Welcome!

Hello all future Peterites!

First off, I want to say a massive congratulations on getting into Oxford. This year has been… unusual to say the least, and you should all be so proud of yourselves, considering how tough and unfamiliar the circumstances have been due to the pandemic. You have been hand-picked by leading experts in their respective subjects, and each one of you deserves your place here at Oxford. Now you have the chance to dive headfirst into university life and really take advantage of all aspects of it, ranging from the stimulating and rewarding academic opportunities to the more relaxed yet equally fulfilling social ones.

St Peter’s College is said to be one of the warmest and friendliest colleges here at Oxford, and after being here for just one year I can safely say the college lives up to its reputation. Located right at the heart of the city, St Peter’s provides a perfect balance of challenging yet enriching academic demands and exciting social events — even the squirrels who can be found jumping around the quads appear friendly! We are so excited to introduce and welcome you into our community, and hope you all start to feel at home as quickly as so many of us did.

This handbook will hopefully serve as a guide to college life here at St Peter’s, and make the transition to university seem a little less daunting.

Looking forward to meeting all of you this October!

Sofie Cristobal, JCR Vice President
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President: Keelan Daye

Hola! I’m Keelan (he/him) and I’m your President for this year. I’m originally from Ireland and I study Law, but while you probably won’t see me in a library, you might find me asleep in a JCR bin. My jobs this year will be to gloriously lead the JCR and to make sure your illustrious VP doesn’t spread falsehoods vis à vis rotting fruit. I’m looking forward to welcoming you all to St Peter’s in October along with the rest of the JCR Committee. You’ll find that our college’s social life and friendliness are unmatched in Oxford. Moving to uni can be really terrifying, so we are here to make the process as easy and fun as possible—this is a really exciting chapter of your lives and I’m so glad that we can play some part in it. Please feel free to reach out if you need any help before you come up, and if you see me around College, please do come over and say hi. Offerings of McNuggets are welcomed if not entirely encouraged. Big Keelan love!

Vice President: Sofie Cristobal

Hello! My name is Sofie (she/her), and I’m going to be your VP for next year. I study English though I’m originally from Spain which means I spend most of my time complaining about having to read chunky Victorian novels and making sangria my ultimate personality trait. My role for this year includes helping out with college accommodation, organising the occasional pub crawl for you guys, compiling this handbook, and generally ensuring Keelan is kept in line (no embezzlements or JCR bin fiascos will be happening under my watch!). I hope I can be a friendly face for the Freshers over the next year. Peter’s is such a friendly and welcoming college, I hope everyone starts to feel right at home as quickly as I did! :)}
Secretary: Lily Kingdon-Dawkins

Heya everyone! I’m Lily (she/her) and I study English, but when my head’s not in a book it’s definitely at the bar. This year I have the unparalleled honour of being your JCR Secretary, which in essence means you’ll be receiving an ungodly number of technicolored emails from me in the course of the coming terms (lucky you). My job involves a lot of the behind-the-scenes work in the JCR: allocating your gorgeous College parents, organising the fortnightly College meetings, and relaying messages from College and Committee through to your lovely inboxes. Opportunities to run for first-year Committee positions come round pretty quickly, so just shoot me a message if you have any questions about getting involved in the JCR (or about anything else at all — I don’t bite!!). You’ve got a fantastic Committee looking after you over the exciting year ahead, so sit back, *relax*, and enjoy the wild ride…

VP for Welfare: Anna Fairweather

Hi! My name’s Anna (she/her) and I’m study Maths. I’m your VP for Welfare, and so I’ll be heading up the Welfare team which will be organising lots of welfare events throughout the year. There will be lots of great activities - such as welfare dog visits, yoga and biweekly welfare teas (think free snacks and friendly faces). When I’m not trying to get the go ahead for alpacas in Chavasse quad, you’ll find me in Pret or on the river at ungodly hours of the day (I’m also Women’s Captain for Rowing!). Whatever the time of day or location, I’m always free for a chat. My role, along with the rest of the Welfare team, is to help make your first term and year as enjoyable as possible. We really can’t wait to meet you all and do not hesitate to send me a message if you have any concerns or questions before freshers week.
Treasurer: Callum Naylor

Callum Hello, my name is Callum (he/him), and I study PPE; and I'm going to be your Treasurer for this year. I come from a town called Southport (which is just north of Liverpool) but, contrary to popular belief, I do NOT have a Scouse accent. My skills include creating colourful spreadsheets (very useful for my role) and rapping the entirety of Thiago Silva (less useful). As Treasurer, I am responsible for making and authorising purchases on behalf of the JCR through my access to the JCR bank account. If you have ideas for how the JCR can spend its money, I’m the person to contact!

Entz Rep: Dipto Sarkar

Hi! I’m Dipto (he/him). I study Biochem, and I’ll be your Entz Rep this year. When I’m not sleeping, you can expect BOPs, club tickets and other social events that I will offer as often as possible, so keep your eyes on the Entz Facebook page! Questions are always welcome, so feel free to message me on Facebook if you have any.

