ST PETER’S COLLEGE, OXFORD

THE FRESHERS’ GUIDE

2022

Everything you’ll need to know before starting in October
First of all: Congratulations on officially getting into Oxford! You have been hand-picked by leading experts to be given this place so you should be very proud of yourselves, not to mention your tumultuous few years of education due to Covid-19. One of the most important things is never to doubt that you deserve your place here - the selection process is designed to choose students who will fit the Oxford academic environment, and there is no way you could have secured your place just through "luck".

If you are nervous about starting university then I can assure you that Oxford, and especially St Peter's, is one of the best places you can be! A college system, unlike other universities, means you will always have a safety net and a ready-made network of friends and support. St Peter’s College is renowned to be one of the friendliest colleges, and after a year here I can wholeheartedly say that this is true. There is lots of mixing between "year groups" here which really does make it into a community, rather than just a body of undergraduates.

St Peter's is a small college and I have adored this. It increases this sense of a tight-knit community and is also very practical - it really does only take a minute to dash anywhere. St Peter's could not be better located; it is right at the centre of the city, evidenced by it being the only college with all 3 Prets in a 5 minute radius!

Hopefully you all had fabulous post A-level summers (or amazing gap years for those who took them) and that you cannot wait to start this next chapter in your life. We hope to make this transition exciting rather than daunting, and this handbook I've compiled should help!

We look forward to helping you move in soon :)

Emma Wiggetts, JCR Vice President
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FYI: you can look up in the glossary meanings of the words with asterisks* next to them
WHAT IS THE JCR?

JCR = Junior Common Room

The JCR refers to two things.

1. The actual common room, which is the big room opening out onto Mulberry Quad, opposite the entrance to Matthews block. It is host to our fabulous BOPs*, tense pool matches, and enthusiastic Eurovision watching parties.

2. It is the collective body of undergraduates at St Peter's. YOU are now a member of the SPC JCR!

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

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

Over the next few pages you'll be introduced to the wide variety of JCR committee roles and the people who currently occupy them. We are here to help so do not be afraid to find us (/stalk us) online before you join and ask us any questions you have before coming.
Hiya! I'm Bella (she/her), your President for this year and I study French & German. When I'm not slaving away on verb tables, you can find me (illegally) rollerblading around college premises, playing in a pub or taking my daily nap in the library. I'm very excited to welcome you all to Peter's in October along with the rest of the committee! The college has a reputation of friendliness and being a lot of fun for a reason - hopefully you will have a really great time here! Of course it's fine to feel nervous before starting uni but we're here to make your journey as freshers as smooth and as fun as it can be. Please please please don't be shy to reach out (isobel.laux@spc.ox.ac.uk) if you have concerns or questions, or come say hi in Freshers' week. Good luck! Bella :)

Hi! I'm Emma (she/her), a second-year History student and revered author of this handbook. My role for this year is more behind-the-scenes than Bella's: attending many (many) committee meetings, helping to organise your Freshers' Week, and chasing around Bella when she's forgotten to reply to an email (quite literally if she is roller-blading that day!). Bella and I are trauma bonded from being stuck halfway down a mountain together on the Varsity ski trip, so I'm sure nothing will phase us as a pair this year. When I'm not occupied with JCR business you can catch me leisurely reading the Domesday Book or trying to work out how to sing this week's Magnificat for choir. Please don't be shy to reach out via my email (emma.wiggetts@spc.ox.ac.uk) or Facebook with any questions, especially since any questions you do have are probably from me missing something out of this guide. Can't wait to meet you all in October <3
Hi guys! My name is Benedict (he/him), I study Economics and Management, and I will be your JCR Treasurer for the year. Essentially, I am responsible for the management of the JCR finances, which includes issuing refunds, ordering pizza for JCR General Meetings, and ensuring the money doesn’t randomly disappear... Anyways, it may seem like I have quite a boring technical role, but don’t let Bella convince you that I am irrelevant – I’m always open to help with anything, ranging from advice on first year, to general tips on being a great accountant. Feel free to say hi if you see me around college, and I hope you have a smashing first year – you’ll love it at Peter’s! You can reach me at benedict.okungbowa@spc.ox.ac.uk

Hi! I’m Holly (she/her), I study History, and I am going to be your JCR Secretary for this year. What that basically means is that I organise all the admin stuff for the JCR, so expect me to be bombarding your inboxes with lots of information throughout the year. My role also involves sorting out College Parents (a scheme that allocates freshers with a second year of the same course to help them navigate their first year), so watch out for an email about that in the next few weeks. I know moving to uni can be a very daunting experience, but my best advice would be to throw yourself into everything and take every opportunity you get!

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns at all - you can email me at: holly.brooker@spc.ox.ac.uk. I would love to hear from you!! Have the most fantastic first year and I know you will fall in love with Peter’s like I did!
Buenas! I’m Archie (he/him) and I will be one of your very own resident Entz (= entertainment) Reps. Soph (the other Entz Rep) and I will work night and day to arrange events from film nights to club nights, bingo nights to BOPs* (big college parties), pub crawls etc. just for your benefit. If you ever need me you will probably find me in the college bar as I frequented it so much last year my phone now thinks it’s my home. When I’m not organising entertainment for college, I supposedly do a degree in Physics… although this is very much up for dispute as it seems my favourite pastime is doing anything and everything other than my degree. St. Peter’s is renowned for its bar and its past events, so I hope I can make your year as freshers as eventful as my own. You can reach me at archie.bermingham@spc.ox.ac.uk. Big entz love!

