



Tuesday, 12 August 2025

THE FRESHER'S GUIDE 2025

Everything you need to know before starting in October!

Welcome!

I'll say it now, and only once, because you're going to be hearing it a lot over the coming weeks: Congratulations! You can now rest easy knowing you've made it to Oxford.

Of course, starting any university - let alone Oxford - can be a daunting process; always remember that you deserve your place here. Thankfully, with its gigantic student population, Oxford is renowned for being one of the friendliest and most welcoming cities for a student in the UK. Our College, St Peter's, is particularly known for its sociable reputation. I am still - 10 months later - amazed by the tight-knit community of the college, even across years, as you have the unique opportunity to make friends with older years - even finalists. Peter's is also praised for its fantastic location, being on New Inn Hall Street means shops, restaurants, libraries, clubs, and lecture halls will be at your doorstep.

Hopefully, as was the case with me, any nervousness towards beginning such a strange period in life will subside - you are bound to find your people at Peter's. As for now, alongside gearing up for the (incredible) year ahead, I hope you can find the time to rest after exams (or rest even more after a gap year). Peter's is a notoriously kind and open place, and I mean it when I say we are so excited to finally meet you all. Until October!

Big Peter's Love!!

India Simpson, JCR Vice President

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THE JCR

What is it?

The JCR stands for 'Junior Common Room.' Somewhat confusingly, I admit, 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, where SPC Boat Club broke the world record the year before last, and where JCR General Meetings take place.

🏰 The collective undergraduate body at St Peters. YOU are now a member of the JCR, like myself 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 has recently changed (in the very last GM of last term!) which now has voting online, sent out after the meeting by JCR Secretary. 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. 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.

@spc_jcr and various sub instas, @spc.entz, @spc_bar, @arts_stpeters (and more) are super helpful to follow if you have insta, lots of info on here (although this will also be communicated other ways). Our tiktok, @spc.jcr is currently not in use, but we're thinking of reviving it!

The JCR Committee

JCR President: Isabel Cumming

Hi everyone!! I'm Isabel (she/her) and I'm studying History of Art and I'll be president of the JCR this year. I'm happy to talk to anyone and everyone and will act as a link between the student body and those higher up. I'll be around to talk to whenever (breakfast, lunch and dinner have a particular sway on me) so do catch me to have a chat! Keys to my heart include dogs (spot me with the welfare dogs!),

flowers and of course St Peter's hash browns. Well done for choosing the best College in Oxford you will have a truly fantastic time here!

To get in touch with anything feel free to email isabel.cumming@spc.ox.ac.uk xxx

Vice-President: India Simpson

Hi everyone! I'm India, (she/her) I study English Language and Literature, I'm from Scotland (no, that doesn't mean I'm studying a foreign language) and I'm the one who composed this handbook! My job as V.P. consists of supporting Isabel with her duties, attending lots of meetings, and organising Fresher's week - so you'll probably be seeing and hearing from me a lot throughout (and maybe before) Fresher's week. I will be around both in Fresher's and throughout the year, so you are very welcome to come and talk to me about anything, or just for a chat! You'll probably see me around College a lot, in Hall or Plib*, or at any of the arts events going on (paint and sip was my lifesaver last year)!

If you want to get in touch with any questions or queries you can email me, india.simpson@spc.ox.ac.uk, or find me on Whatsapp!

Treasurer: Laurena Hellel

Hi everyone!! I'm Laurena, (she/her) your treasurer this year! I study Economics and Management, so I'll have plenty of free time to be a friendly face around College! As Treasurer, I'll be looking after the JCR's finances, from managing our budgets to issuing refunds.

St Peter's has the reputation for being one of the friendliest Colleges in Oxford. There'll be loads of social events to help you settle in, explore the city, and get to know your new home and the people in it!!

If you ever have any questions or just fancy a chat, don't hesitate to get in touch. I'm always happy to help!

Email: laurena.hellel@spc.ox.ac.uk / spc.treasurer@spc.ox.ac.uk

Instagram: @laurenahellel

Can't wait to meet you all in October! :)

Secretary: Conor Halpenny

Hi everyone! I'm Conor (he/him), I study History, and I will be the JCR Secretary this year. My job is to send you lots of emails (apologies in advance) about everything that's happening in College. I'll also be organising the College Parents scheme, where I pair each of you up with a Second Year who will help you settle into Oxford life.

