

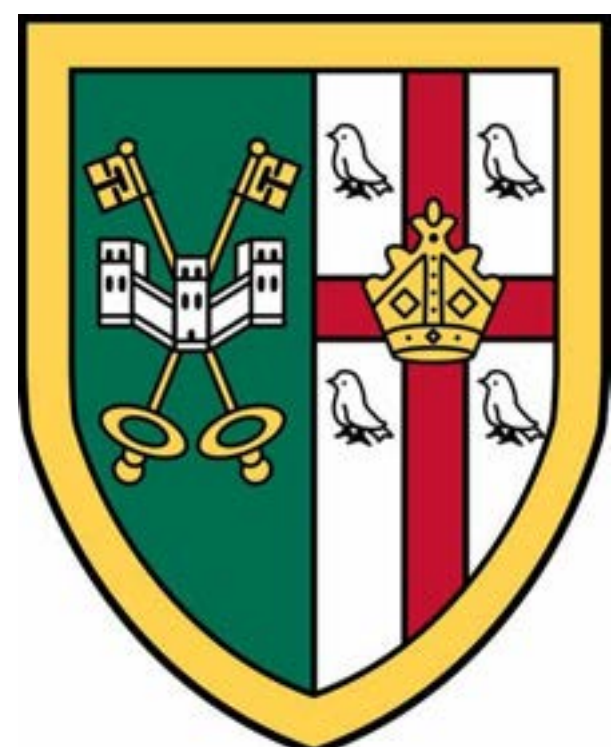
ST PETER'S COLLEGE,  
OXFORD

*THE*  
*FRESHIERS'*  
*GUIDE*

EVERYTHING YOU'LL NEED TO  
KNOW BEFORE STARTING IN  
OCTOBER!

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2023





# Welcome!

**A huge congratulations on officially making it to Oxford, you did it!** Starting university in general can feel incredibly intimidating, let alone somewhere as prestigious as Oxford – but you have been hand picked by some of the country's leading academics and you should be immensely proud. **Never doubt that you deserve your place here!!!**

It's very normal to feel nervous, but Oxford, and more specifically St Peter's, is one of the most welcoming places imaginable. **The college has a reputation for being one of the friendliest colleges**, and I've found it certainly lives up to it. It's a fantastic support system and provides a ready-made network of friends and peers you might otherwise never have known. Peter's is also incredibly practical – located at the heart of the city centre you're never too far from shops, clubs, and lecture halls (very handy for those with a tendency to sleep through their alarms...)

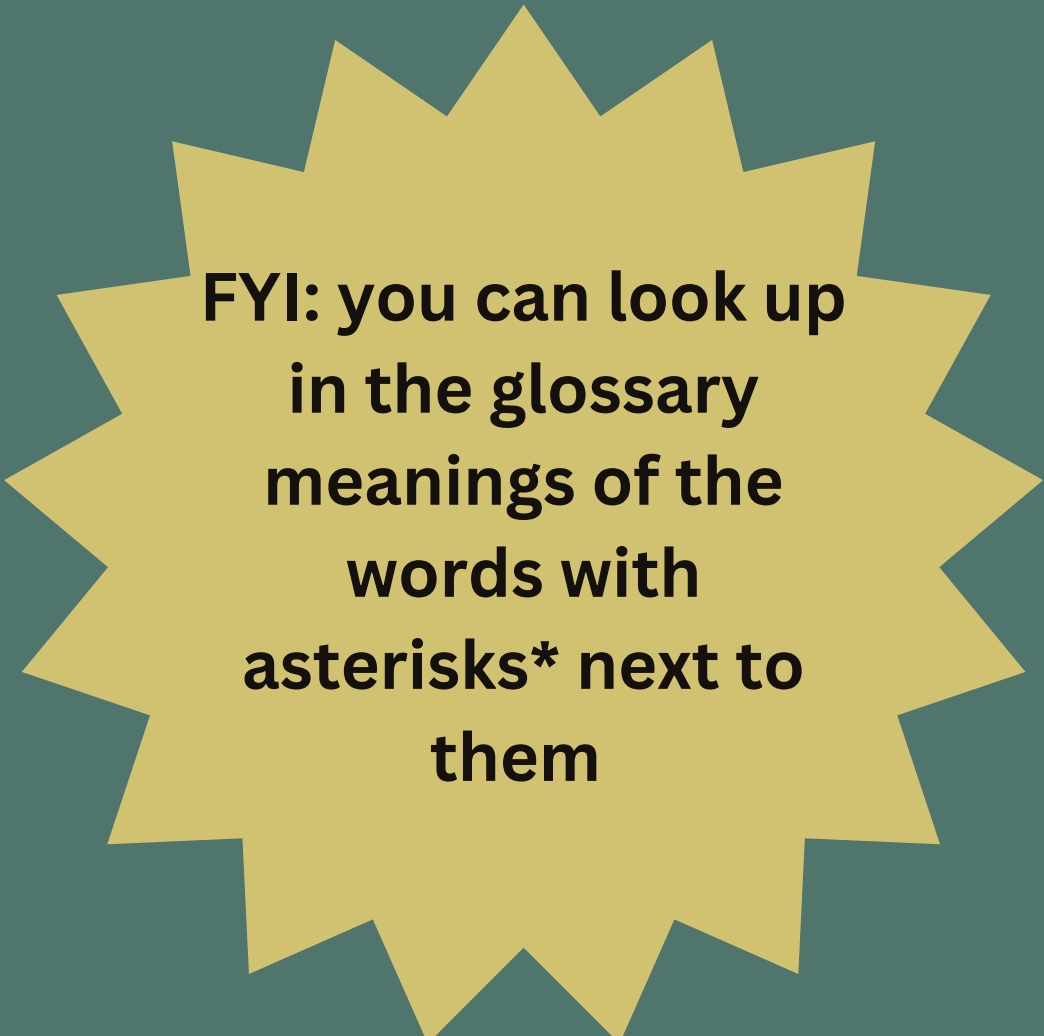
We are a small, tight-knit community and you'll meet so many lifelong friends here, not just within your own year group but those above and below, too. Any remaining nerves regarding the transition will soon, hopefully, be overtaken by excitement, and there's plenty in this guide to help with that.

I hope you've all had a brilliant summer celebrating post-exams freedom (or enjoyed amazing gap years for those that took them) and we cannot wait to welcome you in October. See you at move in day!

**Big Peter's Love,**  
Amy Campbell, JCR Vice President

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**FYI: you can look up  
in the glossary  
meanings of the  
words with  
asterisks\* next to  
them**

# WHAT IS THE JCR?

## **JCR = Junior Common Room**

The JCR refers to two things:

1. The actual common room, which is the big room opening out onto Mulberry Quad, opposite the entrance to Matthews building. It is host to our fabulous BOPs\*, tense pool matches, and enthusiastic Eurovision watching parties.
2. It is the collective body of undergraduates at St Peter's.  
**YOU are now a member of the SPC JCR!**

Every other week a **JCR General Meeting (GM)** is held that all members of the JCR can attend. Motions are proposed and discussed, giving you a direct path into the goings-on of the JCR. Motions range from serious matters, such as amending the JCR constitution, to campaigning for weekly roast dinners in hall (arguably also very serious!).

**The JCR committee** is a group of 20-25 students (predominantly undergraduates) who have been voted into positions by other members of the JCR. We cover areas from welfare to sport to representing specific groups within the student body. During your first year we are your first port of call for pretty much any non-academic issue. **The Freshers' Committee** is a majority of those on the JCR Committee. We will be running around during your **Freshers' Week** leading workshops and social events, taking you to club nights, and generally looking after you all.

Over the next few pages you'll be introduced to the wide **variety of JCR committee roles** and the people who currently occupy them. We are here to help so do not be afraid to find us (/stalk us) online before you join and ask us any questions you have before coming.

# MEET YOUR JCR COMMITTEE

**Fun fact: Leah and I are continuing last years legacy as the second ever all-female Pres and VP at Peter's!**

## President: Leah Mount



Hi everyone! My name is Leah (she/her), and I'm your JCR President for next year. I'm essentially in charge of running the student-led JCR community, which you'll learn a lot more about when you get here!

I'm a second year biologist, but even though my contact hours seem constant, I'm always here if you need to ask anything! I'm extremely chatty (sometimes to my detriment) and I think I'm pretty approachable, and even though I do take a long time to reply to messages (I'm working on it), I'm planning on getting better with my new role !!!

The big thing I want you to remember is that JCR president does NOT mean that I'm not just a normal student!!! I cannot wait to meet you all and make friends, and if you have any questions over the summer (or any other time) just let me know!

Big pres love <3

## Vice President: Amy Campbell

Hi! I'm Amy (she/her), a second-year English student who's been procrastinating her summer reading to write this handbook. As the Vice-President I'll be working super closely with Leah, attending lots of meetings, organising your Freshers' Week, and generally being around to answer any questions you might have. Not to perpetuate Scottish stereotypes, but you can usually find me in the bar, or on the quad making the most of the beautiful southern weather (and very, very occasionally in the library). St Peter's is full of friendly faces but if you have any questions or worries at all feel free to reach out through email ([amy.campbell@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:amy.campbell@spc.ox.ac.uk)) or Facebook. See you in October! :)



# Secretary: Maddie White



Hiya! I'm Maddie (she/her) and I study History. I will be the JCR Secretary for this year, which means that I will be sending JCR emails, writing minutes and basically sorting out all the other super fun admin stuff. I will also be organizing College Parents, so I will be pairing each fresher with a second year to help you guys settle in - keep an eye out for that email! I'm sure you're all feeling very excited and probably a little nervous about starting uni, but I'm sure you will all have an amazing time. I have really loved my time at Peter's - so much that I decided to become Secretary! If you ever have any questions or want a friendly face to talk to me, you can always email me (I'll be an email whizz by next year) at [madeleine.white@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:madeleine.white@spc.ox.ac.uk). Good luck and enjoy it!

# Treasurer: Sarvesh Sabale

Hi, I'm Sarvesh (he/him), I study Economics and Management and I will be your JCR Treasurer for the year. My role essentially includes managing the JCR finances and accounts as well as issuing refunds.

I'm hoping to be a friendly face around college so if you ever need to find me, I will probably be in the JCR playing table tennis or pool. If you have any questions or concerns before college, you can email me at [sarvesh.sabale@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sarvesh.sabale@spc.ox.ac.uk). Have a great year!



# Entz Rep: Tom Kelly



Hi!

I'm Tom Kelly (he/him) and along with Seb we run the entertainment (Entz) side of St Peter's - from bar crawls throughout other colleges, to bands playing in our bar; it's our job as Entz Reps to make you smile, laugh, cringe..... and boogie on the dance floor every 2 weeks! So, if you have any suggestions for party themes or activities, do give one of us a shout and we will do our best to make it happen!