Hey, I’m Sophie (she/her) and I’m one of your Entz Reps for this year. I’m studying Economics and Management so if you can’t find me watching The Office in the library I’ll probably be in one of the Prets (yes, there are three, don’t question it). I’m one half of the Entz team and our job is to make you actually enjoy your time at Peter’s, so if all of your tutors hate us at the end of the year we’ve done a good job. There is going to be a lot going on so you may have to sacrifice a bit of sleep on the way but it’ll be worth it (trust me) and the friends you make at Peter’s really are friends for life so really throw yourself into it!! If you need me, my email is sophie.taylor@spc.ox.ac.uk. Huge Entz love xxx
Hello!! I’m Amy (she/her), an Archaeology and Anthropology Student from Surrey. I’ve loved my first year at Oxford; it took me a little while to settle in and get used to the workload and new friends, but I have no doubt that you will love it too. I am one of your Welfare Reps for this year, along with Lauren and Anna (Welfare Lead). My role includes supporting you with many things such as contraception, work balance, university societies/sports, friendships, safety on nights out and more; pretty much anything that you feel you need some extra support with. Aside from my role on the JCR committee, I love doing cuppers sports, am part of the SPC choir, and also part of the Oxford Archaeological Society.

I’m available all throughout the summer and so please feel free to reach out (amy.gadhia@spc.ox.ac.uk). You’re very lucky to be at Peters, it really is the most friendly and welcoming college. I can’t wait to meet you and have no doubts you will love it as much as I do!

Hello!! I’m Anna (she/her) and I’m a geographer, meaning I have an abundance of time to invest into my role, which is to (surprise surprise) ‘lead’ the JCR welfare team. We work to make sure your experience of St Peter’s and of Oxford is as enjoyable and quite frankly as snazzy as possible. A lot of my work is through the medium of food (yay!); I run a Welfare Tea every Sunday, which is basically an excuse for you all to catch up with mates and indulge in free fruit, cake and biscuits. Beyond that we host regular events throughout the year to provide continuing support and good times, as well as arranging the constant provision of contraception and menstrual products, and refunds for pregnancy tests and morning after pills. Importantly, you’ll see a lot of me during Freshers’ Week (sorry in advance) - we’ll all be there to help you settle in. Best of luck, I can’t wait to meet you and please get in touch (anna.williams@spc.ox.ac.uk) if there’s anything I can help with.
Hello! My name’s Lauren (she/her), I’ll be one of your Welfare Reps this year and I study Biology. When I’m not busy learning the different branches of the animal kingdom or contemplating the true definition of a gene, I enjoy spending time with friends, writing poems (see Izzy Walter, our Arts Rep, for more info on our college magazine!) and playing some casual college netball. I feel truly blessed to be at such a friendly and welcoming college, and therefore am keen to maintain this reputation through a position on the welfare team. The welfare team aim to make the transition seamless for everybody; whether you’re coming to us from afar or are an Oxford local yourself. If you have any concerns or questions before you arrive, please feel free to message/email me (lauren.homan@spc.ox.ac.uk). See you all soon!!

Hi! I’m Lissie (she/her) and I study History. You can usually find me playing board games or eating the famous Peter’s hash browns on a picnic bench. My role as Disabilities Rep is to act as a contact point between you and college to help with any accessibility issues that may come up, as well as to help create a community within college where we can all support each other. St Peter’s is a really inclusive environment and we have a great welfare team to support you. Let me know if you have any questions or anything you want to raise regarding disability, accessibility, or inclusivity (alyssa.hickman@spc.ox.ac.uk), and I look forward to meeting you all in October!
Heya! I'm Megan (she/her) and I am your LGBTQ+ rep :) I study Philosophy and Theology, and if I'm not busy having an existential crisis I'm probably singing some aca-tunes or hitting up the college bar instead of working. Coming to uni is scary for anyone, but often especially for queer people - I'm here to reassure you that the LGBTQ+ community at Oxford is not only ✨FABULOUS✨ and filled with the coolest people, but amazingly welcoming. My ginger hair means I am easily visible in a gay crisis and I'm always up for a chat about anything - ESPECIALLY the latest episode of RuPaul's Drag Race!? Feel free to contact me with any questions or worries you have (megan.harley-martin@spc.ox.ac.uk) or give me an insta/Facebook stalk xx

Hi everyone! I'm Charlie (they/them) and I study Music. More importantly, I'm your Trans/Gender Non-Conforming representative on this year's JCR Committee. I'm very excited to welcome you into college, regardless of how you identify! My job is to help make sure you feel safe to express yourself however you see fit both in college, and around the beautiful and welcoming city of Oxford. I am also in charge of the JCR's Gender Expression Fund, which anyone can use to experiment with your gender identity or help you transition. Please message/ email me (charles.potts@spc.ox.ac.uk) if you would like to access this support or are having any other identity-related concerns.

