

MIDDLE COMMON ROOM

Freshers[®]
Guide

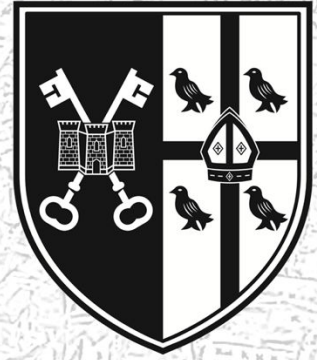


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Welcome!

Dearest Freshers,

Welcome to the Middle Common Room (MCR)!

The MCR is a community made up of all postgraduate students at the College – now including you! The MCR community is one of the most important groups of people you will associate with during your time at Oxford. It can be the foundation lifelong friendships are built upon. It can also be a key line of support when things get difficult. But most of all it is a group of people like you navigating the exciting yet sometimes daunting life at Oxford.

The MCR also (confusingly!) refers to a space in College for us to all enjoy, be that hanging out with friends, studying, watching films, grabbing a (free!) coffee or at one of many MCR events. There is something for everyone, from enjoying baked goods after a hard week on a Sunday to drinks at a BOP (Oxford slang for themed parties) on a Saturday night. During Freshers' week we will have a packed schedule of events for you to meet people and to settle right in. We would really encourage you to get involved, meet some new people, and have fun. Before you know it, the MCR will feel like home.

Freshers' Week begins on Sunday, 4th October 2026. We can't wait to see you all there – do say hello!

Arun Ramanathan & Noah Rowe

Freshers Representatives of St Peter's College MCR, 2026-27

Getting Settled In

Keys

If you are living in College accommodation, you will receive your keys from the Porters on arrival. If you are in graduate accommodation, you should check your arrival information emails for more specific details.

Bod Card

Your Bod Card is your student card and will act as your access card to enter College, as well as to access areas such as the College library or the MCR. It will be available for collection from the College Office during registration.



Accommodation (accommodation@spc.ox.ac.uk)

Some incoming graduate students are assigned a room in College accommodation. These rooms are dotted around Oxford: there is Paradise Street, Lau, St Thomas Street, Castle Mill, and Walton Street. If you have been allocated a room, make sure to let the St Peter's Accommodation Office know when you intend to arrive; they will make sure that your College accommodation is ready and waiting.

If you have any issues with your room, do contact College. The Accommodation Office is always welcoming and helpful; they will do their best to provide everything you need. Once you sign for the room key, the room becomes yours and yours only: it may not be sub-let.

The Dean and their officers enforce strict regulations on fire safety. This means no smoking, no lighting of candles or incense, and no open heat sources (e.g. hotplates), etc. A fire safety induction course is run in every annexe and attendance is mandatory.

College houses are serviced by cleaning staff (known in Oxford as 'Scouts'). Scouts will clean kitchens and common areas, but it is not their duty to do the washing up – that's your responsibility! They may also clean your room and bathroom regularly. This is often done in the morning, so if you do not want to be disturbed, you can leave your bin outside your room to indicate this. The Scouts will have a particular day assigned to clean your room so it's a good to

find out which day that is so that you don't miss out on the regular cleaning.

If you don't have College accommodation and are still looking, it's worth contacting the College Accommodation Office, in case any rooms become available. Also look to the University's Accommodation Office, as they have rooms for postgrads. You should also check out the Oxford Accommodation Facebook groups, as people regularly share rental opportunities there. If you are looking at private rentals, please be careful of scams – always get a tour in person first or ask a friend to look on your behalf.

Transportation

Bicycles

Bar walking, most people get around Oxford by bike! Oxford is very cycle-friendly, and you should be able to pick up a durable second-hand bike for under £200 if you don't already have one. Decathlon and Halfords sell cheap(ish) new bikes. To keep your bike safe, lock it up with a D-lock. College has bike storage in the outside the Chavasse building bike lockup, accessed from New Inn Hall Street using your Bod card. Before using it, you must register your bike with the Porters, and have access added to your Bod card.

Buses

If you don't wish to buy a bike, or are not particularly confident cycling, buses are also very convenient in Oxford. There are stops all around the city and services are frequent. You can pay on the bus with contactless.

Taxis

If you need to take a taxi, generally the cheapest options are Uber and Bolt. Other services in Oxford can be rather expensive.

Trains & Travelling to London

To book trains, use the [Trainline](#) or [TrainPal](#) mobile apps or websites. If you plan on taking the train more than five times a year, it is worth buying a railcard which gets you a discount on your tickets. Make sure to have your tickets and railcard when you travel! A train is the cheapest way to get to London if travelling at off-peak times. If you need to travel to London during peak hours, or late at night, then [The Oxford Tube](#) (confusingly, a coach) is the way to go.