Outside of the Entz business, I'm a 2nd year physicist. During my first year I tried rowing..... debuting in the one (and only) capsizing boat during the summer races. I play trumpet in a band or two, and hope to pick my judo up again this year.

You'll see me next year running late to tutorials and (in a somewhat aggressive Scottish accent) shouting everyone out of the common room parties at the end of the night. See you around!!

# Entz Rep: Seb Wingate

Hey! I'm Seb (he/him) and I will be one of your resident Entz (Entertainment) Reps. I'm studying History which ensures I have all the time in the world to help arrange events from movie nights to pub crawls, from Bingo nights to clubbing tickets, and our very own BOPs\* (big college parties) and more. I'm one half of the entz team, and alongside Tom we promise to offer you the widest range of social activities to make you forget about your workloads and deadlines. St Peter's is renowned for its lively bar and prior events, so you can be sure that there will be no end to your entertainment both in college and out. If you need me, my email is [sebastian.wingate@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sebastian.wingate@spc.ox.ac.uk). Big entz love!





# Welfare Lead: Aman De Silva



Hiya, I'm Aman (he/him). I'm a second year chemist, and I am your JCR Welfare Lead!

As part of the College Health, Wellbeing and Welfare Team, I look after the welfare of all the undergrads, and I manage the smaller welfare initiatives around college. My strengths include speedy texting and witchcraft. My weaknesses: I have a terrible memory, and I'm very afraid of flash mobs, skinny jeans, and Jamie Oliver.

You can reach out to me anytime, before or during the academic year ([aman.desilva@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:aman.desilva@spc.ox.ac.uk)). Whether it's to chat about how you're doing, a little hello, or picnic snack choices, I'm here (and I LOVE talking).

Big welfare love <3

# Welfare Rep: Rhea Score

I'm Rhea (she/her) and I study history of art, and am, unsurprisingly, obsessed with all things art and museums! As welfare rep, my role is to be someone that people can reach out to if they want support, advice, or just a snack break and a chat. I'm always easy to reach whenever needed, and I have an endless supply of biscuits and herbal teabags! With the joy of a humanities subject I have a very flexible schedule, and I can often be found sat somewhere in the sun with an iced coffee (oat milk of course) or walking around the city parks.



# Welfare Rep: George Roberts



Hi, I'm George (he/him) and I'm your male welfare rep for this year! I'm a second year studying French and German. My role is to be a friendly face around college and be there if you ever need a chat or if uni life is getting too much. I hope you guys have all had a great summer and are looking forward to the upcoming year :)

# Returning Officer: Annika Michael

Hello!!! I'm Annika (she/her) and I'll be your Returning Officer for the year. I study Engineering, you can probably find me in the library complaining about problem sheets or getting my millionth hot chocolate from Knoops that week. My job as returning officer is to organise all the elections within the jcr so beware you will probably be getting a LOT of emails from me. I know that first year can be daunting at the beginning but Peter's is a truly amazing community and I have no doubt you'll have an amazing year!! I hope to be a friendly face around peters so feel free to come up to me if you have any questions or even just for a chat. My email is [annika.michael@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:annika.michael@spc.ox.ac.uk) . Can't wait to meet all of you and can't wait to hopefully be receiving lots of manifestos as the year goes on !!!



# LGBTQ+ Rep: Yasmin Collins



Hi! I'm Yasmin (she/her) and I am your LGBTQ+ rep. I study Maths and Philosophy and when I am not trying to explain to someone how the two subjects are related, I can be found pretending to work in Medieval Pret, or in the college bar. Coming to uni is scary for anyone, but often especially for queer people - I'm here to reassure you that the LGBTQ+ community in Oxford is amazingly welcoming and filled with the coolest people. I have lots of experience supporting queer friends through gay crises (dyeing hair, providing angry/sad gay music recs, etc.) so please feel free to reach out for any support by email ([yasmin.collins@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:yasmin.collins@spc.ox.ac.uk)) or spot me by my pride converse. Massively looking forward to meeting you all xx

# Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Rep: Blodwyn Hall-Jones

I'm Blodwyn (they/them) and I am your Trans and Gender non Conforming rep for this year :) My role is essentially to help all TGNC students navigate uni and college life (I know how scary the prospect of coming to uni as a Trans or Gender non conforming student can be- I promise you that you're not alone and that other people have felt this way too and I am here to help), put on some camp and joyful events for us and to answer any questions anyone has about gender and identity. Yasmin and I will also be working hard to make sure that Peter's remains the safe, welcoming and supportive environment it is for all queer students- you're all welcome here! Aside from my History degree, I'm really into improv comedy (spot the queer theatre kid...) and social justice of all kinds :))

Ultimately, I'm here to support my fellow TGNC peers in any way I can and remind us all that we're not alone- no matter how scary things can be. Between us meeting in October and now, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out, my email is [blodwyn.hall-jones@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:blodwyn.hall-jones@spc.ox.ac.uk)  
Much TGNC love!



# BAME Rep: Solomon Allen



Hey guys, my name is Solomon (he/him) and I'll be one of your BAME reps for this year, alongside Bella. I am reading PPE but I do have a tendency to procrastinate on my degree so if you see me around college or in the library feel free to come and chat with me. As BAME rep, I want to make sure any POC students feel welcome and accommodated at Peter's, which means I'm always happy to act as a support figure for POC students with any and all problems you guys might face. We'll also be running BAME events through the whole year as an opportunity for you guys to get to know each other better as a BAME community and so that you are able to meet and talk to POC students from other colleges as well. Peter's has been a really good space to meet new people for me over the last year so we'll try our best and hopefully it will be for you guys as well. Feel free to contact me (for literally any reason at all) at my email [solomon.allen@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:solomon.allen@spc.ox.ac.uk)

# BAME Rep: Bella Bradshaw

Hi y'all! I'm Bella (she/her) and I'm going to be one of your BAME reps for this year. My job is to make sure that the BIPOC students at Peter's feel safe, welcome, and happy. Most importantly, though, I want you all to have a fun time while you're here! We'll be hosting BAME inclusive stuff like welfare teas, inter-college events and formals so you can meet and become good friends with other BIPOC students both within the Peter's community and outside of it. We also have a BAME parents scheme, so you'll have a second-year helping you settle in and support you when you need it. I want to be someone you can always reach out to, so if you have any questions or just want a chat, please don't be shy to contact me! ([isabella.bradshaw@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:isabella.bradshaw@spc.ox.ac.uk)).



I can't wait to meet you all and I'm sure you'll come to fall in love with Peter's like we all have; it's an incredibly friendly and welcoming place, as you'll see soon <3

# Socio-Economic Rep: Reuben Constantine



Hey everyone, I'm Reuben (he/him) and my role on the JCR is to represent students from less privileged socioeconomic backgrounds or students for whom money is a concern here at college. Student life can be very expensive - especially in Oxford - and I understand not everybody has a secure financial background on which to rely. But fear not! I'm here to make your life less "cha-ching" and more "cha-chill"!

I'm basically just a friendly face that you can speak to if you ever want information about managing finances or applying for bursaries. I promise I don't bite and I'll always be happy to try answer any questions or even just listen to your finance related rant if you ever need to!

I study languages (French and Modern Greek specifically) so to be honest I have a decent amount of free time and you can usually find me procrastinating in the bar or burning toast in the JCR. You can also contact me via email [reuben.constantine@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:reuben.constantine@spc.ox.ac.uk) if you have any questions!

## Access and Outreach

### Rep: Owen Thomas

I'm Owen (he/him) and I'm this year's rep for all things Access and Outreach. I basically work with college to make sure that their outreach programs work smoothly, getting students involved where I can. I'm also a point of contact for anyone who has come from an underrepresented background (especially regarding education). When I'm not procrastinating doing my degree, you can usually find me singing in the Chapel choir, watching the rugby, or being dragged along to a swim at Hinksey.



# Sports Rep: Nasim Bellagnaoui



Hi my name is Nasim (he/him) and I am the sports rep for St Peter's this year. I study PPE, however I try not to be as pompous as the stereotype, so if you have any problems, concerns or needs for assistance with regards to anything sports related both within in college or university wide then I'm happy and available to help. Encouraging participation in sport is something that I really pride myself in, knowing how big of a difference sport makes to well being especially in an intense place like Oxford where any respite from work is welcomed. I'm responsible for sorting out sports funding, reimbursement for subs and sporting events within the college. St Peter's has been a great college for sport and I hope to continue this trend. If you have anything you would like to contact me about feel free to email me:

[nasim.bellagnaoui@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nasim.bellagnaoui@spc.ox.ac.uk)

# Arts Rep: Fred Thompson

Hello, I'm Fred (he/him), your arts rep for your first year and I study English. Art is fun and should be enjoyed by all (even STEM students!) as a therapeutic activity that that often provides a real feeling of accomplishment. If you cannot be bothered with all this - and, let us be honest, who can? - part of my role for this year will be to create communities of art appreciation, an appreciation which does not of course require any previous knowledge, just enthusiasm!

See you soon!



# Charities & Environment

## Rep: Nell Wightman



Hey guys! I'm Nell (she/her), I study Biology and I will be your very own Charities and Environment rep this year. My role basically involves engaging with and organising charity and environmental initiatives so that the JCR has a positive social and environmental impact. This will include sustainable food and waste, wildlife boxes, charity fundraisers and, if I have anything to say about it, Peter's very own badger sett (no promises on this one!). I will also help the JCR to decide which charity we donate to. You'll be relieved to know that it is not just me that is coming up with this very important stuff!!! I'll be going to lots of forums with our own and other college members to come up with super exciting ideas. Most importantly, I would love to hear any exciting ideas that you guys may have, or even general questions or worries about Peter's. Feel free to contact me at [nell.wightman@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nell.wightman@spc.ox.ac.uk)

## Social Media Rep: Sophie Rowdene

Hey!! I'm Sophie (she/her), I'm a second year Music student and I'll be your social media rep this year. That means I'm mostly responsible for running the JCR instagram page and will be running the JCR TikTok (watch this space)... I will be looking for people to make content so do give me a shout if that's something you'd be interested in!! Outside of that, when I'm not inventing new ways to procrastinate, you'll find me in Chapel Choir or Orchestra. I am also running the St Peter's Music Society this year, so I'll also be your port of call if you'd like to perform in any lunchtime concerts! :)



# Internationals Rep: Sophia Banner



Hi, I'm Sophia (she/her) and I'm studying Archaeology and Anthropology. I'm really excited to be your Internationals Rep this year! I'm Filipino and English but grew up in Greece, Bermuda and Vietnam. My job is to help you feel at home and settle in while dealing with the challenges of moving to a new country. I'm also here to help with any questions you might have about general life in Oxford. There are a vast array of societies representing different communities so there'll be lots of opportunities to connect both inside and outside of college. St Peters has a really welcoming international community and I hope it'll be as great for you as it has been for me. Feel free to reach out to me if you have questions (or just want to chat) at any point ([sophia.banner@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sophia.banner@spc.ox.ac.uk)) and I hope you have a wonderful first year!