If you need anything from me, you can find me in the bar (most of the time), in the Plib (Peters Library), or eating (again, most of the time).

Well done on being accepted into the best College at Oxford, and don't hesitate to contact me by email - conor.halpenny@spc.ox.ac.uk.

Returning Officer: Frank Duffy

Hi all! My name is Frank (he/him), and I will be the JCR Returning Officer for this year, which essentially means that I will be running the hustings and elections for next year's (i.e. your year's) JCR in Hilary and Trinity, but you don't have to worry about that yet! Starting Oxford may be daunting, but I assure you that you belong here, and that you'll have a great time! I read History and Politics, which makes me pretty jobless, so I'll be found around the bar and JCR as a friendly face should anyone need any help or have any questions.

Welfare Lead: Hannah Russell

Hi! I'm Hannah (she/her), I study Archaeology and Anthropology here at Peter's, and this year I'm your Welfare Lead! This means that I am part of College's Health, Wellbeing and Welfare Team, and I help look after the welfare of all undergrads here. Alongside my welfare reps (the wonderful Scarlett and Clara!), I help organise the JCR welfare initiatives around College as well as working with College to support student welfare as a whole.

The start of university, especially here at Oxford, can be incredibly overwhelming, so I am always available for support, even if you just need to rant. Luckily, I am incredibly fond of chatting and always looking for a reason to leave the library, so if

you ever need to talk or go for a walk/break don't hesitate to reach out or come find me!

Please feel free to contact me anytime, whether this be before or during the academic year (hannah.russell@spc.ox.ac.uk), and enjoy your summer!!.

Lots of Welfare love Xxx

Welfare Rep: Scarlett Nathan-Palmer

Hiya! I'm Scarlett, a Philosophy and Theology student here at St Peter's, and one of your Welfare Reps! Getting into Oxford is such a massive achievement, of which you should all be so proud - you're in for the most wonderful three (or four!) years. Even so, Oxford can be pretty intense - which is why my job is to be a friendly face around College for you to come to if you're ever in need of advice, support, or even just a good chat. I shouldn't be too hard to find: you'll probably be able to hear my very loud voice carrying over from Mulberry Quad, where I'm sat yapping and eating my third sweet treat of the day. But, if for some reason I'm not there, my usual seat in Plungeon*, or the bar, then you can always reach me at scarlett.nathan-palmer@spc.ox.ac.uk.

Hannah, Clara, and I will be organising a whole bunch of events for you to get stuck into when you get here - including weekly picnics, movie nights, yoga, and so much more! Make sure you check out the @spcwellbeing instagram for the details. I can't wait to meet you in October - but if you have any questions about Welfare at Peter's before then, please feel free to pop me a message! Have a brilliant summer xx

Welfare Rep: Clara De Sancha

Hi! I'm Clara (she/her), and I study English here at St Peter's. Firstly, a HUGE congratulations on getting here (and to the best College)! Hopefully you're starting to get excited about October (and maybe a little nervous too, which is completely normal).

As one of your Welfare Reps, I'll be around a lot during Freshers' Week, when we'll be able say a proper hello! Beyond that, I hope to be a friendly, approachable face you can turn to, whether for something welfare-related, a procrastination coffee run, or anything in between. You'll likely find me eating the snacks at welfare tea, in the bar, or around College trying to avoid facing a last minute essay in the library!

The transition to uni is intense, but it is no exaggeration to say that Peter's really is one of the warmest and most welcoming Colleges out there. I have no doubt you will soon feel at home here! The important thing to remember is that you will never be the only one feeling overwhelmed by it all, and that there will always be someone to turn to. It's no secret that the work-life balance takes a while to wrap your head around, but making sure to relax in your down time and taking time to do the things you enjoy (as well as trying something new) is integral to making the most of your 3 (or 4) years here. As this can be easy to forget in the whirlwind of first year, we hope that our free and relaxed events will provide you with a well deserved break and a chance to spend time with friends, meet some new ones, or just get stuck into some crafts!