Facebook groups are an important pillar of college life—make sure you join the Freshers’, JCR, & Entz Facebook pages once you are in college for top quality spammy content and news of upcoming events!
**LGBTQ+ Rep: Delia Persa**

Hi, I’m Delia (she/her) and I study Engineering. When I’m not staring at bridges and approximating Pi (mathematicians don’t check me) you can find me in Art Cafe with a crepe (best cafe in Oxford, take notes freshers), roller skating in Jericho, or playing college netball. I’m excited to be this year’s LGBTQ+ Rep, Oxford has a lovely LGBTQ+ community and I can’t wait to welcome you to it. This city is home to a diverse range of people of different genders, sexualities, interests, backgrounds, and experiences; it’ll always be easy to find like-minded people to connect with! My top tip for freshers is to join Facebook groups for the societies you’re interested in as soon as possible so you don’t miss out on any events! If you have any concerns coming here or just want a chat drop me an email at delia.persa@spc.ox.ac.uk.

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**BAME Rep: Safaa Beig**

Hi guys! I’m Safaa (she/her), I study Philosophy and French and I am one of your BAME Reps for this year. As a BAME Rep my role is to make sure Peter’s is a welcoming place for everyone and to help minority students feel like they always have someone to turn to at Oxford. I know first-hand about the challenges faced by BAME students, so I’m here to provide a friendly face around college and am always up for a chat (generally up for anything that means I can procrastinate work). I know that starting university, especially Oxford, can sometimes seem really daunting so feel free to message/email me anytime! P.S. none of us are as put together as we look.
BAME Rep: Ed Mak

Hi I'm Ed (he/him) and I'm one of the three BAME (Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic) Reps this year. I do Biology but my parents were still disappointed it wasn't medicine (this should tell you how Asian my background is). Basically, my job is to help anyone who identifies as a minority student with any problems they may have and to make them feel included and welcome at Peter's. Please don't hesitate to contact me or the other BAME reps if you have any questions. See you all in October!

BAME Rep: Tanvi Kachinadam

Hi my name is Tanvi (she/her) and I’ll be your BAME Rep for this year. I study History and Economics and if you can’t find me around college you can definitely find me in Society Cafe, or any of the other cafes around Oxford. As BAME Rep, I will always be around for any chat, give advice, or address any problems you might have. I’m here to represent the interests of all BAME students, and help the college be an inclusive and accommodating community for everyone. Please do not hesitate to message me anytime!
Female Welfare Rep: Surbhi Sachdeva

Hi! I’m Surbhi (she/her) – a second-year law student (or Jurisprudence if you’re feeling obnoxious) and your Female Welfare Rep. I plan to channel my inner suburban mom by hosting plenty of welfare events around yoga, animals, snacks, and some sort of Wine and Whine (or perhaps Beers and Tears?). As a peer supporter, welfare rep, international student, and woman of colour, I hope you can feel comfortable approaching me in any or all of these roles, or just as someone who’s always up for a coffee and chat with you. I can’t wait to meet you all in person very soon, pandemic permitting. Feel free to add me on Facebook and say hello!

Male Welfare Rep: Noah Radcliffe-Adams

Noah Hello! I’m Noah (he/him), I study music and I’m this year’s Male Welfare Rep. I’m really looking forward to seeing you all this term, and hope you enjoy getting stuck into all aspects of college life. I like to get involved in sports, music and drama, and am very excited about all the brilliant opportunities that will be offered this year. Oxford is a fantastic place, but can sometimes become a bit overwhelming, so do not hesitate to chat to any of the welfare team if ever you have any worries or concerns. Take care and see you in October!
Gender Equality Rep: Felicity Henry

Hiya! I’m Felicity (she/her), I study Music and I’ll be your Gender Equalities Rep this year. As a female member of the college, I am incredibly aware of and passionate about gender inequality issues. My wish is that we see a more equal representation of all genders; cis men and women, trans men and women, gender-fluid, non-binary and all other members within our community. I’ll be working closely with the LGBTQ+ Rep, the Male and Female Welfare Reps and the BAME Reps as I know many issues we face are intersectional. If you have any questions in Fresher’s week, or at any time throughout your first year feel free to come and speak to me in person, or drop me an email. See you very soon!

Socio-economics Rep: Gus Sandham

Hi, my name is Gus (he/him), and I’m your Socio-economic Rep this year. I study law because I watched too much Suits as a kid and got a bit carried away. I know it can be a bit daunting coming to Oxford from a working-class background, but I’ll be around (if I’m not drowning in my reading list because I can’t manage my time), for you to come to with any questions or even for just a chat with a friendly face. Outside of the JCR committee, my favourite hobbies are: 1) complaining about how much work Law students get, 2) procrastinating all the work that my tutors set, and 3) deciding to go to the college bar or to touch rugby instead of doing said work. My top tip would be to come to touch rugby, its great!