St Peter’s is a place where you can be whoever you want to be, so (while you tackle those reading lists) make sure you have fun and explore!
Hi everyone! My name is Evina (she/her), I’m studying Law and I’ll be one of your BAME Reps for this year. Alongside Grace, I’m really looking forward to supporting the Peter’s BAME community. We’re going to be running plenty of events including welfare teas, BAME Formals and Black History month events. I’m hoping to be a super approachable and friendly face around college (don’t worry none of us really know what we’re doing), so please don’t hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions at all. I’m so excited to welcome you guys to the incredible St. Peter’s community and help make you feel at home. Peter’s is an amazing place filled with amazing people and plenty of support systems. Feel free to reach out before the start of term if you have any concerns or questions at all (evina.yadav@spc.ox.ac.uk). I’m really looking forward to meeting you all! ;)

Hey guys- my name is Grace (she/her), I read PPE, and I’ll be one of your BAME Reps for this year. I know first-hand the challenges faced by our BIPOC students here, and want to ensure that you always have a friendly face to turn to (always up to procrastinate, so feel free to approach me anytime). We’ll be running BAME inclusive events all year round so that you can better get to know more BIPOC students within and outside of college- welfare teas, formals, crew dates* etc.- as well as the BAME Parent Scheme. As a big jazz, rock and film lover too, hopefully we’ll get to involve some into events:) Peter’s really is where you’ll find your people, but if you’re worried about anything at all, or would just like a friendly chat before term, please don’t hesitate to reach out (grace.li@spc.ox.ac.uk). We’re always here for you:)
Ciao! I’m Arshiya (he/him) and I’m studying French and Italian. I will be your Faith Rep this year and my role is to help people of all faiths and backgrounds to settle in comfortably into college life, ensuring that all your individual needs are accommodated for. As a Muslim, I have first-hand experience of the challenges faced and I hope I will, using this experience, help you guys all overcome certain challenges that you may have. I will often be around college and I hope you guys can view me as a friendly face with whom you can discuss any issues/problems you may have. Starting uni can be tough and intimidating but I hope that all of us on the committee can help ease this process! If you have any issues feel free to message/email me (arshiya.hendi@spc.ox.ac.uk) at any time.

Hi, I’m Sonya (she/her) and I study Spanish with Polish. I’m so happy to be your Internationals Rep for this year! I’m French, Polish and American but mostly grew up in France. My role for this year is to ensure that all international students settle in smoothly and enjoy their first year as much as possible despite the difficulty of integrating into a new culture and moving to a new country. Oxford has a lovely and diverse international community which will be here to facilitate your assimilation into your new home. I found the St Peter’s international community to be extremely welcoming and easy to bond with. I hope you guys will enjoy your first year as much as I did.

My best advice would be to take it easy, not put too much pressure on yourselves and to be open minded. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at: sonya.oczkowicz@spc.ox.ac.uk
Hi everyone! I’m Marcus (he/him), I study History and I’m this year’s Access and Outreach rep. I work with college to run events (college visits, study days, residential, Q+As etc) to help students from under-represented backgrounds to apply. Many of you will have come from such backgrounds - from state schools, socioeconomically-deprived areas, ethnic minorities and many more - and you are all extremely welcome!! Oxford and SPC are for everyone. I also help support these students settle in once they’re here - just shoot me a message or email at any time (marcus.wells@spc.ox.ac.uk), especially if you’re feeling anxious before term starts.

I am very proud to be a part of Oxford’s super and wide-ranging music scene, singing in the St Peter’s Chapel Choir and an A Cappella group. So, my top tip is to join some societies, like I have in music, for benefits such as building friendships outside of college. Really looking forward to meeting you all and welcoming you into unquestionably the best college community in Oxford!

Hi I’m Mollie (she/her) and I study Maths. I will be your Socio-Economic Rep for the year. You can usually find me in the procrastinating in the library or in Pret for the 5th time of the day. My Role is to represent students from less privileged socio-economic backgrounds. I hope to be a friendly face around college, who you can come to if you need advice about managing finances or applying for bursaries etc. I know moving to uni can be stressful and I’m here to make the process as easy as possible, so feel free to email me at mollie.densleyrobins@spc.ox.ac.uk or message me if you have any questions.
SPORTS REP: MILLY TROUP

Hi all! I’m Milly (she/her), a second year studying French & Portuguese, and I’ll be your JCR Sports Rep for this year. That means I’m responsible for coordinating with college staff to organise the behind-the-scenes of college sport, as well as keeping everyone informed of what’s going on. I’ll also be Captain of Women’s Rowing and Co-Captain of Mixed Touch Rugby next year. College sport is something I’d highly recommend trying, especially early on - it can take the form of a proper commitment to a college team, a way to expand your social circle, or honestly just an excuse to get out of the library sometimes!

Please do email (amelia.troup@spc.ox.ac.uk) or come find me with any questions or ideas - I’m generally quite easy to spot around college (the height helps) and am always up for a chat. We also have an instagram page (@s.p.c.sport) which will have more specific info about captains, matches etc once term gets going. Look forward to meeting you all in October!

ARTS REP: IZZY WALTER

Hi! I’m Izzy (she/her), your Arts Rep for this year (provided the president hasn’t replaced me yet for forgetting to attend the Monday meetings). Although my degree is History of Art, I did an Art Foundation before Oxford and love working with performance art, design and embroidery. I also write music and poetry for events and publications in London and Oxford. This summer I have been living communally, off grid in Portugal, practising sustainable ways of living and exploring relationships between creativity, nature and mind-body healing. Following this, I would love to see the ways that Peter’s Arts can engage with nature and I can’t wait to work with your lovely welfare reps on these sorts of projects!