You can email me at clara.desancha@spc.ox.ac.uk if you want to chat about anything at all, before, during, or after term starts. No issue is too small or silly to talk about - if it's on your mind, that's more than enough reason to reach out! Whether you're wondering what to pack (my best piece of advice is to bring a kettle!!) or have a question about College life, I'd love to hear from you. Hope you have a great rest of your summer and I'm looking forward to meeting you all soon :)

LGBTQ+ (including trans and gender non-conforming) Rep: Cameron Spruce

Hey I'm Cameron (he/him) and I will be your LGBTQ+ representative this year. I study Music and sing in the choir- you'll probably also see me pop up in drama shows across the year as well! As part of my role in the JCR, I'll be organising College and Uni wide queer events, as well as acting as a voice and support for the queer community at our College. Feel free to contact me at cameron.spruce@spc.ox.ac.uk.

Bame Rep: Sunny Chittapragada

Hey! I'm Sunny (she/her) and I'm a second year Earth Scientist.

This year, I'll be your BAME rep! I want to help nurture a safe space for everyone to feel not only acknowledged and recognized, but also celebrated! I'll be the point of contact between the students and College on BAME related matters.

Please feel free to email me sanjna.chittapragada@spc.ox.ac.uk if you have any BAME related questions or concerns!

Entz Reps: Arlo Mulligan-Vassel and India Francis

Hey we are Arlo (he/him) and India (she/her), your Entz reps for this year. By day, we study Languages and Archaeology and Anthropology but by night, we are in charge of organising all the fun that happens both in and out of College. Whether this be Bops, Garden Parties or Band+Vinyl nights in College, or club nights, pub crawls and black tie galas outside of College, we are in charge! Follow @spc.entz on insta for all the latest plans and the hottest tickets. You will almost certainly find us in the College bar throughout Freshers Week so feel free to chat to us if you have any entz ideas. Lots of Entz love and we hope you enjoy what we've got planned.

Access and Outreach Rep: Sophie Jubb

Hello everyone! Welcome to SPC! I'm Sophie (she/her), and I'm your Access and Outreach rep for this year. I study History and English and I'm looking forward to welcoming you all to your first year at Peters :)

My role includes working with College to encourage prospective students from underrepresented backgrounds as well as working with current Peter's students to help them feel welcome and comfortable in College. There are many opportunities to be involved in access through student ambassador roles with (and outside of) College, so if you have any Q's of how to be involved, feel free to contact me at sophie.jubb@spc.ox.ac.uk :))

Disabilities Rep: Sophie Price

Hi! I'm Sophie (she/her), I study English, and I'll be the JCR's disabilities rep this year. My role involves ensuring College remains a friendly and accessible place, and helping people find the appropriate support with the College's Welfare team.

A big part of my job with freshers will be signposting people who need to apply to the Uni's disabilities system (DAS), either before starting Uni or if anything comes

up during your time here. They sort out access arrangements for anything from exams and tutorials to student accommodation. Oxford has a great disability service, but if anyone needs help with navigating applications, please don't hesitate to get in touch: sophie.price@spc.ox.ac.uk.

As someone who lives with learning and physical disabilities, I understand how tough the transition to university can feel with extra medical concerns to think about, but everyone here is on your side and wants to give the best support possible! I hope to be a friendly face around College this year, and I'm happy to offer advice or answer any questions about student life with disabilities!

Socioeconomic Rep: Aoife Baines

Hi ! My name is Aoife (she/her), I study German Sole and I will be the this years Socio-economic rep within the JCR. I am here to support student from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and to help with any financial worries. I aim to support all students who require any form of assistance with affording life at Oxford. Hopefully within my role I can also help students to utilise the funding that is available within College and the university in order to travel, learn and experience new things. Any financial worries, questions or concerns and I will always be around and happy to help. Hope that you all enjoy your first term settling into Oxford and St Peter's! Feel free to email me on aoife.baines@spc.ox.ac.uk.

Sports Rep: Giulia Lesa

Hi guys! My name is Giulia and I use she/her pronouns. I am looking forward to being your sports captain this year and will be here to help you with anything College sport related, whether this be Uni sport funding or what things you want to see in the sports cupboard!