## Academic Affairs Rep: Rhonda Tse

My name is Rhonda (she/her), I study Biochemistry, and I'll be your Academic Affairs Rep this year. I'm one of your main points of contact for any academic-related questions/issues regarding teaching at college (ie. tutes, collections, exam advice/workshops) – so feel free to email me ([long.tse@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:long.tse@spc.ox.ac.uk)) for any questions/suggestions about preparing for Oxford and about college teaching. I also run the annual Academic Feedback sessions in Hilary term, where everyone gets to come give their thoughts on how SPC has been supporting their learning this year and get free pizza!

Outside of my degree and various academic affairs, I captain for the Oxford powerlifting team and am part of the Oxford Hong Kong society. I really do recommend trying some societies out (even if you don't end up going for long!). It's another great avenue to develop yourself as a well-rounded person and to build friendships outside of college and your degree.

Oxford can be hard and transitioning to Oxford work-life balance can be even harder. I'm always up for a chat (FB Messenger or Instagram works too) and try my best to help, so I hope I can be a friendly face to all of you come October :D





# THE BAR

## Bar Manager: Martha Sainty



Hi, I'm Martha (she/her), I study geography and I will be your bar manager next year. I have been told this year, 'I feel like the only reason you're at Oxford is for the bar', so take that as you will. I look forward to meeting everyone in front of and behind the bar next year and strongly encourage everyone to take up some shifts and give bar work a go!

## Bar Treasurer: Arthur Lingham

I'm Arthur (he/him), I am the bar treasurer and I study biology. Find me working behind the bar or playing college football.



# FRESHER HELPERS

## Gracie Allen



Hi, I'm Gracie (she/her). I'm not on the JCR committee but I am on the Freshers' committee. This means I'll be doing a couple nights of sober patrol and will generally be around for a conversation at any point during freshers' week. I'm looking forward to meeting all the new freshers and finally beating my reputation within the boat club of being a silly fresher (still silly, not fresher).

I'm a second year and I study Law. I'm also one of the women's captains for the boat club this year (find us at the college freshers' fair!) and will be doing a bit of work for the student paper Cherwell. Outside of Oxford, I love to read and I spend a lot of time paddleboarding, swimming and hiking in the Lake District.

## Jonathan Clark

Hi! I'm Jonathan (he/him), and I'm studying history. When I'm not studying, I love hanging out with my friends in college chatting, playing games, and exploring the beautiful city of Oxford together. This year I'm the Christian Union (CU) rep for Peter's. This isn't actually a JCR role but hopefully you'll see me around helping out during Freshers Week. As CU rep I organise fortnightly bible studies in college as well as linking up with uni-wide CU events. College is a brilliant opportunity to explore new ideas, so if you have any questions at all about the Christian faith then I'd love to hear from you! You can find me on Facebook or email me at [jonathan.clark@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.clark@spc.ox.ac.uk)



# Jada Richard

See p.39 to find out more about what a "college wife" is/college families are!



Hiiii, I'm Jada (she/her). I study History of Art, and I'm on the Freshers' Committee! I'm so excited to meet all of you and hopefully help your transition into St Peter's a little bit easier. Alongside being full-time art historian, my side hustles include working in the Peter's bar, lying on the grass in the quads and being a committed college wife and soon-to-be college parent. I'll be another friendly face around college during Freshers' Week, so please don't hesitate to come to me with any questions, or just to say hi :) My email is [jada.richard@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jada.richard@spc.ox.ac.uk). I hope you all have a great rest of your summer and see you in October!!!<3

## JCR POSITIONS CURRENTLY-EMPTY-BUT-HOPEFULLY-SOON-TO-BE-FILLED!!

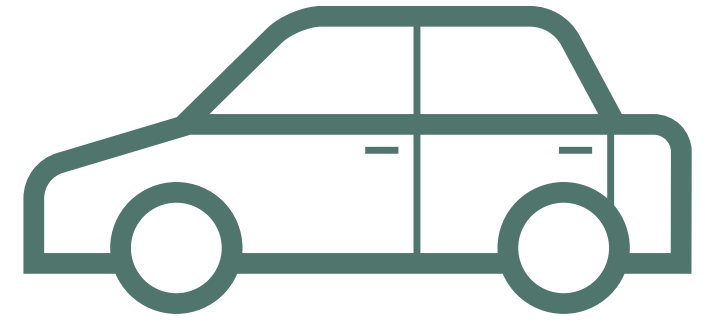
There are three positions that will likely be filled by second-years and elections will be happening soon: Women's Rep, Disabilities Rep and Faith Rep. In the meantime, please come to myself, Leah or the Welfare Reps for any issues that fall under these categories and we will point you in the right direction.

More excitingly, **there are two positions to be filled by you guys in Michaelmas!**

**JCR Chair:** Not actually on the committee, but is in charge of running GMs

**First Year (Freshers') Rep:** Represents the interests of First Years on the JCR Committee

# ARRIVING



## You will be moving into St Peter's on Sunday 1st October.

St Peter's is located at the centre of Oxford: amazing for basically everything except for moving in! The most important thing to note is the **Zero Emissions Zone**, within which New Inn Hall Street falls. This means that you need to go onto the **Oxford City Council website** (<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/zez>) and pay the ZEZ charge for your vehicle **either 6 days in advance or 6 days afterwards**. Important note: a 100% discount from the charge is available for students on a full rate maintenance loan (<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/oxford-zero-emission-zone-zez/apply-zez-discount/student-discount>).

Upon getting to New Inn Hall Street (where college is located) you should be able to find a parking space near-ish the entrance to college. On arrival, before you do anything else, you will need to go to pick up your key and a **parking permit** from **Porters' Lodge** for up to 30 minutes. At this point, you can begin to move all your stuff in with the help of your parents/supporters and any members of the **Freshers' Committee** who are around (although about 3 trips up and down Matthews may be my physical limit!)

## New Inn Hall Street



Plenty space to park on this side of the road      Entrance to college (Porter's Lodge)

After you have moved in and said goodbye to your parents/supporters, you may feel at a slight loss as to what to do/feel out of your depth. The most important thing to remember is DON'T PANIC. The best way to start is to **say hello to people on your floor**, and if you're feeling particularly adventurous there will be members of the Freshers Committee **in the JCR or the quad near** it (if it's sunny) playing those awkward ice breaker games that we all simultaneously love and hate.

# ACCOMMODATION

The vast majority of you will be in either **New Building** or **Matthews Building**, with some of you in **Staircase IV** (also called the Emily Morris building). All of the rooms are similar and I promise that whichever room you are assigned to will very quickly begin to feel like home. This can be helped by bringing personal items from home and photos that you can pin up on the pinboard in your room (NB: bring drawing pins!).

The majority of Peter's accommodation is arranged around **corridors**, which means that while everyone has their own space, the proximity gives a sense of community. Unlike accommodation at many universities, there aren't "flats" with big shared kitchens. **All rooms have single beds, a desk and desk chair, a coffee table, a chair, plenty of storage space (a wardrobe with shelves within, desk drawers etc), and a sink.** There are a few toilets on every floor and at least one shower - these are shared facilities.

There are some kitchen facilities (some fridges) in kitchenettes in Matthews Building and there is a **JCR Kitchen** (behind the common room). However, despite access to the JCR Kitchen, most people eat in the dining hall in 1st year where meals are heavily subsidised. As part of your Battels\* you will pay up front a sum of money to be spent in hall that term via the **"UPay" system**- it makes your food during term feel like it is free which is a very nice feeling! The pre-paid amount is usually enough to cover 1x meal in hall per day for a term.

The bane of every Oxbridge student's life is moving in and out every term, and you will have to do so too. You have to completely empty your room, except there is **a metal safe box** (approx 50cm x 50cm x 50cm) where you can leave some stuff. International students are also allowed to store some extra bits in the college storage room- you can contact your Internationals Rep Sophia with any queries about this.

If you have any general questions about accommodation, "I'm your man" (well, woman). There is an Accommodation Rep position but it hasn't been filled yet, so for the time being accommodation is one of my responsibilities - so ask away!

# ACCOMMODATION

## Matthews Building



Matthews rooms are **spacious**, slightly bigger than New Building rooms. Although the rooms in themselves are somewhat plain, this just makes it even more of a blank canvas for you to decorate (tip: fairy lights. Lots of them). Their windows have lovely views of the city from the higher floors. **Close to the JCR** and the college bar so some great social spaces on your doorstep. It can be nice to bring blankets/cushions and make a window seat for yourself in these rooms.

## New Building



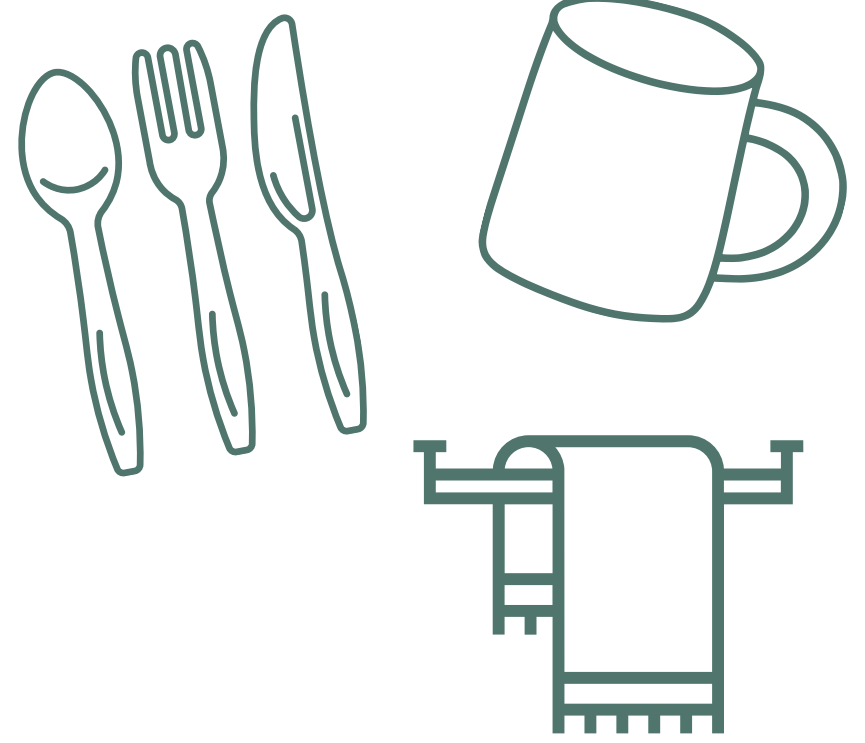
**Brick arches.** I could leave the summary of New Building rooms there. The brick arch separates "bedroom" from "study" area - fabulous work-life balance with only 2 steps! If you are on the side facing Chavasse Quad you will open your curtains in the morning to glorious sunshine, while if you're on the other side there are gorgeous sunsets. There are a handful of New Building rooms that lack the brick arches, but these rooms make up for that in space.