St Peter's College

Navigating College

A College map can be found on the College website [here](#). The MCR is located at the top of Thomas Hull House. Hopefully by the start of term, the MCR should be accessible through College, next to Chavasse, but if not, access is through Bonn Square (opposite Westgate Shopping Centre). Access via Bonn Square is through the large black gate with the keypad – ask the Porters for the access code. The MCR is then located on the 2nd floor with Bod card access.



College Office (martin.brown@spc.ox.ac.uk), (catherine.whalley@spc.ox.ac.uk)

The College Office team is a valuable source of support for a wide range of queries and issues that may arise during your time at College. The key College Office contacts for graduate students can be found at the bottom of Besse Staircase. For example, if you get ill and need an extension to a deadline for submitted work, you can get help here.

College Advisors (tutorforgraduates@spc.ox.ac.uk)

You will be assigned a College Advisor at St Peter's. While your supervisor, tutors, or lecturers are primarily concerned with your academic work, your College Advisor is here for you. If you have any concerns about your progress or are looking for some general advice, you should speak with them.

College Health, Wellbeing and Welfare (eleanor.tingle@spc.ox.ac.uk)

If you are struggling in any way, St Peter's has a wonderful health, wellbeing

and welfare team. Eleanor Tingle, the Dean for Welfare, is supported by a team of Welfare Officers, the College Chaplain, and the College Nurse. All are available for a chat or a cup of tea. The MCR also has Welfare Reps who are very happy to chat. Details can be found at <https://www.spc.ox.ac.uk/student-life/health-wellbeing-welfare>.

Porters (porters.lodge@spc.ox.ac.uk)

The Porters are very helpful and will often be your first 'port of call' when you have a query. Through the Porters, you can book guest accommodation, get keys for the music room, as well as mail letters/ internal university post. If you live in College accommodation and have any maintenance problems in your room or find a problem in the MCR, please report the issue to the Porters' Lodge or email maintenance@spc.ox.ac.uk so that it can be fixed as soon as possible.

Room Bookings

As a member of the MCR, you can book rooms within the College, like study rooms and function rooms. If you wish to use any of these, you will usually need to make a booking request via the Junior Deans using a D1 form.

College Sports

St Peter's has a wide variety of sports on offer, ranging from Ultimate Frisbee to Rugby, in which we play against teams from other colleges. Details of the sports available and how to get involved will be given during Freshers' Week. There are also University teams which can be much more competitive. As a member of the MCR, you get free access to the Iffley Road University Sports Centre.

College Music (quintin.beer@spc.ox.ac.uk)

St Peter's is a very musical college. The excellent Choir sings Evensong on Thursdays and Sundays in the Chapel and performs grace at Thursday Formal Halls during term time. The Music Society also organises weekly recitals. Permitted college members can use the refurbished music room and practice rooms. For information about joining the Choir, using the music rooms, or getting involved in music at St Peter's, contact the Director of Music, [Quintin Beer](#).

IT (it-help@spc.ox.ac.uk)

There are computer facilities available in College, located in St Peter's Library. These are particularly useful for printing and copying. For computer issues, either hardware or software, you will find the [Oxford University IT Services](#) a convenient first port of call. It offers products and services at reasonable

rates and has several computing labs that you are entitled to use. Our MCR has monitors and cables available for general use. These monitors and cables should not leave the MCR at any time. The [College's IT office](#), 'SOCIT', can help with College printers, College WiFi/networks and other IT questions for College members. Email it-help@spc.ox.ac.uk for assistance.

Internet access

When you are around any university building, there is a University-wide WiFi network (*eduroam*) which you can access using your University account login. St Peter's also has its own WiFi network (*SPC-Members*) that you will need your College email account details to log in.

The College Library (Plib)

Plib (the St Peter's Library) is normally always open and can be an excellent place to work. It can get very busy around exam times, so get there early to get a good spot! Do be considerate of your fellow students when you work there. Most books there are undergraduate-focused, so for more specialised texts you may need to go to your subject library or elsewhere. You will need your Bod card to get in AND out!

Formal Halls

Formals are one of the classic Oxford experiences: attendees are treated to a three-course meal served to their seat. They normally occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays during term time. All attendees must dress smartly, with College members wearing their robes. You must buy tickets in advance on UPay – they can go very quickly! Want to bring a guest? You can buy a guest ticket to most formals. Make sure to be on time or you may not be let in!