Here we find Gus in his ultimate form: dressed up for our hen-night themed BOP… Safe to say he absolutely won best costume that night!
Disabilities Rep: Sophie Taylor

Hi! I’m Sophie (she/her), I study Economics and Management and I’m your Disabilities Rep. I’m here to help with anything disabilities related like applying for funding or helping with support from college. Congratulations on making it to the best college in Oxford - I’m sure you’ll have an amazing time here and make the most of the city. On a normal day you’ll probably find me grabbing a coffee, in the bar or finding new ways to do anything but work. Please feel free to message me, I’m always here to help!! x

Internationals Rep: Natalie Hytiroglou

Hi! I’m Natalie (she/her) and I’ll be your Internationals Rep for this year! That means that I’ll be taking all international students under my wing and any issues you have, big or small, I will be more than happy to help out. Having moved abroad from Greece for the first time to come and study in the UK, I know how hard it can be to live so far away from home. That’s why I’m here - to help with anything ranging from the little things like dealing with people trying to pronounce your non-english surname which, like mine (Hytiroglou) might not exactly roll off the tongue, to more important Covid-related stuff like self-isolating. In the meantime, if you have any questions before you arrive in Oxford feel free to send me a message. See you in Michaelmas!!
Charities Rep: Hana Ahmed

Hi everyone! I'm Hana (she/her), a second year medicine student and your Charities Rep for the year! Chances are you'll find me at Warriner or the library, but occasionally I step out of the world of med and actually enjoy the city. As your Charities Rep, I'll be organising which charities we donate to this year (alongside a vote so we all get a say), as well as (hopefully!) some fundraisers. There'll be a range of events so I really hope you all get involved and enjoy yourself in the process. I can't wait to meet you all, but for now, good luck with the start of university and feel free to message if you have any concerns!

Homelessness Rep: Tricia Seow

Hi everyone! I'm Tricia (she/her) and I'm your Homelessness Rep this year. I study Biochemistry, which basically means that when in doubt (which is me most of the time not gonna lie) just draw some hexagons and hope for the best! I can usually be found wandering around in one of Oxford's many meadows or parks as I procrastinate my work, all in the name of exercise of course. St Peter's is a welcoming and thriving community and I'm sure that all of you will absolutely love being part of the college and university. My job as Homelessness Rep is to reach out to those who don't necessarily have the same supportive system to fall back on, so if anyone wants a chance to give back to the Oxford community, please give me a shout! PS - I like pasta :)}
Access & Outreach Rep: Sophie Lord

Hi! I’m Sophie (she/her), I study Theology and Religion and I’m your JCR Access and Outreach Rep. Firstly, congratulations on getting and meeting your offer, specifically in these circumstances - St. Peter’s is an amazing place and you’ll love it here! My role is to help students from state schools and lower socio-economic backgrounds decide whether Oxford is for them and break down the stereotypes surrounding the university. Let me know if you want to get involved with access work within College, and if you ever feel anything less than welcomed at St. Peter’s please send me a message. One piece of advice - be very careful the first time you drink a Crosskey, they have more alcohol than you think!! See you in October! x

Alumni Relations Rep: Antonia Murphy

Hi! I’m Antonia (she/her) and I am your Alumni Relations Rep. I don’t really know what that means either but, hello. I’m a PPEist so I have great chat but appalling morals. I can usually be found campaigning for smokers’ rights in college or watching TikTok in the library. See you in October, I hope you have lots of fun but please don’t be the Fresher I have to put to bed at 4pm on the Tuesday of Freshers’ Week.
Arts Rep: Natasha Gargan

Hello! I’m Natasha (she/her), I study English and I am your Arts Rep this year. Peter’s is full of exceptionally creative individuals, and it’s a wonderful place to enjoy all things artistic. As a part of my role I’ll be organising Arts Week in Trinity term, as well as arranging creative opportunities throughout the year. Don’t hesitate to reach out to me if you’d like to be involved with anything arts related within college. Best of luck, and I look forward to meeting you all!

Sports Rep: Maddie West-Nelson

Hi everyone! I’m Maddie (she/her) and I study Jurisprudence (Oxford jargon for Law) here at St Peter’s. I’m your Sports Rep this year which basically means I’m the face of college sports for not only you guys but for the College. I’m here to negotiate funding for new equipment or helping to authorise events for the sports women and men among us, so if that’s something you decide to spearhead next year, I’m your girl! If you’re unsure about how to get into college sport or just need some guidance with anything college sport related, I’m the person to look for, but also please feel free to message me about anything else before Freshers’ Week or during term time too! I look forward to meeting you all in October and hope to see some of you down at the boat club, on the netball court or at whatever sporting event takes your fancy!
Bar Manager: Chris Gilmour

Hi I'm Chris (he/him). I'm an irrelevant third year and I study Philosophy and Theology. St Peter's has one of the last student-run bars in Oxford, not to mention the best. Due to Covid I'll still be running it for the first part of the year but will quickly be handing over to whichever second year get elected in Michaelmas (you'll be able to vote on this). Also, you guys will all get a chance to train on the bar early doors, after which you'll be entitled to at least one (tidily) paid shift per term. We'll all be working to make the space as fun and welcoming as possible, so make sure to get down for your first Crosskeys asap!