## Staircase IV



A few of you will live here in one of the lovely old red brick buildings. Lots of mahogany in these rooms and **lots of space**. There is even more work-life separation in these rooms than in New, with (in some rooms) a partial wall separating a "bedroom" from a "living room". You will also be around some **third years** which is a great opportunity to get to know people beyond your own year group.

# WHAT TO BRING?



A room at uni is different from a room at home because it will quickly become not just where you sleep but also where you will work, eat, do a quick workout, or drunkenly feed yourself a kebab after a big night out. Thus, your room needs more than just a mattress in it. That being said, there's no need to go overboard, so here's a handy list of things to think about.

## Wise to bring:

- **Plates, bowls, mugs** (useful for not only tea but also honey and lemon when you almost inevitably lose your voice in Freshers' Week), **cutlery, glasses** etc. (make sure to bring at least two of each thing because there will be times when you can't be bothered to wash them!!!)
- **Duvet, pillows, 2 sets of bed linen.** (I also brought a mattress topper but definitely not necessary, the beds are decently comfortable.)
- **Kettle** (one of the easiest ways to meet people in Freshers' Week is having your floormates round for a cup of tea/coffee).
- **Bath towels, hand towels** and a **tea towel.**
- **Washing up sponge, fairy liquid, dish cloth.**
- A plug-socket **adaptor** (if you're an international student).
- **Padlock** for the metal safe box.

## Optional:

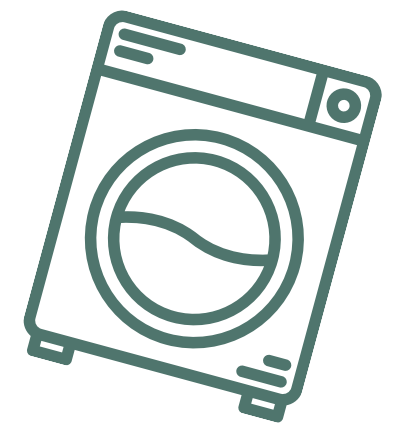
- **Things to decorate:** rugs, cushions, photos, battery-powered fairy lights, pins for the pinboard in your room, plants (if you can keep any alive!)
- **A diffuser** is always good for keeping your room smelling nice.
- **Drying rack** (means drying clothes is free, always a plus).
- **A mini fridge:** phenomenal for storing milk, yoghurts, or- most importantly for me- a bottle of Echo Falls.

# DOMESTIC FEATURES

Not the most interesting section of the guide I'll be honest... But VERY important so please power through :)

## Washing

There are washing machines and tumble driers on the **first and third floors of Matthews**. New Building doesn't have laundry facilities but they are available on **the ground floor of Staircase IV** (a whole 30 second walk away). A load of washing costs £2, tumble-drying costs £1. It is paid for by a contactless card, which you can get from the washing room. You charge up your card online via the [circuit.co.uk](http://circuit.co.uk) website, then head to the washing machine which will have instructions.



## Room Cleaning

St Peter's has a wonderful set of **Scouts** (cleaners), who despite sounding like they belong in the woods making campfires, are all very helpful at making sure you live in (relative) cleanliness. They will clean your room regularly as well as clean all the common areas (bathrooms etc) daily. You will also have two bins in your room (one general waste, one recycling) that they will empty if you leave them outside your door in the morning). **Say hi!** It's nice to be friends with the person who may see you nursing a particularly bad hangover. FYI It's also common to buy your scout an end-of-term prezzie.

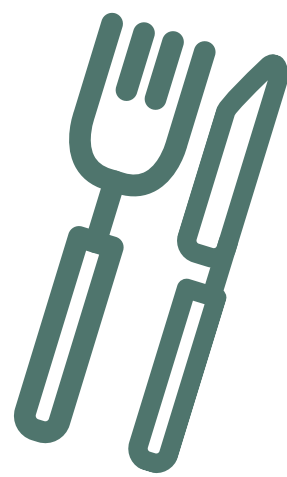


## The Porters

The Porters' Lodge (affectionately known as "plodge") is the first thing you come to when entering through the big green double doors at the front of college. The porters staff the lodge **24/7** and they are your **first port of call** for any issues that you may be having around college, e.g. a leaky sink or a dodgy floorboard. It may be useful for you to have **the porters' phone number** (can be found on the college website) in your phone contacts in case of an emergency. The porters are lovely and many love a good chat, especially Neville (we <3 you Nev) **so make sure to say hello when you come and go!** I cannot promise that they won't judge you for 5 clothes deliveries in one week, or for coming in looking a state at 3am, but at least they don't actually tell you that you look a state or that you have a shopping addiction (at least not often...)



# FOOD



## Informal Hall

St Peter's is a catered college. This means that Monday-Friday breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the dining hall. On Saturday and Sunday brunch and dinner are also available. These meals are called "informal hall": a **canteen-style eating arrangement**. A typical "informal hall" meal will offer a meat option and two vegetarian/vegan options for the main, with available sides of veg, potatoes (read: so. many. potatoes), salad, fruit, and yoghurts.

A significant proportion of your meals will have been charged on your **Battels\*** each term, but if you need to top up at any point all you need to do is log into the **uPay website** (<https://upay.co.uk>) with your college email and password and 'top up' your account by entering your bank card details. Then in hall, you simply take your **Bod Card\*** (library and university card) with you, which you hand over to the staff at the cash register to be swiped and charged.



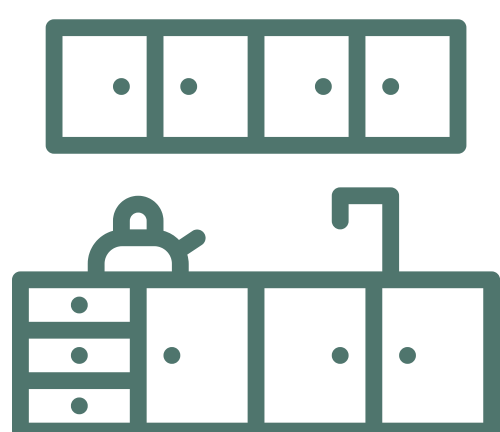
many, many  
BeReals in hall  
last year



Our first taste of  
weekend brunch  
at Matriculation...  
life changing

## JCR Kitchen

Equipped with a **microwave, toaster, 8 hobs, and plenty cooking equipment** (pots, pans etc). Unfortunately there are no ovens, so that sourdough loaf you've been dying to bake will have to wait until the vac. You will need to bring your own plates and cutlery. There have definitely been many...interesting...meals cooked in here this year at all hours of the day/night.



# FOOD



## Formal Hall

This usually runs twice a week, **on Tuesdays and Thursdays**, starting slightly later in the evening than informal hall. There are also extra ones dotted throughout the year, with an extra Sunday formal every term, JCR Christmas Dinner in Week 8 of Michaelmas, and a BAME formal. At Formal Hall you wear your **gown\*** over formal attire (usually a suit or a nice dress, but definitely not black-tie level fancy). On Tuesdays a grace from different faiths/traditions is read out at the start, while on Thursdays **the chapel choir sings a Latin grace**. A 3 course meal is served to you, as well as bread, coffee and chocolates, and when you book Formal Hall you choose either meat, vegetarian or vegan options, with any other of your dietary requirements being catered for. Guests from other colleges or from outside university can be invited in. It is **BYOB** so either bring bottles of wine, beer, or a soft drink of your choosing. You sign up for Formal Hall via the **uPay website** about a week in advance.

## Meal Times

**Breakfast:** 8am-9am

**Lunch:** 12pm-1.30pm

**Informal Hall Dinner:** 5.30-7.30pm on non-Formal days, 5.30-.6.30pm on days when there is a Formal

**Formal Hall:** 7.30pm (Starts promptly at 7.30. Wise to get there to secure table space for your whole group at about 7.15pm Lasts until about 9pm)

**Brunch** on weekends: 11am-12.30pm

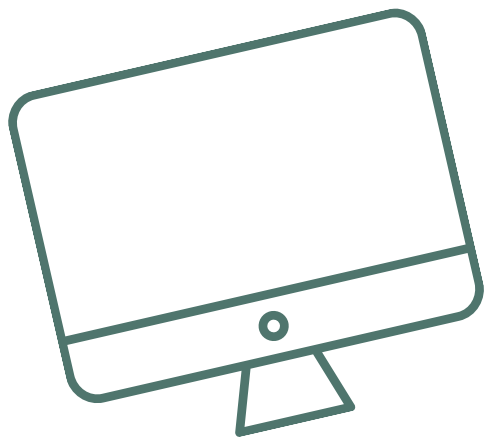


The special Burns Night Formal, complete with speeches from us resident Scots :)



JCR Christmas Dinner, featuring impromptu speeches and lots of singing





# IT



As you get ready to arrive at St Peter's for your first term at Oxford there's no doubt that you'll be keen to get your internet and IT accounts set up as quickly as possible. IT at Oxford is generally fairly straightforward. Although it can all seem a bit confusing at first, you will find that it is an invaluable resource that helps to make your Oxford life simpler.

The first thing to know is that you will soon be assigned a **university email address and username**. You'll also be prompted to choose a password (which can be changed later). Your email address will look something like **john.doe@spc.ox.ac.uk** and your username ('spet number') will have the same format as **spet1234** but with a different unique collection of numbers. As far as IT is concerned, these are the two most important details to remember, and both will stay with you for your entire time at the college. It is through your university email that your tutors will stay in touch with you and you will receive updates from departments, societies, and Peter's itself. On the other hand, your spet number grants you access to a number of other university-wide online services. **In short, if you need to log-in to something at Oxford there's a very good chance that either your email address or spet number will do the trick!**

**Almost all students at Peter's use a laptop** and many take them along to libraries and lectures. You are of course welcome to bring a desktop computer, but be mindful of having to unpack and pack it each term when you have to move in and out of your room. Whilst **you can quite comfortably get by at Peter's without your own printer**, bringing one along will almost certainly save you money in the long-run if you think you'll be printing out a lot. I printed a total of 1 thing last year (and it wasn't even for my degree) so purchasing a printer definitely wouldn't have been worthwhile for me. The online college printing system is pretty reliable (the system and printers are pretty new). It does charge **a small amount per page** (literally a matter of pence) which is put on your Battels\* at the start of the following term.