Arts Rep: Madi Bouchta

Hello! My name is Madi (she/her) I study English and I am super excited to be your Arts Rep! I love all things painting, drawing and theatre so get ready for lots of fun activities for you to get involved in across the year! All events will be beginner friendly, super low-pressure and drinking-optional. Very open to suggestions so let me know what you're interested in! Peter's also has a theatre company called Cross

Keys Productions and we put on plays and musicals every term, so get involved! My Instagram is @starringmadiasmadi if you need anything or want tips on getting involved in the Oxford drama scene! Big Peter's love!

Food Rep: Antonia Lunn

My name is Antonia (she/her), and I am your food rep. I study Biochemistry, which has contributed to an interest in food science. I love food and cooking, which is why I am passionate about ensuring that food in College is tasty, nutritious, and affordable, while also being accessible to those with a range of dietary requirements. I will work alongside the catering team, sharing student feedback and seeing which suggestions can be implemented. We are fortunate to have such a great catering team, with Peter's having one of the best formals in Oxford.

Environment Rep: Ben Ross

Hey all, my name is Ben Ross (he/him) and I'm the Environment Rep for next year. My job is to share your collective environmental concerns and suggestions with College. I have a lot of ideas that I'm excited to propose this year, and I'm always open to hearing more from you guys. I'm most passionate about transforming one of St. Peter's "quads" into a more ecologically diverse area that maintains the same vital functions, but also supports pollinators, better stormwater drainage, and healthier soil. You can always reach me at benjamin.ross@spc.ox.ac.uk.

Social Media Rep: Anders Hei

Hi everyone! I'm Anders (he/him), a Spanish and Portuguese student from Hong Kong, and I'll be your Social Media Rep this year. This means that I'm in charge of the JCR Instagram and Tiktok, so keep your eyes peeled for stories, reels and more. I'm aiming to revamp the Instagram so that there's more content and so that the entire JCR feels represented, so feel free to send any photos, achievements, or ideas that you have in mind. You'll probably see me around a lot in Fresher's Week with my multiple cameras, but feel free to message (@a.jbhh) or email (anders.hei@spc.ox.ac.uk) me before then.

(And don't forget to follow @spc_jcr !!)

Internationals Rep: Alisa Mavlikaeva

Hi! I'm Alisa (she/her), I study Biology here at St. Peter's, and I'll be the internationals rep this year! I come from Russia and have thus travelled far to be here. Although leaving home to study abroad can be fun, there are so many new things that need to be figured out in the UK (admin, transport, pharmacies, Oxford life, etc etc). My goal is to help with any international-related issues & questions & resources, and hopefully make you all feel welcome in your new home here at Peter's :) If you have any questions, you can contact me at alisa.mavlikaeva@spc.ox.ac.uk. Expect international teas, tours, emotional support, and more to come :)

Academic Affairs Rep: Peter Neale

Hey my name is Peter (he/him) and I am the academic affairs rep for this year! My role is to be there to support you during any periods of academic turmoil you may be experiencing. Feel free to email me at peter.neale@spc.ox.ac.uk at any time of day and I'll get back to you promptly.

(The Bar)

Bar Manager: Lilly Kent-Taylor

Hi my name's Lilly (she/her) and I'm a second year studying maths. My job as your bar manager is to keep everything in the bar running smoothly and help run lots of fun events (we've recently had open mic nights and paint & sips).

The bar is a great social space to unwind with friends and also a great place to work and earn some extra cash during term. I'd love to see many of you come and give it a go!

Make sure to follow our Instagram [@spc_bar](#) for all things bar!

Bar Treasurer: Alex Ryves

Hi, I'm Alex (he/him), your Bar Treasurer! I study English Language and Literature, I play lots of sport for the College, and will also be captaining the notorious SPC Bravehearts this year...

When not messing around, I will be working hard with Lilly to help make your first year at Uni memorable, starting with freshers' week. This year will be one of the most important in the history of our College bar, and so I would love to employ anyone who is passionate about what we, as a student-run bar, can provide. Or just your informal support :)

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!
- 🏰 Freshers' rep - represents freshers' interests on the JCR committee.
- 🏰 Freshers' entz rep - will help out India and Arlo (2nd year entz reps) in organising and running events.

