge.

Prelims & Mods: Preliminary Examinations and Moderations (Law/Jurisprudence).

These are just university-wide examinations sat at the end of first year (or at the end of Hilary in some subjects) that you need to pass (achieve 40% or higher) in order to continue your course. You can resit them (but only once) in September. NB: grading for Prelims is slightly different to Finals - a 1st is just called a Distinction.

Rustication: A student who has been suspended by the University for a number of different reasons and comes back after a year, starting from where they left off. Less voluntary than suspension. Fun fact: Oscar Wilde was once forced to rusticate for an entire term because he returned from a holiday one day too late - it's not this trivial anymore, however, and not very common, either.

Suspension: A 'suspended' student is one who voluntarily takes time out from university for a number of different reasons and returns after a year, again from the point where they left off.

SCR: Senior Common Room. The JCR/MCR for tutors and fellows.

Scholar: Someone who has achieved a First in their Prelims/Mods.

Sub Fusc: Derived from the Latin 'sub fuscus' meaning dark or gloomy. Just refers to the traditional dress code that has to be observed on certain occasions (mainly formal exams + matriculation), consisting of a gown, a mortar board, and i. a dark suit with dark socks, OR ii. a dark skirt with black tights or stocking, OR iii. dark trousers with dark socks/dark hosiery; all of this is worn with a white shirt, black shoes and a black or white bowtie/black ribbon.