# IT

The first question on everyone's mind when they arrive somewhere...

## How do I get wifi?

St Peter's College provides high-speed internet access to all Freshers in all accommodation blocks. A step-by-step guide on how to connect to the college Wifi will be finding its way to you soon. St Peter's has **dedicated IT technicians** available during office hours on the ground floor of Staircase III who are always happy to help get Freshers up and running. If you're having any trouble at all, please don't give a second thought to asking! (seriously, I sat with them for 15 minutes on my second day only to find out I'd been putting in the wrong password the whole time, these guys are SO patient)

In the unlikely event that you can't get your Internet working straight away, don't stress. The college has a number of computers with internet access that any student is welcome to use, which can be found in the library.

The best way to ensure you are up to date with all things IT related even before arriving at St Peter's is by **setting up as much as possible before your arrival in October**. Things like returning your University Card Form, setting up your Single Sign-On (SSO) and Remote Access account are all really useful to have ticked off the checklist so you don't have to stress about it during Freshers' Week. IT anywhere is always a bit of a faff, but a necessary faff. Make sure you keep up to date with emails from college as this is where most IT information and instructions will be sent your way.

I know this might seem daunting (especially for non-STEM students), but **don't panic!** College makes the whole process very straightforward and easy to understand, with detailed step-by-step instructions and people who are happy to help out.

# MONEY



For many of you, university is going to be the first time you've had to deal with spending large amounts of money on rent, bills and food. Managing your money carefully is essential, so here are some tips to help you make sure you live within your means!

## Make a budget and monitor your spending

Making a budget can help you build up a picture of what you have coming in vs. what you are spending. Try **keeping receipts** and making **a record at the end of each month** of what you have spent to see whether you have stuck to your budget, and if you haven't, where you can cutback. The biggest thing is to **be realistic** and not bury your head in the sand. **Internet banking** is a useful thing to set up. Where it is obvious that you are overspending don't put off addressing the problem; instead, take time to sit down and reassess your finances. Also don't forget to budget for the vacation.

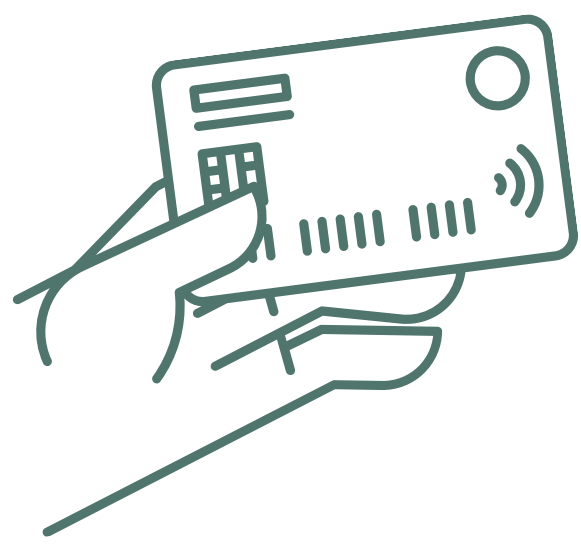
## Banking

Don't forget to go down to your bank and **upgrade your account to a student one** - this will have **a lot of benefits**. Banks love students and therefore offer a wide range of different incentives. There unfortunately are not many incentives for internationals - many offers are only available if you have lived in the UK for at least three years. However, the University guidance (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/international>) is worth looking into if you have recently moved to the UK.

## Overdraft

The size of the overdraft on your student account will differ depending on your bank. Most should offer an **interest free overdraft** for the duration of your degree, which you will probably need to use at some point (again, only for UK students).

Once your student account and card is set up I would recommend loading it onto **ApplePay** or an equivalent - very handy when going out and about if you've forgotten your card.



# MONEY

## Talk to your bank

If you are lucky enough to have some extra savings then you should discuss this with your bank; they should be able to tell you where the best place is for your money. **ISAs and online savings accounts** are usually the highest interest.

Don't go over your overdraft limit - bank charges can be pretty high! It can take a couple of weeks to process a student bank account, in particular the overdraft, so we recommend **sorting it out now** instead of worrying about it during Freshers' Week.

## Battels

Battels\* are **the bills that you have to pay to college** by Friday of 2nd Week each term. They cover rent, heating, electricity and water. Library fines, punt charges and photocopying can also be charged here too. If you have problems paying Battels on time, go and see the **Student Finance Officer** who will sort things out - please don't keep it to yourself. The college can help with student loans queries and budgeting along with any hardship issues you may face. Alternatively you can go and see the JCR welfare officers, or Socio-Economic Rep Reuben, who can give you advice too.

## Jobs

**You are not allowed an official part time job during term time** by the University, but trust me, you would not have the time for one anyway with an Oxford-workload. The college does offer some work during vacations, such as a Telethon in the Easter vac, but the main opportunity is working on **the college bar** (one of the last remaining student-run college bars in Oxford). It's very much up to you if you decide to do a shift one week, there is no compulsion to. I would recommend getting trained on the bar in first term just so you can see if it's something you enjoy. I was able to keep my job at home, and work during the vacations which I would also really recommend, if you can.

# MONEY



## Grants & Bursaries

As well as student loans, there are other sources of income available to students that often don't need paying back! The JCR, the college itself and the University provide various types of bursaries and grants for different needs, from helping out with the general living costs to funding for trips, art projects and sports equipment.

**Oxford Bursaries** or **Crankstart Scholarships** are available from the University for UK students from lower income households. The University can see whether you are eligible from your household income assessment in your student finance application. Eligible students will receive their Bursary via the University.

## Other sources of help

If you are having any issues with your student loan the best thing to do is **contact Student Finance directly**, This can be difficult at busy times so be patient! If you are unsure about any loan-related matter don't hesitate to ask the **Student Finance Officer**. St Peter's can sometimes contribute towards the cost of academic projects and trips. For students who have obligatory field trips (e.g. Geography, Earth Sciences and Biology), the college has funds that can often pay for a part, if not the whole, of the costs. For personal trips, there are other grants, with deadlines often in March/April that can go towards expenses as long as you prove you'll be spending it wisely - these are available through college and the University.

For advice on all funding matters including student loans, budgeting and battels queries, see the Student Finance Officer, **Katie Pullen-Rowland** (Monday to Thursday, 8.30am - 4.00 pm, based in the Finance office at college, email: [katie.pullen-rowland@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:katie.pullen-rowland@spc.ox.ac.uk)). Katie is here to help with financial matters; your conversation will be completely private and confidential!



The Peter's lib basement also makes a good nap spot...

The majestic Radcliffe Camera



## BOOKS & LIBRARIES

Surprisingly enough, you will be reading a fair few books during your time here. Even the STEM students cannot escape.

Depending on your subject you may wish to buy a couple of your textbooks when you get to college, but you'll find that nearly everyone just gets their books out of a library. **Oxford is packed to the brim with libraries** so even if the book you need is not in the college library, you'll be able to find it somewhere. The college library lets you borrow books for a month, and even then it is only a simple online renewal process to allow you to borrow them for longer (<http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk> will be your friend and lifesaver very quickly not only for renewing books, but also as a tool to access books online from the comfort of your own laptop).

You'll probably be sent **a reading list over summer**. Email/message your college parents once you're in touch with them and ask them what books they'd recommend buying or borrowing. I found that second hand book websites were very useful and very cheap (for example Abe Books or World of Books), although it is good to make sure you're buying one of the most recent editions (especially for STEM subjects or Law). Pre-uni reading lists may seem really daunting but you'll likely only need to read a few: again, **your college parent is probably best to guide you on this**. Some people like to do their pre-reading mid-September so that it starts getting them into the headspace of their degree.

If you're like me, studying in your room soon becomes unbearable (and usually unproductive). St Peter's Library (affectionately known as the "**plib**") is my go-to (the 30 second walk from my room is appealing) but it can get pretty crowded, so definitely check out some external libraries as well, and you'll end up at some point venturing into your **faculty library** to get the books you need. Whilst I'm personally too intimidated by the Old Bodleian, it's definitely a popular spot for some afternoon reading.



# THE CITY

## Shops and restaurants



There are three main areas for shopping: the **High Street**, **Cornmarket Street**, and the **Westgate Shopping Centre**. All 3 are within a couple of minutes from college. Westgate is where you'll find your classic H&M, Urban Outfitters, and a Primark (a very useful shop for last min BOP\* costumes). There are some more quirky shops in the **Covered Market**: home to Sartorelli's Pizza and the famous Ben's Cookies.

For stocking up on food, shampoo or other essentials, you have many stores you can visit. **Tesco** and **Sainbury's** are both on Cornmarket Street, probably about a 5 min walk from college. Both are open until midnight, except the Tesco shuts at 5pm on a Sunday. You will come to know and love the iconic tescalator; possibly the most beloved landmark in the city. If you are feeling fancy, M&S is right round the corner from college on your way to the High Street (if you haven't already tried M&S Candy Floss Grapes, try them).

Every Italian restaurant chain you can think of is within a 5 min walk from college, with lots of good restaurants on **George Street** in particular. For some really nice restaurants that are more small and independent than the ones in the centre definitely venture into Jericho area (north Oxford) and Cowley area (east Oxford). The tapas place (Al-Andalus) on **Little Clarendon Street** is always raved about. They can be pricey but the restaurants on the top level of **Westgate** never miss and they can be a great place to go when parents visited/when it's somebody's birthday. I am a particular fan of Mowgli and Pizza Pilgrims. (And of course the trusty Nando's!)

When shopping don't forget: student discount!! If you are unsure if a place does a student discount, just ask, and all you need to do to get it is either through an app such as Student Beans or Unidays (would recommend setting up accounts) or by showing your Bod Card\*. Shout out to Mission Burrito on St Michael's Street who do 30% off on Wednesdays.