The Middle Common Room

You can use the MCR space to read, make a cup of tea or coffee, chat with friends, work, watch TV and more. The MCR is a shared space, so respect those around you, and keep it clean and tidy. This is particularly important for the kitchen and the fridge, where all food must be labelled with your name. Food that is out of date/unlabelled may be thrown in the bin. If you use anything communal (plates/glasses/mugs), **you must clean them after use!** We even have a dishwasher!

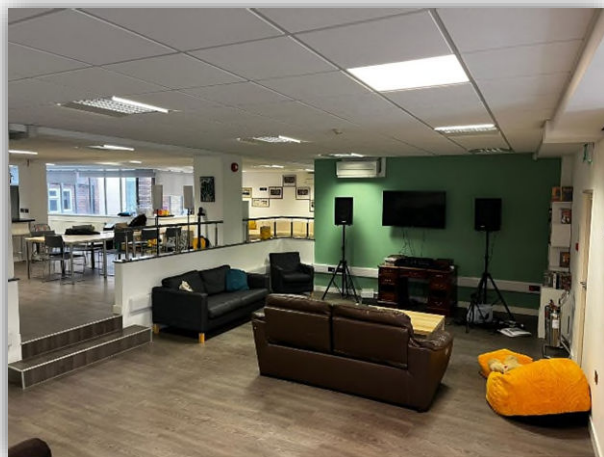


In the MCR there are free-to-use lockers on a first-come, first-serve basis; you will just need a padlock. We also have a pool table and a dartboard for your use!

The MCR Community

MCR administration is handled by the MCR Executive Committee. The Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Social Secretaries, and Secretary. The wider MCR Committee aids the Exec in specific areas through positions such as Charity, Welfare, and Freshers' Representatives (us)!

There are regular meetings of the MCR early in each term (General Meetings) in which members can put forward motions, such as petitions or amendments to our Constitution, or raise concerns in a formal environment. General Meetings are run in person, with lots of free pizza! Some roles on Committee are up for election at the Michaelmas General Meeting, so if you are interested, please contact the Committee.



College Parents

It may sound a little odd, but every fresher is assigned a College parent. College parents are postgrads whose job it is to help you settle in. They should contact you before you arrive in Oxford and will be one of the first people you meet here – let us know if you haven't heard from them!

Freshers' Week

Freshers' Week normally kicks off MCR events at St Peter's the week before the academic term starts (Week 0). If you arrive in Oxford before Week 0, there will be some events in Weeks -1 and -2 run by the MCR Committee. The aim of Freshers' Week is to introduce you to St Peter's, Oxford, and your fellow MCR members. A schedule of events will be available close to the start of term.

Social and Wellbeing Activities

St Peter's MCR prides itself on being a fun, social and inclusive common room. The MCR Committee will be working double time to make sure that you have the best experience during your time at Oxford! Activities from last year include (but are definitely not limited to):

Formal Exchanges: We host guests from another college, and they host us at their college for a Formal Hall.

Guest Nights: One step up from Formal Halls, Guest Nights are a termly black-tie dinner in College entirely administered by the MCR for MCR members (and their guests) only. We follow them up with a BOP!

BOPs: Themed parties for you with free drinks and good times guaranteed!

Film Club: A series of film nights with snacks provided (of course).

Bake & Break: A weekly event where the Committee bakes and you can relax and enjoy some goodies.

Bar Exchanges/Crawls: Like a Formal Exchange but in the St Peter's Bar and other colleges' bars! The St Peter's Bar is famously **the best college bar** and serves the notorious Cross Keys drink, as well as a variety of other cheap drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic! It is a great place to hang out and meet up with friends.

The MCR Committee

President:

[Georgios Raftis](#) (he/him)

Vice-President (MCR Welfare Lead):

[Raphaella \(Ella\) Mascia](#) (she/her)

Treasurer:

[Rhys Davies](#) (he/him)

Social Secretaries:

[Jan Birkel](#) (he/him), [Ellen Sjule](#) (she/her) & [Charlotte Visconsi](#) (she/her)

Freshers' Representatives (us!):

[Arun Ramanathan](#) (he/him) & [Noah Rowe](#) (he/him)

Welfare Representatives:

[Arun Ramanathan](#) (he/him) & [Tihana Štefanić](#) (she/her)

Social Assistants, EDI Representatives, Sports/Facilities/Charity Reps:

You? (Do get in touch to ask about the roles and standing for election)!

Oxford Glossary

Battels: Bills for a member of a college (student or Fellow) for accommodation, meals, etc.

Bod Card: Student ID, also acting as your access card to College and the University Libraries.