If you would like to contact me, my email is isabel.walter@spc.ox.ac.uk. I am very friendly and always love a chat so if you have any questions, ideas or just want to get involved, come and speak to me anytime <3
Hello, my name is Luke (he/him), I’m a second-year Engineering student from Hampshire. I’m the Charities and Environments rep for the year so my role is basically just to engage the St Peter’s community in as many charitable and environmental initiatives as possible. This year I’ll make sure that anyone who wants to help with volunteering (or anything of that sort) is aware of any opportunities and can do what they can to help not just the St Peter’s community but the Oxford community as a whole. I’m always open to new ideas so please let me know if you have any plans for fundraising or any ideas to reduce the college’s environmental impact. If you want to reach me, my email is luke.vernon@spc.ox.ac.uk

Hi I’m Anna (she/her), I’m a second-year Law student and I am your Social Media Rep for this year! I will running the SPC JCR Instagram (follow @spc_jcr) and posting updates regarding any college news on there so make sure you follow!! If you have any questions about anything regarding starting uni feel free to message me or email me at anna.hearne@spc.ox.ac.uk. I know starting uni can be very daunting but I can assure you it’s not as scary as it seems. Looking forward to meeting you all in October, and if you’re lucky I might give you a feature on the insta!!!!
Hi, I’m Katie (she/her) and I study Philosophy and Theology! I will be your Bar Manager this year, which means I’m responsible for running the student bar in college (best in Oxford), keeping it stocked, clean and organising the team. Every member of the JCR can be bar trained and do shifts which I hope you all will- so I’m excited to meet you! We want the bar to be an inclusive space for everyone, drinkers and non-drinkers alike, so fear not if you don’t drink as the bar will be full to the brim with non-alcoholic drinks and snacks. Look forward to karaoke nights, quizzes, good music and a disgusting volume of crosskeys*. I’m sure you’ll all have an amazing time at Peters and we can’t wait to welcome you to college. If you need me, my email is katherine.peachey@spc.ox.ac.uk. See you in October!

Hi, I’m Iván (he/him) and i’m going to be the Bar Treasurer this year. As Bar Treasurer I am in charge of running the money side of the bar, trying my best to keep drinks prices low. I study PPE...although I am most likely dropping Econ for the coming year, so we will see if I can manage to keep the bar running! As you will experience, the bar forms quite a large part of college life and I am keen to keep this going. Over the year I will be trying my best to organise events that I hope you guys will enjoy. If you want to reach me, my email is ivan.mahoney@spc.ox.ac.uk. See you in October!
Hi, I’m Ruby (she/her), I study PPE, and I am the unofficial First Lady of the JCR. As Bella's supportive college wife (provided we haven't divorced after a month of backpacking together), I like to think of myself as the Michelle Obama of this administration. This is a very important role as I am and will be her therapist through the trials and tribulations of the presidency. I am part of the Freshers Committee so will be around to help you all settle in and answer any queries you may have. My email is ruby.johnson@spc.ox.ac.uk

Looking forward to meet you all in October!!

Hey - I’m Kirsten (she/her)! I’m a medic and, as one of Emma’s college wives, I could be considered the unofficial Second Lady of the JCR (sort of the Dr Jill Biden to Emma’s Joe). I’m on the Freshers Committee, alongside Ruby, so I’ll be another friendly face around college in Freshers' Week. I'll also be on hand with my First Aid skills to patch any of you up who are as accident prone as my wife is on nights out. Please don’t hesitate to come to me with any questions, or just to say hi :) My email is kirsten.parsons@spc.ox.ac.uk. I look forward to seeing you all in October, but until then - have a great summer!

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

There are three positions that will likely be filled by second-years and elections will be happening soon: Women’s Rep, Accommodation Rep and Academic Affairs Rep. In the meantime, I will take on the Accommodation role, and please just come to me or Bella for any women's/gender equality issues or academic issues in the meantime.

More excitingly, there are two positions to be filled by you guys in Michaelmas! JCR Chair: Not actually on the committee, but is in charge of running GMs First Year (Freshers’) Rep: Represents the interests of First Years on the JCR Committee
ARRIVING!

You will be moving into St Peter's on Sunday 2nd October.

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

Upon getting to New Inn Hall Street (where college is located) you should be able to find a parking space near-ish the entrance to college. On arrival, before you do anything else, you will need to go to pick up your key and a **parking permit** from **Porters' Lodge** for up to 30 minutes.

At this point, you can begin to move all your stuff in with the help of your parents/supporters and any members of the **Freshers Committee** who are around (although about 3 trips up and down Matthews may be my physical limit!).

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

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

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

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

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

If you have any general questions about accommodation, "I'm your man" (well, VP). There is an Accommodation Rep position but it hasn't been filled yet, so for the time being **accommodation falls within my remit**.
Matthews rooms are **spacious**, slightly bigger than New Block rooms. Although the rooms in themselves are somewhat plain, this just makes it even more of a blank canvas for you to decorate (tip: fairy lights. Lots of them). Their windows have lovely views of the city from the higher floors. **Close to the JCR and the college bar** so some great social spaces on your doorstep. It can be nice to brings blankets/cushions and make a **window seat** for yourself in these rooms.

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

A few of you will live here in one of the lovely old red brick buildings. Lots of mahogany in these rooms and **lots of space**. There is even more work-life separation in these rooms than in New block, with (in some rooms) a partial wall separating a "bedroom" from a "living room". You will also be around some **third years** which is a great opportunity to get to know people beyond your own year group.
A room at uni is different from a room at home because it will quickly become not just where you sleep but also where you will work, eat, do a quick ab workout, or drunkenly feed yourself chicken nuggets after a big night out. Thus, your room needs more than a mattress in it.