Environment & Ethics Rep: Lucas Frauenlob

Hi! I’m Lucas and I am this year’s Environment and Ethics Rep. I study PPE which means you can often find me mid essay crisis in the library or post essay crisis at the SPC bar (using a reusable cup, of course). Being half Swiss I literally live in the mountains surrounded by nature, so if you have any ideas on how Peter’s can be more sustainable, feel free to reach out – would massively appreciate any ideas!
Hi, my name is Isobel, but as Keelan’s college wife I’m also willing to answer to First Lady. Weirdly, college doesn’t recognise this as an official JCR role, so until I win the future campaign for Bar Manager I’m just part of the Freshers’ Committee to help you settle in (and win your votes). As a northerner, I’m very approachable and always willing to have a chat. The only danger is that once approached, I might not shut up about being a northerner. I’m really excited to meet you all in October, and don’t worry about settling in, you’re going to have an amazing time!
COVID 19

Life in Oxford over the past year has been strange to say the least. While teaching still went ahead online, many of the events on the JCR’s social calendar had to be cancelled or pushed back, including Freshers’ Week and the College Ball. Many people were also required to isolate in college during term time with their households, and restaurants and retail closed very soon after the beginning of Michaelmas last year. This made for a really unusual introduction to the University and the city for us as first years.

We were, however, able to find fun in other ways: many in college went swimming in Port Meadow every morning, organised movie nights with their households, or just explored the beautiful outdoor areas of the city much more than we probably would have in a ‘normal’ year. As things started to open up again in Trinity Term, we were introduced to BOPs, Formal Hall, and college sports for the first time, which have been amazing additions to the socially distanced college life. Altogether, our first year at St Peter’s was still an incredible experience in spite of all the extra considerations.

The government has recently lifted many restrictions in England, but unfortunately we can’t just act like the pandemic has ended entirely. The safety of students and staff at the college is our biggest priority, and the situation in October is still uncertain. However, things are looking up. The University is planning on providing most teaching in-person this year alongside online resources, and those of you with fieldwork will probably be able to complete it as usual. Pubs and clubs are open now in Oxford and hopefully will still be open when you arrive. The SU is preparing for an in-person Freshers’ Fair, most clubs and societies will be able to run live social events, and team sports will continue. On our side, Freshers’ Week in college may look a little different to how it might usually be, but it will hopefully be just as enjoyable.

All in all, we still need to stay vigilant and respect college’s and the University’s rules on social distancing and face coverings, but we are very hopeful that our social calendar can resume for the most part and that you will be able to experience the true Oxford in no time!

Keelan Daye, JCR President
ARRIVING

St Peter’s is located in the centre of Oxford, and while this means that trips to Pret and the Big Tesco will become blissfully speedy and easy, it does make arriving a bit trickier. Once you have managed to battle your way through Oxford traffic, you should be able to find a place to park along New Inn Hall Street at which point you can get a parking permit from the Porters’ Lodge for up to 30 minutes.

At this point you will be able to move all your stuff in, with the help of the Freshers’ Committee to show you where your room is and carry what they can. You’ll probably also find me there, very excited by the prospect of looking important and zooming around with the college trolleys used to move belongings around, but not going anywhere near any suitcases destined to be carried up more than two flights of stairs.

Once you’ve moved in, the best place to start meeting other freshers is those on your own floor, and if you’re feeling particularly adventurous, the JCR and the quad behind it will have members of the Freshers’ Committee, armed with appropriately awkward ice breakers, who will be looking forward to meeting you. While it might seem daunting at first, it’s the best way to start getting to know people and remember that everyone is in the same position!
**Accommodation**

As a first year you’ll probably be either in New Block or Matthews Block, although you could also be in Staircase IV. All of the rooms are very similar and whichever room you are assigned will very quickly begin to feel like home, whether that be through adding your own personal touches or just dumping your stuff on the floor and leaving it there.

The majority of Peter’s accommodation is arranged around corridors, which means that while everyone has their own space, the proximity of everyone to each other provides a strong sense of community. You will quickly find yourself fighting over which block is best, a dispute that will engage debate far and wide but one that is difficult to settle.

All rooms have single beds, plenty of storage space and sinks—bathroom facilities are shared. Although there is access to fridges in Matthews and the JCR Kitchen, most people eat in the dining hall in their first year which I personally think is the optimal option. However, many people also enjoy pursuing their first-class culinary careers in the JCR kitchen for the occasional meal.

You have to move out of your room at the end of each term, which means you have to empty it completely of your things. There is a metal safe box in each room where you can leave some stuff, but it’s not big - around 50cm x 50cm x 50cm. International students are also allowed to store some extra bits in the college storage room.

If you have questions about accommodation generally, just ask! Contact your college parents, or myself (because accommodation is part of my remit as VP).
**ACCOMMODATION**

**Matthews Block:**
An absolute classic, green is the theme for these 1st year rooms. Slightly bigger than the rooms in New with lovely views of the city from the top floors and excellent golden hour opportunities for those whose rooms look out onto the quad. Close to the college bar and decked with large windowsills perfect for crowding with clutter and attempts to grow impromptu avocado plants.

**New Block:**
Known far and wide for its magnificent arches, this block is, as its imaginative name suggests, one of the newer accommodation blocks in college. Kitted out with plenty of light and aesthetically exposed brickwork, sit back and enjoy watching drama (as well as the occasional cricket game) unfold on the quads below from the safety of your room. Wonderfully close to the hall for an easy stroll to weekend brunches.