FOR ANYONE:

- 🏰 Charities rep - organises the JCR's support of and interaction with charities.
- 🏰 Faith rep - a person to speak to for any faith-related concerns, and can direct people to our multi-faith room.
- 🏰 Women's rep - organises VDs (an inclusive event originally created as a women's drinking society), part of the welfare branch of reps.
- 🏰 Trans and gender non-conforming (currently under LGBTQ+ rep, but we often have a separate rep, and that would be great!
- 🏰 Accommodation rep - for providing information on ballots and housing on the open market from for second year onwards (currently under my duties whilst there's no rep).
- 🏰 Second BAME Rep - often we have a second rep to help out with the workload

Fresher's Helpers

People that will be around all of Fresher's week to help out, and throughout the year! friendly faces :)

Hey, I'm Zia, (she/her) a second year studying medicine and one of the fresher's helpers. Come say hi if you see me around, I'm always up for a chat!

Hi I'm Ananya (she/her) and I'm a second year studying History and Economics!

Hi! I'm Mae (she/her) and I study geography at Peter's. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or for advice during Freshers week!

Hey, I'm Joe (he/him) and I study chemistry. I'll be helping out with making sure Freshers week goes smoothly for everyone - it can be a stressful time so just remember to pace yourselves and get some sleep in too!

Hi my name is Freya (she/her) and I am reading English Language and Literature here at Peter's. I'll be a friendly face around Peters for all freshers this year so feel free to reach out at any time!

Hi there! I'm Dylan French (he/him) and I'm a second year biology student here at Peter's!

Arrival

DATE of moving in: Sunday, 5th October

St Peter's has an amazingly central 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, either 6 days in advance or before the 11th of October.

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, like me way back when, you might feel alone all of a sudden. This is far from the truth! Firstly, neighbours exist; my neighbour last year, Jack, ended up being one of my closest friends. 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, if you're lucky, Emily Morris (k/a 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, 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 Alisa (internationals rep), Jess on accommodation@spc.ox.ac.uk, or myself (as my journey home to Scotland was 10 hours and by train, and it's sort of international, I was able to use this storage as there was space available, but if this is the case for you, you will have to email Jess to check!). You will have to get forms from the Porters to fill out, but the process is super easy!

Contact me if you have any general accommodation questions in the meantime!!

Matthews

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 my art up all over my walls, and fairy lights, photos, and whiteboards (although this lessened each term as I couldn't really be bothered redecorating). Matthews rooms 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 nook for yourself. I was in Matthews Annex, which is attached to the main Matthews block, but consists of fewer rooms and is directly above (with a staircase down to) the bar. If you're an early sleeper (before 11pm, quiet hours) I would suggest investing in earplugs for these rooms.

The Knee Building

The Knee Building has beautiful brick arches that provide a work-life balance (in theory) by separating the room into two sections with a step joining them (unfortunately, there are a few rooms in Knee without the arches, but the vast majority have them - and the top-floor non-arch rooms (41-44) make up for it with a better bathroom ratio). One side faces the Chavasse Quad, whilst the other is now opposite the new Castle Bailey accom (the pointy building the other side of the land behind College)!

Emily Morris / Staircase IV

These rooms are undoubtedly the nicest rooms in College. Vintage Oxford - cozy and spacious - with some rooms even having a partial wall separating your bedroom from a living room-type area. Don't even get me started on the toilets and showers (hint: they're incredible). These rooms are also home to some 2nd and 3rd years, who you're therefore sure to see!

What To Bring (and Not)

I promise, when packing, you don't have to overdo it! I.E it's not the same as traditional Uni halls, so you won't necessarily need things such as kitchen utensils. Slimming down on packing for my long journey proved how little you really need, although I warn students using storage that it is very easy to bring more stuff back to College each term!

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 (I did not have space to pack one - and if you're in Matthews its less necessary)
- 🏰 Cutlery and (multiple) glasses if you're planning on making friends
- 🏰 A padlock - for the safe - and 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, 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 (I stuck them on my wall with things to remember) and a whiteboard (or multiple, if you're like me)
- 🏰 an iron (if you think Matthews floors 1 & 3 or Emily Morris is too far to travel for ironing)

- 🏰 a drying rack (I did not bring one, and it was the bane of my existence hanging clothes over cupboards and chairs and off pins in the pinboard, would definitely recommend bringing one)
- 🏰 a mini-fridge - again, I did not have one of these, but wished I did, and lots of people did and found it really helpful. Check with the porters for if you can leave it over the vacs. The JCR kitchen has fridges and Matthews some small ones, but these can get quite full.
- 🏰 a diffuser

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 (I've heard some foul 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 (my Scout saw me on my deathbed from illness far too often), and clearing out your rubbish, I'd recommend getting to know yours or even buying them a present at the end of 8th week as a token of gratitude.