**Wise to bring:**
- **Plates, bowls, mugs** (useful for not only tea but also honey and lemon when you almost inevitably lose your voice in Freshers' Week), **cutlery, glasses** (I made sure to bring my beloved "Gin-Dependent Woman" glass), etc.
- **Duvet, pillows, 2 sets of bed linen.** I also brought a mattress topper but definitely not necessary, the beds are decently comfortable.
- **Kettle** (in hindsight, I should have brought one myself rather than living off my college wife's for a year).
- **Bath towels, hand towels** and a **tea towel.**
- **Washing up sponge, fairy liquid, dish cloth.**
- A plug-socket **adaptor** (if you're an international student).
- **Padlock** for the metal safe box.

**Optional:**
- **Things to decorate:** rugs, cushions, photos, battery-powered fairy lights, pins for the pinboard in your room, plants (if you can keep any alive- I started the year with 4 and ended it with 1, and I think even that is miraculous).
- A **diffuser** is always good for keeping your room smelling nice.
- **Drying rack** (means drying clothes is free, always a plus).
- A **mini fridge:** phenomenal for storing milk, yoghurts, or- most importantly for me- a bottle of white wine.
WHAT NOT TO BRING?

- **Microwaves**: The JCR Kitchen has them so you don't really need one in your room anyways, not to mention they do not comply with fire safety regulations. Plus, do you really want your room smelling of a ready meal carbonara?

- **Toasters**: Same here, not safety compliant.

- **Sewing machines**: Sorry to disappoint any budding tailors or seamstresses. A sewing kit with some basic needle and thread can of course be brought and can actually come in handy. For example when the strap comes off your favourite top from stacking it on the steps of Bonn Square en route back to college after being turned away from Atik...not that this has ever happened to me of course.

- **Candles**: While you may want to set the vibe for some deep chats, a G&T evening or some manifestation sessions, no one (a) wants a fire alarm at 11pm or (b) wants one of the buildings to burn down.

- **Tonnes of food**: Snacks are recommended (I'm partial to a stash of chocolate fingers myself) but you will not need to bring all the ingredients for a Sunday roast with you. You will automatically be signed up for hall meals for the first few days of Freshers' Week.

**Bikes**

You CAN bring a bike but you do not NEED to. You are within a 15 minute walk from almost everything because St Peter's is so well located. I didn't feel like I needed a bike at all during first year. The only reason you would really need a bike is if you are super sporty and end up making regular trips to Iffley Sports Centre (a 25 min walk away).

If you do cycle bring a helmet and a strong bike lock (bike theft is common in Oxford).
DOMESTIC FEATURES

Washing
There are washing machines and tumble driers on the first and third floors of Matthews. New Block doesn't have laundry facilities but they are available on the ground floor of Staircase IV. A load of washing costs £1.90, tumble-drying costs £1. It is paid for by a contactless card, which you can get from the washing room. You charge up your card online via the circuit.co.uk website, then head to the washing machine which will have instructions.

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

The Porters
The Porters’ Lodge (affectionately known as "plodge") is the first thing you come to when entering through the big green double doors at the front of college. The porters staff the lodge 24/7 and they are your first port of call for any issues that you may be having around college, e.g. a leaky sink or a dodgy floorboard. It may be useful for you to have the porters' phone number (can be found on the college website) in your phone contacts in case of an emergency. The porters are lovely and many love a good chat, especially Neville (we <3 you Nev) so make sure to say hello when you come and go! I cannot promise that they won't judge you for 5 clothes deliveries in one week, or for coming in looking a state at 3am, but at least they don't actually tell you that you look a state or that you have a shopping addiction.
Informal Hall
St Peter's is a catered college. This means that Monday-Friday breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the dining hall. On Saturday and Sunday brunch and dinner are also available. These meals are called "informal hall": a canteen-style eating arrangement. A typical "informal hall" meal will offer a meat option and two vegetarian/vegan options for the main, with available sides of veg, potatoes (read: many, many potatoes), salad, fruit, and yoghurts.

We <3 weekend brunch at Peter's, especially the hash browns. They seem to have magical revival qualities. Above on the left is a pic of our JCR Secretary Holly who went to a "Peter's Icons" BOP as a hash brown. Iconic indeed in my opinion.

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

A significant proportion of your meals will have been charged on your Battels* each term, but if you need to top up at any point all you need to do is log into the uPay website (https://upay.co.uk) with your college email and password and ‘top up’ your account by entering your bank card details. Then in hall, you simply take your Bod Card* (library and university card) with you, which you hand over to the staff at the cash register to be swiped and charged.
Formal Hall
This usually runs twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting slightly later in the evening than informal hall. There are also extra ones dotted throughout the year, with an extra Sunday formal every term, JCR Christmas Dinner in Week 8 of Michaelmas, and a BAME formal in October. At Formal Hall you wear your gown* over formal attire (usually a suit or a nice dress, but definitely not black-tie level fancy). On Tuesdays a grace from different faiths/traditions is read out at the start, while on Thursdays the chapel choir sings a Latin grace. A 3 course meal is served to you, as well as bread, coffee and chocolates, and when you book Formal Hall you choose either meat, vegetarian or vegan options, with any other of your dietary requirements being catered for. Guests from other colleges or from outside university can be invited in. It is BYOB so either bring bottles of wine, beer, or a soft drink of your choosing. You sign up for Formal Hall via the uPay website about a week in advance.