Alternatively, a few of you will be living in Staircase IV, which is separate from the other two blocks. These rooms share a quad with Matthews so you will have perfect views into Matthews windows, watching all of them having fun without you. I'm only kidding, Staircase IV is has the benefit of also accommodating students in a mix of year groups rather than just First Years, meaning that those living there will therefore have ultimate bragging rights.
WHAT TO BRING

You may not know which accommodation block you will be living in until the day you arrive. However, your room will quickly become your bedroom, living room, mini kitchen, morning-after gossip debriefing headquarters, and study area all rolled into one. While not everything on this list is essential, these are some things I found particularly useful to bring when I moved into college last year:

1. Mugs, glasses, plates, cutlery, bowls etc.
2. Duvet, pillows, mattress protector, 2 sets of bed linen.
3. Kettle! Having your own personal kettle means no one can judge you for brewing yourself a 3am tea.
4. Clothes (including Sub Fusc), as well sportswear/ equipment if you'll be playing, and even some swimwear in case you fancy an early morning dip in the Port Meadows river.
5. Towels & hand towels.
6. Washing up sponge, fairy liquid, dish cloth, carpet cleaner (you’ll thank me later for this one).
7. Plug-socket adaptor (this one goes out to my internationals!).
8. Padlock— almost all rooms have a safe box for valuables.

Optional:
- Things to decorate your room with: rugs, photos and battery powered fairy lights work a treat.
- Drying rack: more cost efficient than using the dryers.
- Mini Fridge: don't be like Keelan and leave a bag of apples to fester in your cupboard.
WHAT NOT TO BRING

1. Microwaves — JCR and a few of the Matthews’ communal spaces have these, plus they do not comply with fire safety regulations.

2. Toasters — same here, not fire safety compliant.

3. Pets — fairly self explanatory. VP for Welfare Anna will be working hard to organise days when welfare animals can come and visit college, and if you're lucky, you will also be able to meet our very own college tortoise Aristurtle!

4. Candles — trust me when I say you do not want to be the one who drags everyone out of bed at 11 at night with a noisy fire alarm.

5. Food — while stocking up on snacks is recommended, you will not need to bring the ingredients for a Sunday roast with you, as you will be automatically signed up for hall meals during Freshers’ Week.

BIKES

I want to stress that although you CAN bring a bike you certainly don’t NEED to. Living in college means that you are 20 mins away from everything, and while a bike may shave 10 mins off your commute to lectures, it can be a real hassle trying to find a place to lock it up.

You will probably need one if you are making regular trips to the Iffley Sports Centre, which is a 25 min walk away. If you do bring a bike remember to also bring a helmet and a strong lock—bike theft in Oxford is common.
What is the JCR?

The JCR (Junior Common Room) refers to two things. Firstly, it’s the big room opening out onto Mulberry Quad, opposite the entrance to Matthews block that acts a bit like a college living room, home to wild BOPs and intense table tennis action—that is, when the table tennis balls don’t disappear under furniture. Secondly, it’s the collective body of undergraduates at St Peter’s - you are now all members of the SPC JCR which means you can join our chaotic, spammy Facebook group. Btw make sure you get Facebook, you’ll need it to stay up to date with JCR events.

The JCR committee is a group of around 20 undergraduates (predominantly second years) who have been voted into their positions by other members of the JCR. It is our job to look after the welfare of the JCR members and represent your interests to the college

JCR committee roles range from sports to charities to the arts, and we are your first port of call for pretty much any non-academic issue, though the welfare team is also more than happy to give advice or simply just chat about work-related issues. If there is anything you think the JCR committee should be looking at, then General Meetings (GMs) are your opportunity! Every other week, we hold a General Meeting that all members of the JCR attend, in which motions are proposed and discussed, giving you a direct input into the actions of the JCR. There is no pressure to be an active member of the JCR during first term, but if you fancy getting involved we will be hustling some first year positions very soon, including Freshers’ rep, First Year Entz Rep, and Mascot!
DOMESTIC FEATURES

Washing
There are washing machines and tumble dryers 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 £1.80, 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. Say hi, its nice to be friends with the person who may see you nursing a particularly bad hangover.

Problems
The Porters’ Lodge 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 hours a day 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, and are also frequently the first port of call for top tier banter, latest footy scores or just a friendly natter. They also have direct contact with the welfare team should you ever need, and are great at safekeeping any Depop packages that may come your way.
Food

Informal Hall

St. Peter’s is a catered college; this means that Monday-Friday, breakfast, lunch and dinner are served at specific times in the dining hall. On Saturday and Sunday, brunch and dinner are also available. A significant portion of your meals will have been charged to you before the beginning of 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 Bodcard (library and university card) with you, which you hand over to the staff at the cash register to be swiped and charged.

Each item has a specific price that you will be able to check on the menu, sent out by Colin Purvis, the Catering Service Manager. A typical ‘informal hall’ dinner meal will offer one or two meat and two vegetarian/vegan options for mains, one of them usually consisting of a cheaper ‘special price option’, with accompanying vegetables, salads, fruit, dessert, yoghurts and juices. ‘Informal hall’ refers to the usual, ‘canteen-style’ arrangement for eating.