# NIGHTLIFE

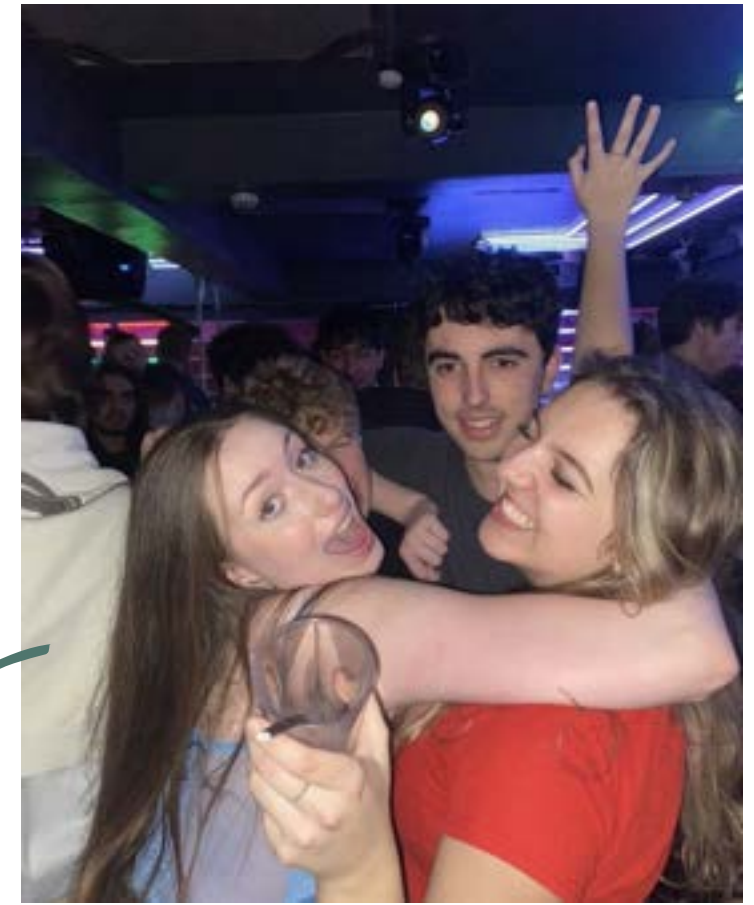


## Clubs

As a Glaswegian, coming to Oxford I was sceptical about the club scene, and I wasn't entirely wrong. You do inevitably end up at the exact same clubs every week, but once you start to embrace the Oxford nightlife you start having a lot of fun. Peter's is probably the best located college for the three main clubs. I highly recommend getting the Fixr app to be able to get tickets for club nights and events.

## Bridge

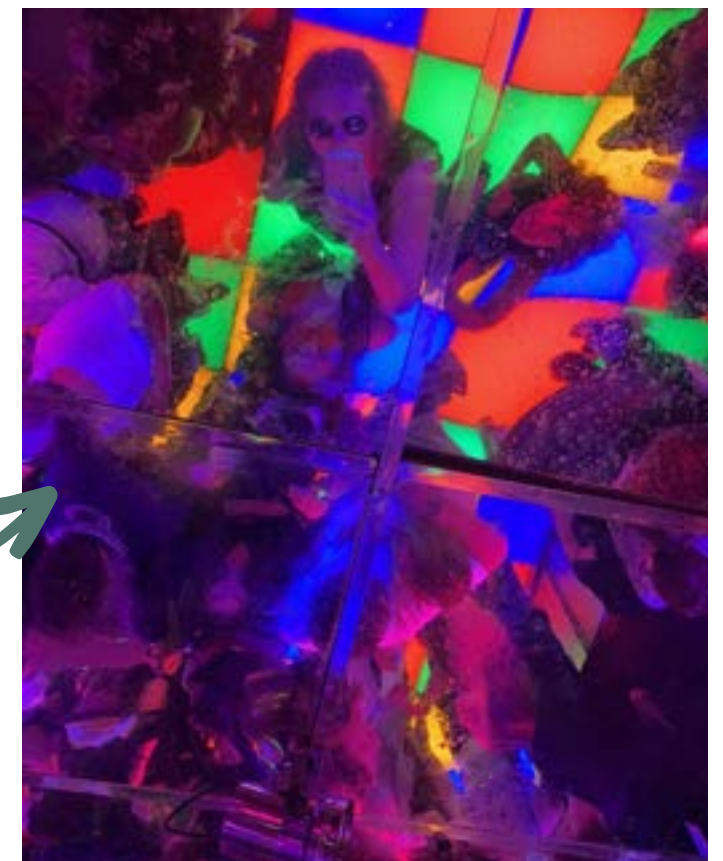
**A Bridge Thursday** is not to be missed (I think I only skipped one in two terms), controversially this is my favourite Oxford club. With two floors and a big smoking area/outdoor bar be prepared to bump into every single person you know (it really is the place to be). The music is similar to Atik but if you like a lot of throwback tunes bottom floor Bridge is where its at!!



presidential seal of approval for bridge

## Atik

Atik is the other most popular club in Ox, and not ranking it first might get me impeached. **Wednesday night** is the night to be at Atik (note: Wednesday nights at Atik are known as "**Parkend**"). It has 3 floors (Main Room, Vinyl- aka the Cheese floor- and Curve). The ceiling mirror selfies on the Cheese Floor are an Oxford staple.



## Plush

The nearest club to college and **officially an LGBTQ+ club**, but every night in there except a Tuesday is painfully straight. It has big bar areas and one dance floor, but usually the music on that floor is pretty good. Unlike Bridge and Atik where you need to get tickets in advance, you pay on the door for Plush, meaning it's a perfect spontaneous boogie.



trying out the plush photo booth

## The Bullingdon

Nicknamed "Bully" and **not to be confused with the elitist members club**, this is a club on Cowley Road (a slight trek to get to) that hosts lots of themed nights, including its highly sought after Fluorescent Adolescent Night (indie/rock music) once a term. Be warned: you will come home with bruises from being shoved around.

There are many other great venues and bars around the city: Hanks, Varsity Club and Thirst are all bars with a dance floor, the O2 Academy hosts great live music acts (and a great termly silent disco!), the Mad Hatter is great for cabaret and jazz, Sandy's does an open mic night on Sundays, and Freud is great for a classy drinks night with the gals..

# NIGHTLIFE



## Pubs

There's a whole host of good pubs in Oxford, practically one around every corner, but here are a few of our most beloved:

- The Bear (which is the oldest pub)
- Turf Tavern is a classic
- White Rabbit (my personal fav)
- Head of the River for gorgeous views
- The Jericho Tavern for very cool blue walls
- Two Wetherspoons- you can't really go wrong



## College bar

You'll quickly find that we never shut up about our bar. You will often catch me there 3 Crosskeys in, or with a bottle of Rattler: it's a fun place to be, surrounded by all your friends, whether you are drinking alcohol or not. The cheap drinks are a godsend for the student budget (£1.25 Jagerbombs !!!) and on Thursday nights the rugby boys' imbibations (drinking socials) never fail to provide entertainment. Lots of events take place in the bar, such as quiz nights, karaoke, and even KnitSoc.

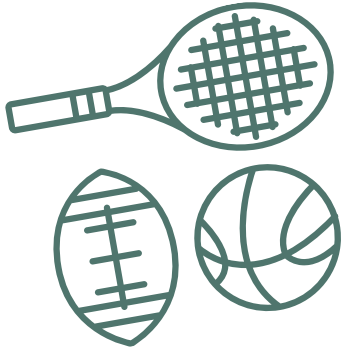
Crosskeys = our college bar beverage. Seriously strong, but you can't taste the alcohol. The best way (correction: the **only** Peter's way) to pre for a night out.



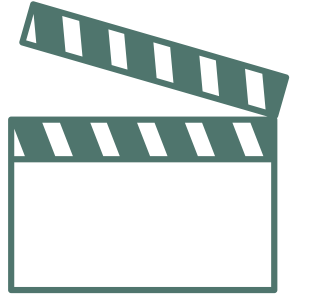
## BOPs

**BOP = Big Organised Party.** 4x a term the JCR transforms into a nightclub, with student DJ sets throughout the night, They are 8pm-12am, with the brave then going elsewhere after. They always have a theme so there are always some very \*creative\* costumes. They turn out to be the most fun nights and you don't even have to venture out of college! BOP Angels are there every time to look after you all if you start feeling ill or overwhelmed.

# NON-DRINKING



# ACTIVITIES



If you are not a night owl, or you don't drink, do not fear! Hardly anyone goes clubbing in Trinity and it's still an amazing term. There are some really fun and wholesome things to do in Oxford that don't involve alcohol or staying up late :)

## Film

There are frequent film nights in the JCR (bring snacks!) if you want to have a nice chilled out evening. Beyond college, there are two Odeon cinemas and a Curzon in Westgate, and these show all the big blockbusters. If you are feeling artsy, the Phoenix Picturehouse in Jericho screens a wider mix including foreign language and arthouse pictures.

## Theatre

There are lots of theatres, all very close to college, which put on very high standard plays throughout the year, many/most of which are student productions. The student drama scene is run by **OU DS** and, whilst it may seem a little intimidating to begin with, it's very wide-ranging and exciting to get involved in. There are always plays to audition for and shows to go and see - both are very rewarding and highly recommended. You'll find out more about drama opportunities in Freshers' Week

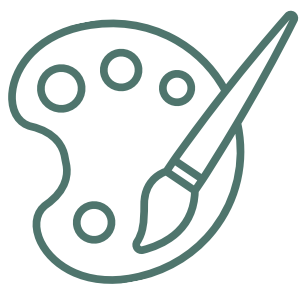
## The Great Outdoors!

There are lovely quads and seating areas around college, right on your doorstep. It can be refreshing to work outside sometimes. Around Oxford there are many parks and scenic routes for walks (I'm a major advocate for taking Hot Girl Walks). Christ Church Meadows has a loop path and is a perfect 40-ish min walk. There are also a couple places to go wild swimming: Port Meadow and Hinksey Lake are both great.

## Museums

Oxford is unsurprisingly littered with Museums. The University Museum is located between the Science area and University Parks, and features skeletons, fossils and rocks collected over its history. Alongside this museum is the Pitt Rivers Museum which looks at the anthropological side of the earth. The Ashmolean is just a five minute walk from college, offers a bit of everything, and is staggeringly beautiful. Best of all, museums are free!