Cross Keys: St Peter's symbol and greatest drink in Oxford.

Fellows: The senior members of each college who, together with the college head, constitute the governing body of the college.

Formals: Short for Formal Halls. They are college-specific, so if you are lucky enough to go to a Formal at another college, the level of formality, food and cost may be different!

High Table: The table in a college dining hall, often on a dais, at which the college head (Master here at SPC) and Fellows dine. Guests may sometimes be invited to High Table.

Michaelmas Term (MT): The first term of the academic year (October–December).

Hilary Term (HT): The second term of the academic year (January–March).

Trinity Term (TT): The final term of the academic year (April–June).

Junior Common Room (JCR): The undergraduate equivalent of the Middle Common Room.

Middle Common Room (MCR): Hopefully explained in the guide! Also known as a GCR (Graduate Common Room) at other colleges.

Matriculation: Matriculation is a short ceremony where the Vice-Chancellor welcomes you to the University and you have membership of the University conferred upon you.

Oxmas: Christmas at Oxford. This starts exactly one month before Christmas Day, on the 25th November, so we can celebrate holidays of all faiths together.

Pidge: Your mailbox in the Porter's Lodge where you pick up mail. Short for pigeonhole.

Plib: Short for St Peter's College Library.

Plodge: Short for Porters' Lodge.

Plobby: Short for Peter's Lobby, the first room you enter in the library that contains the printer and a couple desktop PCs.

Plungeon: The underground portion of St Peter's Library (Plib), short for Peter's Dungeon.

Senior Common Room (SCR): Like our Middle Common Room but for academic staff, Fellows, and senior administrative employees of the College.

SPC: Common acronym for St Peter's College.

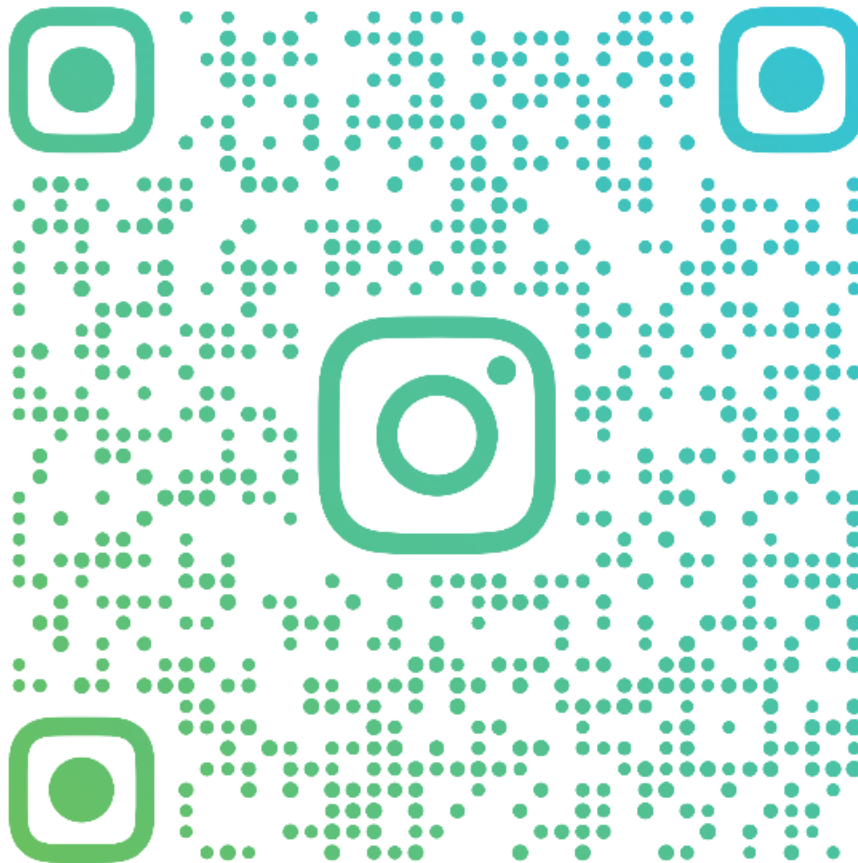
Sub fusc: Academic dress worn to Matriculation, examinations and graduation.

Vac: Short for vacation. There are three in the year: the Christmas Vac, the Easter Vac and the Long Vac after Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity Terms respectively.

Keep in Touch!

We normally like to communicate information about events via email and a WhatsApp group chat. To join the group chat, either click the link your college parents will send you or scan the QR codes we will put in the MCR! You will automatically be added to the MCR mailing list.

*Scan the QR code for our
Instagram to see what we
were up to last year!*



STPETERS.MCR