Meal Times
Breakfast: 8am-9am
Lunch: 12pm-2pm
Informal Hall Dinner: 5.30-7.30pm on non-Formal days, 5.30-.6.30pm on days when there is a Formal or special dinner happening
Formal Hall: 7.30pm
• Starts promptly at 7.30, if you are late you will be refused entry. Wise to get there to secure table space for your whole group at about 7.15pm
• It usually lasts until about 9pm
Brunch on weekends: 11am-1pm

FOOD

Our special Burns Night Formal.
The haggis proved very divisive

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

The first thing to know is that you will soon (if you haven’t already) be assigned a university email address and username. You’ll also be prompted to choose a password (which can be changed later). Your email address will look something like john.doe@spc.ox.ac.uk and your username (‘spet number’) will have the same format as spet1234 but with a different unique collection of numbers. As far as IT is concerned, these are the two most important details to remember, and both will stay with you for your entire time at the college. It is usually through your university email that your tutors will stay in touch with you and you will receive updates from departments, societies, and Peter’s itself. On the other hand, your spet number grants you access to a number of other university-wide online services. In short, if you need to log-in to something at Oxford there’s a very good chance that either your email address or spet number will do the trick!

Almost all students at Peter’s use a laptop and many take them along to libraries and lectures. You are of course welcome to bring a desktop computer, but be mindful of having to unpack and pack it each term when you have to move in and out of your room. Whilst you can quite comfortably get by at Peter’s without your own printer, bringing one along will almost certainly save you money in the long-run if you think you’ll be printing out a lot. I printed a total of 2 things during first year (I do a History degree) so purchasing a printer definitely wouldn’t have been worthwhile for me. The online college printing system is pretty reliable (we have just got new printers and a new system this past Trinity). It does charge a small amount per page (literally a matter of pence) which is put on your Battels* at the start of the following term.
The first question on anyone's mind when they arrive somewhere...

**How do I get wifi?**

St Peter's College provides high-speed internet access to all Freshers in all accommodation blocks. A step-by-step guide on how to connect to the college Wifi will be finding its way to you soon. St Peter's has dedicated IT technicians available during office hours on the ground floor of Staircase III who are always happy to help get Freshers up and running. If you’re having any trouble at all, please don’t give a second thought to asking!

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

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

If all this sounds daunting, **don’t panic**! College makes the whole process very straightforward and easy to understand, with detailed step-by-step instructions and people who are happy to help out.
For many of you, university is going to be the first time you've had to deal with spending large amounts of money on rent, bills and food. Managing your money carefully is essential, so here are some tips to help you make sure you live within your means!

**Make a Budget and Monitor your Spending**

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

**Banking**

Don't forget to go down to your bank and upgrade your account to a student one - this will have a lot of benefits. Banks love students and therefore offer a wide range of different incentives. There unfortunately are not many incentives for internationals - many offers are only available if you have lived in the UK for at least three years. However, Santander Essentials Current Account, while not being exclusively for students, is worth looking into if you have recently moved to the UK.

**Overdraft**

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

Once your student account and card is set up I would recommend loading it onto ApplePay or an equivalent - very handy when going out and about if you've forgotten your card.
Talk to your bank
If you are lucky enough to have some extra savings then you should discuss this with your bank; they should be able to tell you where the best place is for your money. **ISAs and online savings accounts** are usually the highest interest.

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

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

Jobs
You are **not allowed an official part time job** during term time by the University, but trust me, you would not have the time for one any with an Oxford-workload. The college does offer some work during vacations, such as a Telethon in the Easter vac, but the main opportunity is working on the **college bar** (one of the last remaining student-run college bars in Oxford). It's very much up to you if you decide to do a shift one week, there is no compulsion to. I **would recommend getting trained** on the bar in first term just so you can see if it's something you enjoy. **Your long vacation in the summer is probably the best time for you to seek employment.**
Grants & Bursaries
As well as student loans, there are other sources of income available to students that often don't need paying back! The JCR, the college itself and the University provide various types of bursaries and grants for different needs, from helping out with the general living costs to funding for trips, art projects and sports equipment.

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

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

For advice on all funding matters including student loans, budgeting and battels queries, see the Student Finance Officer, Katie Pullen-Rowland (Monday to Thursday, 8.30am - 4.00 pm, based in the Finance office at college, email: katie.pullen-rowland@spc.ox.ac.uk). Katie is here to help with financial matters; your conversation will be completely private and confidential!
Surprisingly enough, you will be reading a fair few books during your time here. Even the STEM students cannot escape.

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

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

If you're like me, studying in your room soon becomes unbearable (unless it's a Sunday morning and I'm in my pyjamas). St Peter's Library (affectionately known as **the "plib"**) is my go-to (the 30 second walk from my room is appealing) but it can get pretty crowded, so definitely check out some external libraries as well, and you'll end up at some point venturing into your **faculty library** to get the books you need. I really love the Radcliffe Camera (Rad Cam) and the Old Bodleian (unsurprising choices for a History student!).
Shops & Restaurants

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

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

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

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

Clubs
Unlike the cohort above us, who did not experience clubbing (covid era), we have tried, and tested, and tried, and tested the Oxford club scene in the past year...the repetition because you do inevitably end up at the exact same clubs every week. Peter's is probably the best located college for the three main clubs. I highly recommend getting the Fixr app to be able to get tickets for club nights and events.

Bridge
A Bridge Thursday is not to be missed! My favourite club night. There are two floors and a surprisingly nice and large smoking area that feels more like an outside bar. Be prepared to bump into every single person you know. If you like Abba then the bottom floor is the place to be, and I lap it up every week.