JCR Kitchen

Equipped with a microwave, 8 hobs and a couple of random George Foreman grills, as well as plenty of cooking equipment. Own plates and cutlery is recommended regardless. Helpful in case you need to make a nice sandwich if you miss meals in hall! Questionable meal choices however have also been known to originate from the JCR Kitchen in the early hours of the morning…
Food

Formal Hall

Usually running twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday, slightly later in the evening than Informal Hall. At Formal Hall you wear your gown over your normal clothes and hear a Grace in Latin before you begin. It is optional but very popular, and great value for three courses. The food is high quality but there are only two options: one meat and one vegetarian though vegan and other dietary requirements are also catered for. You are served at your table by the staff and can bring wine, but not spirits, in with you. The college community seen in Formal Hall is great and, in non-COVID times, guests can be invited along too. You sign up for Formal Hall via the uPay website (https://upay.co.uk), usually two days in advance. Often certain events, such as Welfare Drinks or Burns Night include Formal Hall and are extremely popular.

Meal Times Last Year:

- Breakfast: 8am-9am
- Lunch: 12pm-2pm
- Informal Dinner: 6:00pm-7:30pm on non-Formal days, 5:30pm-6:30pm on Formal days
- Formal Dinner: 7:30pm prompt (you will be refused entry if you are late)
- Brunch on Weekends: 11:00am-1:00pm

The hash-browns have never failed to resurrect SPC members even during the worst hangovers
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. If you don’t bring one, the online college printing system charges a small amount per page which is put on your Battels (termly bills) at the start of the following term.
IT

WIFI & setting up before arriving at college

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 College 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. 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.
Facilities

JCR
The JCR stands for the Junior Common Room and it is both the communal space in college for all undergraduates as well as being a committee that represents the needs of the students by meeting regularly with the college. The JCR is home to a large TV (perfect for watching footy games and/or Eurovision), comfy sofas, a vending machine, a pool table, a table tennis table, a table football table and access to the JCR kitchen. You can’t say what degree you will leave Oxford with, but it’s pretty much a certainty that your table tennis skills will improve.

SPC Bar
Fancy sitting on some surprisingly comfortable beer kegs and listening to some classic indie tunes? The SPC Bar has got you covered. Decked with many rowing oars and the odd street sign, the SPC Bar is entirely student-run, meaning that the drink choices, prices, atmosphere, and staffing are all created by the students. The bar is a great place for any drinking/nondrinking event (just ask a bar supervisor in advance if you would like to plan anything big) - we have open mic nights, charity quizzes, and Freshers’ events all in the bar. During Trinity Term, the outdoor area is also a lovely space where you can pop some sunglasses on, sit back, relax, and cradle a pint, pretending you are on holiday in Menorca rather than potentially days away from a Prelim exam.

SPC Bar is also the home to the Renaissance of all drinks: Crosskeys—a deliciously deceptive alcoholic beverage with a top secret recipe. Besides being customers at the bar, all Peter’s undergrads are also welcome to train to work in the bar, the hefty living wage (!) an hour does bits to bolster the student loan.
MONEY

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

Make a Budget and Monitor your Spending
Making a budget can help you build up a picture of what you have coming in vs. what you are spending. Try keeping receipts and making a record at the end of each month of what you have spent to see whether you have stuck to your budget, and if you haven’t, where you can cutback.

Also make sure you open all your bank and credit card statements - ignoring them does not mean they don’t exist! The biggest thing is to be realistic and not bury your head in the sand. Internet banking is a useful thing to set up, and will become vital when you are living out in your second year.

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. If you would like further information or advice, visit the Student Finance Officer, Katie Pullen-Rowland, (based in the Finance Office at Peter’s) who is here to help with financial matters; your conversation will be completely private and confidential!

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.
MONEY

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).

Free perks
Most banks will offer free stuff with their student account, ranging from travel cards to music downloads. Find out what they are offering and go with the account that benefits you the most - but don’t get sucked in by freebies only to find out that the deal on your account isn’t actually that great. Shop around.

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! Try not to cut into your overdraft too much, and don’t go over the 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.
Money

Getting a Job

Due to the short terms and heavy workload, you will have very little time for a job. The college does offer you the opportunity to work in the bar; which is not a massive time commitment (usually maximum 2 nights a term) but gives you a bit more cash in the pot as well as some serious street cred. There are also opportunities to stay in Oxford during the Christmas vacation to help with interviews and outreach work, but this is usually only available for second years and older students. Your long vacation in the summer is probably the best time for you to seek employment, as you will want to relax or prepare for exams during the Easter and Christmas vacations.

Some very useful sites with money saving tips and student discounts are:

https://www.studentbeans.com/
https://www.studentmoneysaver.co.uk/
https://www.myunidays.com/
Oxford University Living Costs: https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding
Save the Student’s “83 practical ways to save money”: https://www.savethestudent.org/shopping/the-best-money-saving-tips.html

Here you can see me and lovely BAME Rep Safaa doing our training shifts at the college bar. If you look closely you can see the absolute embarrassment in my eyes after having poured the most atrocious pint known to man (promise my skills have improved since then!)
As well as student loans and parents, 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. The College 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 the college and 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, katie.pullen-rowland@spc.ox.ac.uk).
Surprisingly enough, you will be seeing a fair few of these during your time here, even the STEM students don't escape.