Washing

I'll keep it short and sweet: 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 payed for by contactless card/your phone, just beside the machine. It's fairly self-explanatory, but don't forget to press start after paying (I know many who have).

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 at 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.

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.

Food

Hall Hours

Breakfast: 8am-9am

Lunch: 12pm-1:30pm (Brunch is served on weekends between 11am and 12:30pm)

Informal Hall: 5:30pm-7:30pm; 5:30pm-6:30pm on Formal days.

Formal Hall: 7:30pm-around 9pm.

However, check the intranet 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!)

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.

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 £330/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 in Michaelmas 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.

Formal Hall

I thought I'd do a whole page for this one, just 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). I was originally quite intimidated at the idea of an Oxford formal, but they're reasonably cheap (£13.30 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 (I might be biased but it is the best), 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). The system for this has been recently reformed because of high demand (they were immediately selling out), but this will probably be more confusing for those of us used to the old system than for you coming in!

I.T.

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 you've made it here, 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!!

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.) and Remote Access Account, as well as returning your University Card Form, 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. Also, as I may have mentioned once or twice, the Freshers' Committee will be around all week to help!!

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, both from me and accrued over the years, surrounding how to stop debts from piling up.

Budget

Don't worry - I'm not saying you're not allowed to have fun whilst at uni, or one of those Baby Boomers that hasn't been out in a decade accusing our generation of being poor due to spending too much on avocados. Making a budget just gives you a realistic insight into your expenses + income. What I (have only just started to) do is check my account statement every month to see if I've stuck to my budget relative to my income, and if there's any frivolous expenses that I can cut back on. Also, seeing as the terms are only eight weeks long, you may need to budget for the vacation, too, or pick up some shifts here and there.

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 I got a 3 year railcard). 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 Aoife, if you have any student loan-related queries or need help budgeting.

Jobs

'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). Coming from someone who has literally never done it before, I'd recommend picking up some shifts in the bar (if you want of course – you do get paid), as it's also a great way to get to know the whole College, and Lilly is keen to get as many of you guys signed up as possible (email lillian.kent-taylor@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). If I'm being honest, one of the things my friends from home at other unis were shocked by is the university-wide endowment. 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. This year alone, as an example, I have received £750 in academic grants from College, and a further £1000 from the MML department. 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. Do remember to be patient - I've been waiting to hear on the status of a student finance application for about six weeks now. Peter's can contribute towards

the cost of obligatory field trips (Biology, Earth Sciences etc.), and voluntary ones (ask Fardowsa about how much she received for her Arch & Anth one this summer). 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: the 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 (or at least those are the shops I pay attention to), 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 Sephora to come!) alongside pricier outlets, and Oxford High Street has all kinds of shops (e.g. Shepherd & Woodward, where you get your sub fusc*).

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 (they saved me last year), 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. I personally took my parents to Jericho (north-west) when they visited, which is great place for more niche restaurants. There are some places for food in Cowley, and some generally useful places to know for students are Najar's (Lebanese wraps, about a fiver), Westgate's Itsu 30 mins before close (50% off), and Mission Burrito by the Oxford Union (30% student discount on Wednesdays). Don't forget to try ask for a student discount, anyway.

Coffee Shops

trips out for coffee are what kept me sane in Trinity term, so if you're a coffee person here's my go-to coffee shops!

- 🏰 Greens Cafe - right next to Peter's (Westgate direction). It opened during trinity last year and Peter's students flocked to it! 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.
- 🏰 Love Coffee - Greek coffee shop on the High Street, great atmosphere and lovely staff, their Freddo Cappuccino is the best cold coffee you could ask for, I became a regular in Trinity term!
- 🏰 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 you'll have to check if there's still one by the law faculty, it may have moved as the English faculty has moved from there)

and many more! People love Jericho Coffee Traders, Art Cafe is also close by, and I'm sure you'll stumble by many, many more. Black Sheep also has £2 coffee on Mondays with UniDays. Remember stamp cards!