Atik
Probably second in my rankings, although I'm sure this will be very controversial. Wednesday night is the night to be at Atik (note: Wednesday nights at Atik are known as "Parkend"). It has 3 floors (Main Room, Vinyl- aka the Cheese floor- and Curve). The ceiling mirror selfies on the Cheese Floor are an Oxford staple.

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

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

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

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

- **The Bear** is the oldest pub and my favourite (very history student of me)
- **Turf Tavern** is a classic
- **White Rabbit** if you are peckish (great pizza!)
- **Head of the River** for gorgeous views
- **The Jericho Tavern** for very cool blue walls
- There are two **Wetherspoons** - you can't really go wrong

College Bar
You'll quickly find that we never shut up about our bar. You will sometimes catch me there 2 Crosskeys in, or just sipping at a lemonade: it is a fun place to be, surrounded by all your friends, whether you are drinking alcohol or not. The **cheap drinks** are a godsend for the student budget (£1 Jagerbombs !!!) and on Thursday nights the rugby boys' imbibations (drinking socials) never fail to provide entertainment. Lots of events take place in the bar, such as quiz nights, karaoke, and even KnitSoc.

**Crosskeys** = our college bar beverage. 5 shots in one cup but you cannot taste the alcohol. The best way (correction: the only peter's way) to pre for a night out.

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

Hopefully no one breaks the JCR ceiling again this year during one...
If you are not a night owl, or you don't drink, do not fear! I barely went clubbing in Trinity and still had an amazing term. There are some really fun and wholesome things to do in Oxford that don't involve alcohol or staying up late.

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

**Theatre**
There are lots of theatres, all very close to college, which put on very high standard plays throughout the year, many/most of which are student productions. The student drama scene is run by OUDS and is very wide-ranging and exciting to get involved in. There are always plays to audition for and shows to go and see - both are very rewarding and highly recommended. You’ll find out more about drama opportunities in Freshers’ Week.

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

**The Great Outdoors**
There are lovely quads and seating areas around college, right on your doorstep. It can be refreshing to work outside sometimes. Around Oxford there are many parks and scenic routes for walks (I’m a major advocate for taking Hot Girl Walks). Christ Church Meadows has a loop path and is a perfect 40-ish min walk. There are also a couple places to go wild swimming (my favourite activity of Trinity term): Port Meadow and Hinksey Lake are both great.
The arts are a huge part of life at St Peter's. We have writers, editors and designers for all the major publications in Oxford, be that the *Isis* or *Cherwell*, or for our very own *Misc* magazine. Misc is an arts magazine that is released termly and is open to contribution or being designed by anyone. It includes artwork, poetry, and short story pieces. You can follow it on Instagram to stay in the loop (@misc_spc).

Regular opportunities for artistic expression include open mic nights, jazz evenings, recitals and performances hosted in college. Open mic nights do often devolve into drunken karaoke which may thrill your or terrify you (you are never forced to sing, I promise!). While these things are dotted through the year, the arts scene at Peter's really comes into its own during Arts Week of Trinity term. During this week there are multiple artsy events every day. 2022 saw the inaugural session of Knit Soc during it.

Drama is a big part of college life, and during Arts Week this past year's students put on a hilarious production of Lysistrata for our annual garden play. Look out for the Drama Cuppers competition in Michaelmas term: it's probably the best way for first years to get into the Oxford acting scene and is an introduction to short plays.

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

Your go-to for anything related to the Peter's arts scene is our fabulous Arts Rep Izzy Walter (see profiles section p.14).
They say you leave Oxford with one of three things and never anything more: a First, a Spouse or a Blue*. If a Blue takes your fancy (A ‘Blue’ is term used for those in any sports first team) you might want to dabble in Oxford’s sporting life.

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

Here are just some of the sports available at St Peter’s: Rowing, Football, Rugby, Touch Rugby (mixed non-contact rugby), Netball, Cricket, Croquet, Pool, and Darts. In your first couple of weeks, trials and try outs will be occurring alongside practices and the start of season matches. Get involved, get bonding and get representing - or at least keep fit! I am not a sporty person in any way, but I went to Touch Rugby on a whim in Freshers' Week and now this coming year I will be co-captaining. If I can play sport, you definitely can too, I promise! The sports teams at Peter’s strike the balance between being both inclusive and competitive, making it a great college to take up a new sport! The captains of each college sport will be organising taster sessions at the start of the year, and they are also a good port of call for queries.

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

Contact the amazing Milly Troup, our Sports Rep (see profile section p.14) with any queries/ for more info, and check out the insta @s.p.c.sport
Before your arrival at St Peter’s each of you will be assigned a college ‘parent’. Your parent will be a second year who is also studying your subject, and they will be a sort of mentor to you both before you get to Oxford and during your time here. Generally most people are married to someone else who is studying a different subject, so this person will also be a college parent to you although not doing your subject. Marriage between members of the same subject is not really meant to happen but it sometimes does (the heart wants what the heart wants!). Through your college parent’s marriage you will consequently have at least one or two college ‘siblings’. This may all sound a bit strange or confusing but you will soon get used to it and it is on the whole really helpful, especially in your first few weeks. It is also a great system for integration between the freshers and the 2nd years. People often become good friends with their ‘parents’ and ‘siblings’ and it is a connection that will last throughout your time at St Peter’s. At the end of Freshers’ Week you’ll be invited to a College Family Dinner so you can meet your parents and sibling(s).