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

You’ll probably be sent a reading list over summer. Email/message your college parents and ask them what books they’d recommend buying or borrowing. If you do want to buy any, look on Amazon, where you can often buy copies with a large discount off the RRP (Recommended Retail Price). If you are buying second hand books, remember that for some subjects it’s only worth buying the most recent edition; older ones may be a waste of paper and money. On the top floor of Blackwell’s you can get second hand books for 2/3rds of the cost of new books, websites such as Abe Books (https://www.abebooks.com) have a wide range of cheaper, second hand books, and older students are always looking to sell on old books they no longer need.

In terms of reading lists, some of them will seem really daunting (as an English student I am very familiar with this feeling!). Have a stab at them, chat with your college parents/other people on your course to get a grip on what you need to know, what you don’t. Look at the reading lists, and if you don’t understand something, ask someone—don’t put it off until the end of summer, be proactive!
If you're anything like me, being productive in your room becomes more and more challenging by the day, especially when Netflix is so readily at your fingertips, and snacks surround you—who knew brewing countless cups of tea could be such an entertaining form of procrastination! I would recommend getting familiar with the plethora of libraries Oxford has to offer. St Peter’s College library can often get quite crowded and it’s nice to change surroundings every so often. Different libraries have different vibes, so get exploring and find out what you like.

If studying in a beautiful, historical building is what gets your brain juices activated, then I would recommend checking out the illustrious Old Bodleian and Radcliffe Camera libraries. If, like me, you find the Harry Potter-esque vibes way too intimidating to get any work done, try out some cosier and more unassuming ones like the Social Sciences Library.

Demand is often high for many of the Oxford Libraries, so make sure to book in advance at https://spacefinder.bodleian.ox.ac.uk.
**Shops & Restaurants:**
Due to our central location, pretty much everything you need is within walking distance of College. We’re right by the High Street, which is lined with shops including all the usual High Street chains, as well as a few more unusual places too. College is also practically next door to Westgate Shopping Centre, if you ever fancy a wander into Urban Outfitters. There are a lot of quirky boutiques in the Covered Market, which is also home to Moo Moo Milkshakes and the rightly famous Ben’s Cookies (special mention to the most amazing Greek avo toast I had in the Covered Market last year, I think about it at least once a week).

If you need to stock up on food, shampoo or other essentials you have many stores you can choose to visit. There is also a small late-opening Sainsbury’s Local on St Giles (just round the corner from Debenhams, and only 5 mins walk from college) which closes at 12am Mon-Sun. There is a larger Tesco just next door which is cheaper and closes at midnight Mon-Sat and 5pm on Sundays with an iconic Tescolator we've all come to love. If you fancy an adventure, a Coop and Aldi can be found further afield too.

We’re right opposite the Castle complex, which has a range of restaurants and bars including a Pizza Express and a Wetherspoons pub. For chicken lovers there’s a (decidedly uncheeky) Nando’s further down George Street. Other nearby highlights include Mission Burrito (50% off on Wednesdays), Itsu (half-price half an hour before closing!) and Byron Burger and Franca Manca, which offer a 30% student discount with the UNIDAYS app. For more underground places that give off *main character energy* feel free to explore the cafes dotted around Jericho and Cowley.
Unfortunately, due to a pesky pandemic that decided to rock our world (not for the better), our cohort did not experience one (1!) single night of proper clubbing. As a result my knowledge of Oxford clubs is not the most extensive. Nevertheless, I will rely on the countless times all the previous second and third year students reminded us about how much we were missing out on and shed tear over the closure of Fever (apparently it was a big deal).

**Bridge:**
A solid Thursday night out, even during COVID times. Be prepared to bump into literally everyone you know as well as endure an offensive amount of Justin Bieber and Ed Sheeran.

**Atik:**
A bit of a sore spot for our year, as it was the first club we all rushed to get tickets for back when we naïvely thought clubs would open by June 21st. Known for its Park End Wednesdays and renowned for its Cheese Floor, armed with all the best early 2000s smash hits.

**Plush:**
Right around the corner from College, legend has it that on any night, JCR Prez Keelan Daye can be spotted haggling Jägerbomb prices with the waiters. Truly a sight to behold. Famous for its LGBTQ+ nights and celebrity sightings such as drag queen Awhora.

There are many other great clubs and bars around the city, including, the Bullingdon (recently hosted an ABBA tribute band), Hanks, O2, Thirst, Varsity Club, Freud and the Mad Hatter. No judgements will be tolerated as us second years explore these venues for the first time alongside Freshers.
Pubs & Other Activities

Launching your pub quiz career with this ultimate fun fact: did you know Oxford is the city with the most pubs per square mile than any other city in the UK!?

The city of Oxford has every kind of pub imaginable, for every occasion, in every location, for every type of drinker.

Some Recommendations:

- Peter’s Bar for everyday prices and cringe indie songs.
- Head of the River for lovely views of the river and a nice, quiet pint.
- Turf Tavern; a classic.
- White Rabbit for the heated seats and the best garlic dough balls imaginable.
- Both The Anchor and The Gardener’s Arms are far from the city centre, but absolute hidden gems. Live music and pub quiz galore.