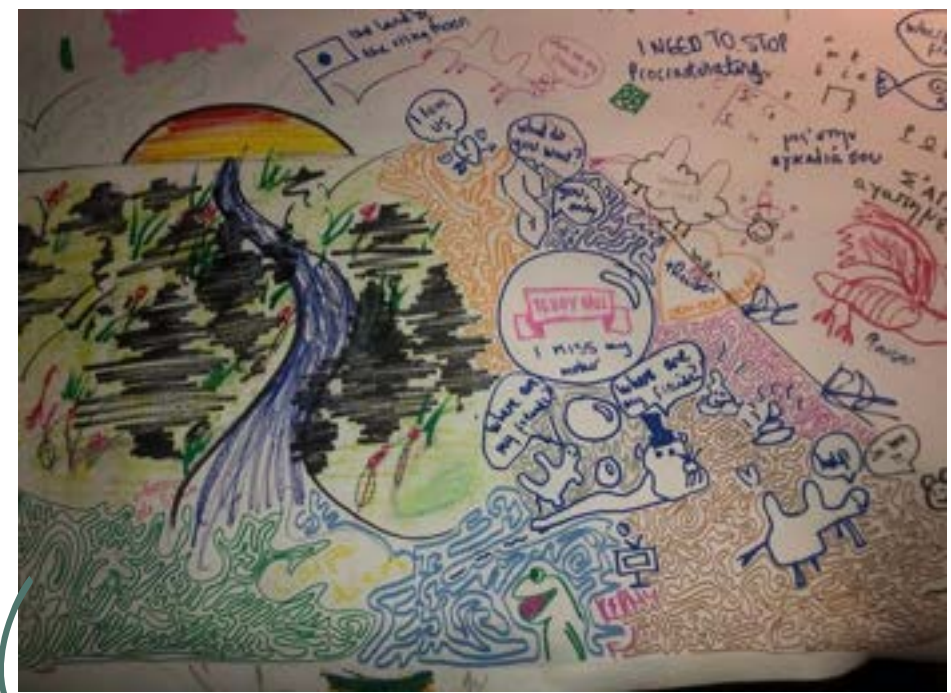


# ARTS AT SPC



The arts are a huge part of life at St Peter's. We have writers, editors and designers for all the major publications in Oxford, be that the Isis or Cherwell, or for **our very own Misc magazine**. Misc is an arts magazine that is released termly and is open to contribution or being designed by anyone. It includes **artwork, poetry, and short story pieces**. You can follow it on instagram to stay in the loop (@misc\_spc).

Regular opportunities for artistic expression include open mic nights, jazz evenings, recitals and performances hosted in college. Open mic nights do often devolve into drunken karaoke which may thrill you or terrify you (you are never forced to sing, I promise!). While these things are dotted through the year, the arts scene at Peter's really comes into its own during Arts Week of Trinity term. During this week there are multiple artsy events every day.



the results of a 'draw anything' night in the bar

Drama is a big part of college life, and normally during Arts Week there is a Garden Play - this past year's students, however took part in a concert for our annual garden party instead. Look out for the Drama Cuppers competition in Michaelmas term: it's probably the best way for first years to get into the Oxford acting scene and is an introduction to short plays.



There are a variety of opportunities to play music at St Peter's, both in formal and informal settings. For your own personal or group practice it is possible to book the music room or the chapel, both of which have pianos in them. SPC Music Soc puts on weekly recitals that any musicians can partake in. Our chapel choir performs evensong twice a week (Thursdays and Sundays), as well as other one off events such as a performance of the Faure Requiem in Hilary term. If you have not gone through the choral scholarship process but are still keen to participate in the choir, get in touch with choir director Quintin Beer.



**Your go-to for anything related to the Peter's arts scene is our fabulous Arts Rep Fred Thompson** (see profiles section p.14).

# SPORTS AT SPC



They say you leave Oxford with one of three things and never anything more: **a First, a Spouse or a Blue\***. If a Blue takes your fancy (A 'Blue' is term used for those in any sports first team) you might want to dabble in Oxford's sporting life.

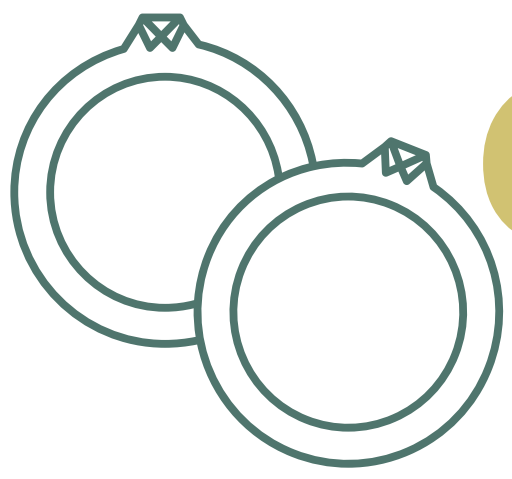
At Oxford, extra-curricular activities occur at two levels; either **through the university** or **with a college**. Enthusiasm and enjoyment are the key to getting involved or starting a sport at St Peter's. University sports teams take people from all colleges, so it is harder to gain a place on a university team. Some sports, such as martial arts, shooting or water sports occur solely as university-wide sports clubs, as they cannot feasibly be run separately within each college. The Oxford University Freshers' Fair will let you see all the different activities throughout the University, however Peter's itself can offer a great range of fun and competitive sport!

Here are just some of the sports available at St Peter's: Rowing, Football, Rugby, Touch Rugby (mixed non-contact rugby), Netball, Cricket, Croquet, Pool, and Darts. In your first couple of weeks, **trials and try outs** will be occurring alongside practices and the start of season matches. Get involved, get bonding and get representing - or at least **keep fit!** The sports teams at Peter's strike the balance between being both inclusive and competitive, making it a great college to take up a new sport! The captains of each college sport will be organising taster sessions at the start of the year, and they are also a good port of call for queries.



St Peter's does not really have its own on-site gym (unless you count the rowing "shed"), so the main way you can go to the gym is through your free membership at **Iffley Road Sports Centre**. The gym is located shortly off Magdalen Bridge on Iffley Road (20-25 min walk) and has equipment and weights. The gym also provides other classes, such as circuits and spinning as well as housing many of Oxford's sports clubs. There's a **PureGym** and a **Buzz Gym** a few mins from St Peter's which are popular and well equipped, albeit only value for money if you plan on going pretty frequently

**Contact the brilliant Nasim Bellagnaoui, our Sports Rep** (see profile section p.14) **with any queries/ for more info, and check out the insta @s.p.c.sport**



# COLLEGE PARENTS

Before your arrival at St Peter's each of you will be assigned a college 'parent'. Your parent will be **a second year who is also studying your subject**, and they will be a sort of mentor to you, both before you get to Oxford and during your time here. Generally most people are **'married'** to someone else who is studying a different subject, so this person will also be a college parent to you although not doing your subject. Marriage between members of the same subject is not really meant to happen but it sometimes does (the heart wants what the heart wants!). Through your college parent's marriage you will consequently have at least **one or two college 'siblings'**. This may all sound a bit strange or confusing but you will soon get used to it and it is on the whole really helpful, especially in your first few weeks. It is also a great system for integration between the freshers and the 2nd years. People often become good friends with their 'parents' and 'siblings' and it is a connection that will last throughout your time at St Peter's. At the end of Freshers' Week you'll be invited to a **College Family Dinner** so you can meet your parents and sibling(s).



Leah and I are actually college sisters! Our mums are so proud :)



I got married to Tom outside a kebab van in Freshers' Week... it was very romantic

**College 'children'** are assigned to second years shortly after results day and they are provided with your contact information so that they can get in touch with you (likely via email or Facebook Messenger) in order to introduce themselves and be as helpful as possible. **Our JCR Secretary Maddie** organises all this so she will give you further information in the coming days/weeks and it will be her you need to contact if your college parent is slow to reach out to you. Your college parent should be able to answer many of your questions that you have before arriving at St Peter's and if they are unable to answer anything then they should know who to contact.

College marriages are pretty **informal**, you never have to "register" them with the college or anything like that! Most marriages usually take place in the **first few weeks** of term, with especially many on the day of Matriculation\* (two weeks into term). General advice is to marry someone you can tell you will get along with for a long time (college divorces, though rare, do sometimes happen) but **NOT someone who you think you may be romantically interested in**- it will inevitably get messy!

# WELFARE



Here's some information about the College's Health, Wellbeing and Welfare team which comprises of staff and students who are here to help you, and whom you should feel free to approach with any issues. For example, they can help:

- Approach your tutors if you have issues that may affect your work
- Offer advice & guidance
- Resolve inter-student conflict
- Co-ordinating with the University's counselling services
- Advise on access support for disabilities
- Listen



College Staff all have regular hours, an email address and phone number through which you can contact them as and when you need. They include:

- **Dean for Welfare- Eleanor Tingle:** [eleanor.tingle@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:eleanor.tingle@spc.ox.ac.uk) (mental health professional and SPC lead for welfare).
- **College Nurse- Kate Tempest:** [spcnurse@nhs.net](mailto:spcnurse@nhs.net).
- **Student Finance Officer- Katie Pullen-Rowland:** [katie.pullen-rowland@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:katie.pullen-rowland@spc.ox.ac.uk) (for hardship fund applications or budgeting help).
- This year we have **two Welfare Officers- Serene Singh** (she/her, [serene.singh@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:serene.singh@spc.ox.ac.uk)) **and Brian Micheni** (he/him, [brian.micheni@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:brian.micheni@spc.ox.ac.uk)). Welfare Officers are DPhil students who are trained to provide support. They live onsite and can provide support at night if needed. Their email addresses are not active yet, but we will alert you of their contact details once available.

Student welfare people are all friendly faces who you may find more approachable and who you can talk to at any time in person, over email or Facebook Message. As you will have seen in the committee profiles section pages 8-9, we also have a **JCR Welfare Lead (Aman De Silva) and two Welfare Reps (Rhea Score and George Roberts)**. They are 2nd years at St Peter's who are here to help and always around for a chat.

They are all here to help you deal with any problems you have and are just generally friendly people who are down for a chat whenever. **For more info about welfare at SPC go to [www.spc.ox.ac.uk/student-life/health-wellbeing-welfare](http://www.spc.ox.ac.uk/student-life/health-wellbeing-welfare)**



# WELFARE

## Free stuff

In the ground floor lobby area of Staircase IV there is a cupboard where you will find:

- Condoms
- Lube
- Pregnancy Tests
- Sanitary products (pads, liners, applicator & non-applicator tampons, and menstrual cups)

So have fun, be free, enjoy a "hot girl" first year if you so wish, but most importantly: **be safe!**

You can also ask any of the welfare reps or peer supporters for these items, or if you have any questions about these things/related matters.



In addition to this, you can get **refunds for the morning after pill and pregnancy tests** (an exciting statement if you know how much the morning after pill can cost!) This is done by sending an email/Facebook message to one of the JCR Committee Welfare Lead/Reps (Aman, Rhea, or George - whoever you feel most comfortable with) and pidgeing\*/sending a photo of your receipt(s). They will keep it **strictly confidential**, so it will only ever be known between you and that person.

**Free food** is also provided once a week at **Welfare Teas on Sundays**, usually in the JCR or Mulberry Quad next to it. Look out for the Facebook post on the JCR group and **comment your requests**- the world can be your oyster. There have previously been requests as specific as brookie bites or baguette with sour cream and chive dip - all of which have, of course, been met. These welfare teas prompt students running from the library because they provide a welcome respite from that essay crisis and a nice opportunity to have a chilled out chat with your pals. There are also sometimes welfare teas for more specific groups, such as BAME students or those coming from state schools.