Books and Libraries

Oxford is a weird uni - even students in departments like medicine have essays to do.

When set essays or work for lectures/tutorials, 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 history, 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, and it's not even student- run. 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 8pm-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!

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 pubs).

Clubs

It's expected to 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 Youni 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.

Plush

Plush is 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 O2

If indie music is your thing, this is the go-to club! I personally think it has the best music, 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! I went clubbing in Freshers and then very rarely after that - I much prefer the College bar (or another College's bar, if you can find your way in) or pubs. If there's any Uni you easily can get away with not clubbing at all, it's Oxford.

Non-Drinking Activities

Film and Theatre

The JCR often has film nights, and there'll certainly be one during Freshers' Week. Oxford has an Odeon (the other closed) which does an amazing student discount, a Curzon on the top floor of Westgate (fanciest cinema I've ever seen) a film theatre called the Phoenix Picturehouse in Jericho (screens more niche films), and a new cinema, The Oxford Cinema & Cafe.

There are, genuinely, countless theatres across Oxford staging student productions, and, in addition, many Colleges (such as ours), do garden plays. The OUDS does all things student theatre-related. Madi not only is all things Art, but she is very integrated in OUDS and the theatre community - she would love for you to get in touch if you have any questions!!

Museums

There are three main museums in Oxford:

- 🏰 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!)
- 🏰 Alongside this is the Pitt Rivers Museum, located to the east of the OUMNH and focusing on the anthropological side of the earth.
- 🏰 Then, of course, is the Ashmolean - it offers everything, is right next to Peter's, and looks stunning (these pics are from here).

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

I am a big walker, and coming from living deep in the Scottish Countryside, I was terrified that I wouldn't find any nature in this big city. This is not true! To escape from city life, or enjoy a nice day, or just for a wander, I'd recommend Christ Church Meadows (my absolute favourite), walking along the Isis Canal (also a favourite, I discovered this too late in the year), University Parks, and (especially for wild swimming), Port Meadow and Hinksey Lake. The Botanic Gardens are also worth a trip!

The Arts

Peter's puts a big emphasis on the arts alongside sport - sometimes it seems like every second person here is a choral scholar! 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 manifest 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 as

soon as someone like me gets hold of the microphone), jazz evenings, and recitals/performances in chapel. There are multiple events daily during Arts Week (Trinity term), so keep that in mind!

Madi will also be putting on lots of Arts events throughout the year, like Paint and Sip in the Bar, which last year was a great success - 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 (a new Peter's drama production company) also put on shows throughout the year you can get involved in, and there is the Garden Play in Trinity and Drama Cuppers (between Colleges) competition in Michaelmas, if that's your kind of thing. There's going to be a Peter's Panto on at the end of Michaelmas, for which auditions are running in week 2, so please get involved! It's going to be an all Peter's cast and crew, like the Garden Play, so it's a great opportunity. Again, contact Madi, our expert!

Of course, there are also a plethora of opportunities to get involved in music at Peter's. Both the music room and our College chapel have pianos in them, which means you can practice informally if need be (these rooms need to be booked). I'd also recommend trying to make friends with someone who studies music - not only do they all have keyboards in their rooms, but they also just always have random instruments about, because they're always learning something new. A partial reason for this could be our Music Soc's Grade 1-a-Thon (new to last year, where students are given a term to learn a new instrument). More formal, though, are our weekly lunchtime recitals - last year I got to walk past chapel for two weeks in a row hearing my friend Dan playing Jeux d'Eau by Ravel every day to prepare for his performance (best two weeks of my life). Our choir also performs evensong twice a week, on Thursdays and Sundays, with other events scattered across term. Once, Fardowsa and I went during exam season - because we were in need of a divine miracle - and were left almost in tears. 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.

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 jogging, are more recreational but, having been promoted, our football club (@spcfootballclub on Instagram) is starting to get more and more prestigious, rivalling our rugby club (they got to the Cuppers (competition between colleges) final two years ago, and semi final last year - follow @spcrfc on Instagram and make yourself known to Ben Horsell, our captain for next year). The cricket (@spccricketclub) and tennis clubs also ran casual social sports events in Trinity last year, which you should keep an eye out for, they are great fun! I'd say at Peter's have a perfect balance between competitive and fun.