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

College marriages are pretty informal, you never have to “register” them with the college or anything like that! Most marriages usually take place in the first few weeks of term, with especially many on the day of Matriculation* (two weeks into term). General advice is to marry someone you can tell you will get along with for a long time (college divorces, though rare, do sometimes happen) but NOT someone who you think you may be romantically interested in- it will inevitably get messy!
Here’s some information about the College's Health, Well-being and Welfare team which comprises of staff and students who are here to help you, and whom you should feel free to approach with any issues. For example, they can help:

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

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

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

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

They are all here to help you deal with any problems you have and are just generally friendly people who are down for a chat whenever. For more info about welfare at SPC go to https://www.spc.ox.ac.uk/welfare.
WELFARE

**Free stuff:**
In the downstairs foyer area of the St Peter's Library, on the left as you walk in, there is a cupboard where you will find:
- Condoms
- Lube
- Pregnancy Tests
- Sanitary products (pads, liners, applicator & non-applicator tampons, and menstrual cups)

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

You can also ask any of the welfare reps or peer supporters for these items, or if you have any questions about this things/related matters. I know that Welfare Lead Anna is always up for a natter about long term contraception methods!

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

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

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

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

**Nightline**: [https://oxford.nightline.ac.uk/](https://oxford.nightline.ac.uk/); Telephone: 01865 270 270, 16 Wellington Square. Nightline is a listening and information service run by trained student volunteers. The office is open from 8pm until 8am. If you want to talk things over with someone, telephone or drop in personally. There are always two people on duty, one male, and one female. Nightline is run by students who are not a branch of any counselling service and, though not professionals, are well-trained and dedicated. All calls are treated sympathetically and in the strictest confidence. Nightline can help you with a wider range of things, and they also provide information on just about anything you could imagine. So if it’s the middle of the night and you want to get a condom, but don't know where to go, or if you’ve just finished a really difficult essay and everyone else in college is asleep, but you want a chat, then give them a ring. Nightline is always looking for new volunteers; look out for information at the University's Freshers’ Fair or posters in College. It’s one of Oxford’s most worthwhile things to do.
Student Advice Service (SAS) https://www.oxfordsu.org/support/studentadvice/; E-mail: advice@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk; Telephone: 07436225637 or 07436225630 10.30am-12.30pm Monday-Thursdays in term time; Or drop in to the OUSU Offices at 4 Worcester Street. The SAS is a service run by the Oxford University Student Union. It is an impartial, confidential advice and information service, and can advise on a whole range of issues from pregnancy to housing problems to academic issues.

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

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

Oxford Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC); Office telephone: 01865 72531 (a call-back system). Email: support@osarcc.org.uk.
- Phone emotional support: 0800 783 6294. The emotional support line is in operation Mondays 18.30-21.00, Thursdays 18.30-20.30, and Sundays 18.30-20.30.
- Text support: 07537 432 442. This is in operation Thursdays 18.30-20.30 and Sundays 18.30-20.30

They provide a sympathetic ear and advice to people who have been sexually assaulted. Please note: this is not an emergency service. If you are in danger or need medical assistance, call 999.
Congratulations if you have read all this way!
To finish up, I thought I would share a few pieces of advice and my top tips

1. Dive head first into Oxford Life
I know everyone says this, but your time at uni will be over in a blink of an eye. Additionally, the terms at Oxford are pretty short. Therefore, you may as well try and explore as much as possible what Oxford and St Peter’s has to offer you, whether that is sport, music, drama, or a bit of everything.

2. It’s not all about Freshers’ Week
You don't just have one week to make friends, so don't stress if you struggle to find people you click with initially - "your people" will be out there, they may just take a little longer to be found. Life will almost certainly feel like a rollercoaster for a while so just try and go along with it as best as you can. Many people have a little cry during Freshers', and that's ok! Things (lifestyle, friends, workload) will become a lot more settled in no time at all.

3. Push yourself, but not too far
It's fun and important to try out new things at uni, gain new experiences, and test out your new found independence. However, know your own limits, what you know you are/aren't comfortable with, and what you do/don't want to do. It is definitely hard, especially in the first few weeks, to say 'no' to things but make sure you are looking after yourself if that means having a night in to Facetime parents or home friends rather than go to the bar.

4. Get Facebook
I know it is the social media of mums, but everyone at uni has it and you will miss out on so much if you don't. The SPC JCR Facebook Page gets just about everything important posted on it, from when welfare teas are to what the theme of that week's BOP is.

Good luck getting prepared and we will see you on the 2nd of October.
Big Peter's Love!

Yours forever in green and gold,
Emma Wiggetts, JCR VP
Glossary

Term Names:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Bumps**: The main two college boat racing events (Summer Eights, Torpids) are bumps-style races. Divisions of 13 boats line up behind each other and race to bump the boat in front.
BYOB: Bring Your Own Bottle - alcoholic or not, your choice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finals: The exams you take at the end of your degree to determine what classification you will graduate with.
Fresher: You. Essentially what you are until you've sat prelims.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sub Fusc: A traditional dress code that has to be followed on certain occasions (matriculation and university exams). Consists of a gown (Commoner's Gown unless you are a choral/organ scholar or have achieved a First in Prelims/Mods), a mortar board (those flat hats) and one of:
- Dark suit with dark socks, or
- Dark skirt with black tights or stockings, or
- Dark trousers with dark socks or dark hosiery
This is worn with a white shirt/blouse, black shoes (doesn't really matter what style of show), and a black or white (choice is up to you) bow tie, or a black ribbon.