## Peer Support

Peer Supporters are students who have undertaken training in listening and supporting their peers. They meet regularly with other members of the St Peter's Health, Wellbeing and Welfare team. **For information about Peer Supporters, see the JCR / MCR Facebook pages, or [www.spc.ox.ac.uk/welfare](http://www.spc.ox.ac.uk/welfare).**



# WELFARE



There are plenty of university-wide welfare resources available to students:

## **University Counselling Service:**

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling); Telephone: 01865 270 300; Email: [counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk); Hayes House, 75 George Street. Run by professionals for members of the University, they deal with a wide range of issues affecting people's lives, whether social, academic or personal. You might like to use it in times of crisis or in a more developmental and exploratory way. The staff are a mixture of full and part-time professionals who, as well as dealing with broad counselling issues, have specialist skills in areas such as study related issues and anxiety management. Help is usually offered on a one-to-one basis, but there are also groups, which cover topics such as communications skills, exam anxiety, women, and sexuality. The centre is open from **9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday** (check vacation times). Appointments can be made by telephone or by a personal visit. The University Counselling Service also puts on talks and workshops leading up to exam season.

**Nightline:** <https://oxford.nightline.ac.uk/>; Telephone: 01865 270 270, 16 Wellington Square. Nightline is a listening and information service run by trained student volunteers. The office is open from **8pm until 8am**. If you want to talk things over with someone, telephone or drop in personally. There are always two people on duty, one male, and one female. Nightline is **run by students** who are not a branch of any counselling service and, though not professionals, are **well-trained and dedicated**. All calls are treated sympathetically and in the strictest confidence. Nightline can help you with a wider range of things, and they also provide information on just about anything you could imagine. So if it's the middle of the night and you want to get a condom, but don't know where to go, or if you've just finished a really difficult essay and everyone else in college is asleep, but you want a chat, then give them a ring. Nightline is always looking for new volunteers; look out for information at the University's Freshers' Fair or posters in College. It's one of Oxford's most worthwhile things to do.

# WELFARE

**Student Advice Service (SAS):** <https://www.oxfordsu.org/support/studentadvice/>; E-mail: [advice@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:advice@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk); Telephone: 07436225637 or 07436225630 10.30am-12.30pm Monday-Thursdays in term time; Or drop in to the OUSU Offices at 4 Worcester Street. The SAS is a service run by the Oxford University Student Union. It is an **impartial, confidential** advice and information service, and can advise on a whole range of issues from pregnancy to housing problems to academic issues.

**The Samaritans:** Telephone: 116 123; Address: 60 Magdalen Road. **You can phone 24 hours a day**, free from any phone. The Samaritans are a nation-wide organisation particularly involved with the despairing or suicidal, but anyone who simply wants to talk is welcome. They are not a religious organisation and treat all calls confidentially.

**Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service:** <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/supportservice>; Email: [supportservice@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:supportservice@admin.ox.ac.uk). The service is an **all-in-one provision** for any students regardless of age or gender who have been affected by sexual harassment or violence. They are professionals, specially trained in responding to incidents of sexual harassment and violence. They offer a response that is non-judgemental, non-directive and puts you in control of what happens next.

**Oxford Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC);** Office telephone: 01865 72531 (a call-back system). Email: [support@osarcc.org.uk](mailto:support@osarcc.org.uk).

- Phone emotional support: 0800 783 6294. The emotional support line is in operation Mondays 18.30-21.00, Thursdays 18.30-20.30, and Sundays 18.30-20.30.
- Text support: 07537 432 442. This is in operation Thursdays 18.30-20.30 and Sundays 18.30-20.30

They provide a **sympathetic ear and advice** to people who have been sexually assaulted. **Please note: this is not an emergency service.** If you are in danger or need medical assistance, call 999.

# FINAL WORDS

If you've made it this far well done!!  
Here's a few final bits and bobs of advice from me:

## **Embrace it.**

You're only going to be a first-year at Oxford once so make the most of it ESPECIALLY Freshers' Week!! It might seem scary but everyone is in the same boat, so really get involved as much as you can

## **Don't stress about making friends**

Peter's is such a close-knit community that you WILL find your people, even if it isn't right away. Remember that there is life beyond Freshers' Week, you don't have to move in with the first people you speak to!!!

## **Push yourself, but not too far**

It's fun and important to try out new things at uni, and test out your new found independence. But, know your own limits, what you know you are/aren't comfortable with. It's hard in the first few weeks, to say 'no' to things but make sure you are looking after yourself if that means having a night in to Facetime parents or home friends rather than go to the bar.

## **Please get on Facebook!!**

A more practical note to end on but please please please download Facebook and join the St Peter's Freshers' page and the St Peter's JCR - it makes it 10x easier to communicate things to you.

Good luck with all your prep  
and we will see you on move-in  
day!!

Big Peter's Love <3  
Yours forever in green and gold :)

**Amy Campbell, JCR VP 44**



# GLOSSARY



## **Term Names:**

Michaelmas - October to December

Hilary - January to March

Trinity - April to June

Oxford weeks are also confusing. Each term you arrive at college in 0th (nought) week, which is actually a week before the actual official term start date on the University website. In Michaelmas, 0th week is Freshers' Week, and in other terms you will likely have a few collections (will be explained lower down). Contact hours officially start in 1st Week until the end of 8th Week (though in Trinity lots of subjects have prelims in 9th week).

**Battels:** Payment of tuition fees and college charges (accommodation and food) plus all those extras such as library fines, photocopying, printing etc. Need paying by Friday 2nd week of each term.

**Black Tie:** For men, dinner jacket with a black bow tie. For women, this just means smart.

**Blue:** What you get awarded if you play sport for the University.

**Bod Card:** Your student ID and library card. It will be issued to you in Freshers' Week.

**BOP:** Big Organised Party. College parties held in the JCR which normally have a fancy dress theme. Stick around for lots of crosskeys, boogies, and lots of Angels by Robbie Williams (I would brush up on the lyrics if I were you).

**Bumps:** The main two college boat racing events (Summer Eights, Torpids) are bumps-style races. Divisions of 13 boats line up behind each other and race to bump the boat in front.

**BYOB:** Bring Your Own Bottle - alcoholic or not, your choice.

**Collections:** There are three types: **Master's Collections, Tutor's Collections and Collections.** Master's collections are where you have to go and talk to the Master and tutors about your progress 1x a year. Tutor's Collections are when it's just you and your tutors discussing your progress (1x a term or 1x a year). Collections are exams taken in the college at the beginning of every term (Thursday and Friday of 0th week) that don't count for anything but are good to assess your own progress. You'll want to set aside a week or two each vac to prepare for them.

**Cowley:** The area around Cowley Road where many Peter's people live out in second year.

**Crew Date:** A dinner held at a restaurant between two different groups (eg a sports team from two colleges) where sconcing (similar to "Never Have I Ever" ensues).

**Crosskeys:** The official drink of the St Peter's College's bar. With an ever increasing range of flavours that pilgrims travel from all around the University to try, your relationship with the Crosskeys will probably be a rocky, yet loving one. I'd recommend starting with the mango flavour for those with a sweet tooth, or grapefruit if you're more of an 'acquired taste' type of person.

**Entz:** Entertainment. In college these include things such as pub quizzes, karaoke, garden parties, or BOPs.

**Fifth Week Blues:** A depressed mood that sometimes sinks in when you're just over half way through a term but still have a few weeks more to go. It doesn't happen to everyone; personally I've been more victim to a Sixth Week Blues each term, and others have been fine for entire terms. To try and lift everyone's mood the welfare team always puts on lots of events during 5th week.

**Finals:** The exams you take at the end of your degree to determine what classification you will graduate with.

**Fresher:** You. Essentially what you are until you've sat prelims.

**Gown:** A kind of black cloak that you put on over your sub fusc for exams/matriculation, over formal clothes for Formals, and over normal clothes for Collections.

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

**Hack:** Term used to describe people ensnared in the world of Oxford Union Politics.

**JCR:** Junior Common Room. See p.4 for further explanation.

**Matriculation:** A traditional ceremony that initiates you into the University of Oxford at the end of Week 1 of term. You wear your sub fusc, take lots of pictures, listen to some Latin in the Sheldonian for 10 minutes, and then get on the...

**Matriculash:** General celebrations post-Matriculation. On my matriculation day a big group of us went to spoons, played Touch Rugby while tipsy, hit the college bar, and then went out clubbing. Typically much prosecco is consumed.

**MCR:** Middle Common Room- has the same functions as the JCR except it is for postgraduates and mature students.

**Oxford SU:** Oxford University Student Union. The official Student Union, of which most colleges are members. Not to be confused with...

**Oxford Union:** A debating society that hosts many impressive guest speakers and interesting events, including a ball every term. Debates take place every Thursday from about 8pm. Membership is optional and expensive (approx £250), so definitely weigh up whether it's worth it for you. Membership is for life though, so perhaps think about whether it is something your future self would also enjoy.

**Pidge:** Pigeonhole in Porter's Lodge where people can leave letters, messages or small parcels for you. If you have ordered a parcel that is too big to fit then you'll get a note to take to the porters in order to collect it.

**Plib:** Nickname for Peter's Library.

**Plodge:** Nickname for Porter's Lodge, the room through which you enter college.

**Prelims & Mods:** Preliminary Examinations and Moderations. These are university examinations you will sit at the end of first year (or at the end of Hilary term in a few subjects) that you need to pass (normally get 40% or higher) to continue the course. You can resit them in September, but a maximum of one resit is allowed.

**Rustication:** A student who has been suspended by the University for a number of different reasons and comes back in a year from where they left off. Less voluntary than suspension.

**Suspension:** A 'suspended' student is one who takes time out from university (voluntarily) for a number of different reasons and usually comes back after a year.

**SCR:** Senior Common Room. The same as the JCR and MCR but for tutors and fellows.

**Scholar:** Someone who has achieved a First in their Mods or Prelims. The biggest perk is that you get to wear the fancier Scholar's Gown.

**Sub Fusc:** A traditional dress code that has to be followed on certain occasions (matriculation and university exams). Consists of a gown (Commoner's Gown unless you are a choral/organ scholar or have achieved a First in Prelims/Mods), a mortar board (those flat hats) and one of:

**Dark suit with dark socks, or Dark skirt with black tights or stockings, or Dark trousers with dark socks or dark hosiery**

This is worn with a white shirt/blouse, black shoes (doesn't really matter what style of shoe), and a black or white (choice is up to you) bow tie, or a black ribbon.