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

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 - mine was one of my favourite second years, and it was always good to see a friendly face around College. 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 Isabel (isabel.cumming@spc.ox.ac.uk) and she'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. I married my neighbour on Matriculation, but one of my friends at Christ Church staged a full wedding, in his kilt 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 (ironically) try not to marry someone you're attracted to.

Health, Wellbeing and Welfare

(<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 (for example, through implementing a Student Support Plan into your student record by contacting the Disability Advisory Service (DAS) - an example would be recommending 25% extra time in exams). I'd advise contacting the DAS now if you know you're going to be in need of additional support - it just makes your life that bit easier, come October!
- 🏰 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): Serene Singh (she/her, serene.singh@spc.ox.ac.uk), for at least Michaelmas term, maybe more, alongside Marcelo (he/him, marcelo.sampaidecoutomelo@spc.ox.ac.uk)

Of course, there are also undergraduate welfare representatives on the JCR Committee. Hannah (Welfare Lead), Scarlett and Clara can be contacted at any time, by email or Messenger, using the links in their profiles provided. In addition, we have two 3rd Year Peer Supporters - Margaux Dahan Hoffman and Kat Jackson (margaux.dahanhoffman@spc.ox.ac.uk and kathryn.jackson@spc.ox.ac.uk) - and, 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

i.e. literally 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.

One of the best things about the JCR welfare is that they can provide refunds for pregnancy tests and the morning after pill, 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.

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. I remember last year being so shocked at the amount of second years who lived in Cowley that would turn up to College just to come, because there is always - always - so much food. Essentially any request is listened to, as well.

Also, look out for emails when members of staff bring their dogs into College, and also keep an eye out for Hannah, Clara and Scarlett's Welfare Walks.

The following are some of the resources available to you:

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 - Oxford Nightline](#)

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 in (I am sorry for the length, but what can you do!!). I'll share some of the best advice I've been given over the course of the last year, including plagiarising some from last year's handbook (thanks Joe) and probably in turn some of the year before that (thanks Amy):

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

Freshers' week is Freshers' week. Hopefully, you'll never have to do it again. It's a bit bonkers, but it's an experience that allows you to meet loads of people - and all different kinds of people. I met some of my best friends in Fresher's week, but I also didn't meet some of my best friends until weeks on. It's important to get you in to the swing of things, but it's not the be all and end all.

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. 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!

Try something different

This is maybe rich coming from me, as I didn't always manage to step out of my comfort zone, and I'm sure the perfectionist in many of us tries to prevent us from starting things we might not be great at - but this is a great chance to get away from that, and just enjoy your time here. Whether it's stepping up to take on a role didn't expect to be interested in, joining a society for something you've not done before, or anything else, try and live your time here to the fullest - Oxford is about getting a degree, but its also about making memories. The Master of the College (Prof. Judith Buchanan) might tell you on the first day that you're inevitably going to encounter people from different backgrounds with different perspectives - and that applies here too. It's such a privilege to be able to hear such a range of voices, to speak to people from all walks of life, and in trying something different this is sure to occur. As far as my experience has shown me, everyone at Oxford is a genuinely decent person, so speaking to new people is never going to hurt.

Really make an effort with your tutor(s)

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, but it makes communicating to larger groups of people so much easier. Alongside our JCR page, Messenger is also how many of the sports teams 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!!

I hope you guys enjoy the rest of your summer - don't stress too much about preparing for uni. See you soon!!!

Sent with one final Big Peter's Love <3,
India Simpson, JCR VP

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 0th week. My handbook from last year tells me this is called 'noughth' week (and a google search tells me 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 0th weeks in Hilary and Trinity usually include COLLECTIONS*. Also, whilst term officially lasts between weeks 1 and 8, examinations in 1st year sometimes run into 9th week.

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 XlIIs 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 in this handbook, but sometimes these change, and we had Slushkeys for major events like the Garden Party last year.

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. I personally have never had it - I would say I suffered more with 'Seventh Week Delirium' (another wacky Oxford term), but I was unfortunately plagued with Scarlet Fever and then Tonsillitis at the end of Michaelmas, which might have been the cause of that.

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.

JCR: Junior Common Room.

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.

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.

India Simpson, JCR VP

india.simpson@spc.ox.ac.uk

www.spc.ox.ac.uk