If you are not a Night Owl fear not! There are always really fun things to do in the city and in college during the day. Wholesome film viewings in the JCR are always very popular, especially as a cure to 5th week blues, and College has a plethora of lovely quads with seating areas to work and relax outside with friends when the weather starts getting warmer. Oxford also has many parks and scenic routes if you ever fancy a nice walk; I highly recommend South Parks as a prime spot to watch the sunset, and Port Meadows for a beautiful stroll along the canals and even an early morning swim in the river.
Culture

Aside from streaming Love Island and The Great British Bake Off in your rooms with friends (the absolute zenith of British Culture), Oxford has plenty to offer in terms of culture:

Film
There are two Odeon cinemas, located at the bottom of the road from College and near the Sainsbury’s local, and a Curzon in Westgate, showing all the big blockbusters. The Phoenix cinema, about 15 minutes’ walk away in Jericho screens a wider mix including foreign language and arthouse pictures. The Ultimate Picture Palace in Cowley is an undiscovered gem which offers a cheap, slightly shabby experience which makes you feel as if you’ve been catapulted back a couple of decades.

Theatre
There are lots of theatres, all very close to college, which put on some very high standard plays throughout the year, many (if not 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, if you’re interested get in touch with Darcy Dixon.

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, and offers a bit of everything and is staggeringly beautiful. Best of all, museums are free!
The Arts are a huge part of life at St. Peter’s. A large part of our success comes from the enthusiasm and reach of arts at St Peter’s with people engaging at all levels of skill. We have writers, editors and designers for all the major publications in Oxford, be that the Oxford Student, the Isis and ORB. We also have many talented musicians who play in the chapel and in the university orchestra, or even just annoy their neighbours by playing too loudly in their rooms.

Regular opportunities for artistic expression include open mic nights, jazz evenings, recitals and performances hosted in college, as well as the opportunity to contribute to the termly publications of the college magazines such as Peter’s satirical paper. Drama is a big part of college life and last year students managed to put on a successful, socially distanced version of Joseph K. Look out for the Drama Cuppers competition in Michaelmas term, which offers Freshers a great opportunity to act in and produce short plays.

There are a variety of opportunities to play music at St. Peter’s, both in a formal and informal context. For your own personal or group practice it is possible to book the music room, or use the chapel, both of which have pianos in them. More formal musical activities include the twice weekly evensong performed by the Chapel Choir. There are also student recitals on some Thursday lunchtimes, as well as opportunities to organise and take part in other musical events.

Every Trinity term our Arts events culminate in an Arts Week where we aim to get as many people as possible involved in doing as many arty things as possible!
Sports

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, Netball, Cricket, Tennis, Climbing, Lacrosse, Badminton, Hockey, Croquet and Ultimate Frisbee. Each team has their own mantra for practices and matches. In your first couple of weeks, trials and try outs will be occurring alongside practices and the start of season matches. Get involved, get bonding and get representing - or at least keep fit! The sports teams at Peter’s strike the balance between being both inclusive and competitive, making it a great college to take up a new sport!

The college freshers’ fair is the perfect place to explore the sports on offer, chat to the captains and sign up. If the weather decides to be nice, we hope to run some very casual sport sessions in Uni Parks which we would encourage everyone to attend!
Gyms

St Peter’s has its own small gym (aka ‘shed’) containing a few rowing machines and a weight rack.

JCR members are entitled to free membership at Iffley Road gym, in Iffley sports centre. An extra annual charge also gives access to the power-lifting room. 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 is also a PureGym a 3 minutes walk away from St Peter’s. While busy the facilities are very good, and if you use a PureGym back home membership is pretty reasonable. For Oxford only use it is quite expensive, but it is much more convenient than Iffley gym.
College Parents

Before your arrival at St Peter’s each of you will be assigned a college ‘parent’. Your parent will be a second year who is also studying your subject. Generally most people are ‘married’ to someone else who is studying a different subject (inter-subject marriages are not permitted by pain of death or socially pressured divorce) who will also have been assigned a college ‘child’ so you will end up with at least one or two college ‘siblings’. It all sounds quite strange from an outside perspective but it is essentially a mentoring system so that you have a direct contact to someone in the year above who is studying the same subject as you. 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. 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 ‘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 in order to introduce themselves and be as helpful as possible. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with them. Generally Facebook is the best form of communication, we highly recommend you have a Facebook account for keeping up to date with activities/resources in college.

Me and my college wifey Iona, a second year Medic. Our love story began early during Freshers’ Week with a lovely proposal in the JCR.
WELFARE

Here’s some information about the College 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 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).
- **Welfare Officers - Muhammad (Babar) Suleman:** muhammad.suleman@spc.ox.ac.uk, **Emmanuelle Dankwa:** emmanuelle.dankwa@spc.ox.ac.uk. Welfare Officers are DPhil students who are trained to provide support. They live onsite and can provide support at night if needed.
- **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).

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. The JCR welfare team and at least one BAME rep will take up training in peer support. They are 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](https://www.spc.ox.ac.uk/welfare).
WELFARE

Free stuff:

In the JCR kitchen (cupboard nearest to the window) you will find:
- Condoms
- Lube
- Pregnancy Tests
- Personal alarms
- Sanitary products from eco-friendly brands (pads, liners, applicator & non-applicator tampons)

So have fun, make merry, and most importantly, be safe! You can also ask any of the welfare reps or peer supporters for these items. In addition to this, you can get refunds for morning after pill/pregnancy tests. This is done by sending an email Callum Naylor’s (JCR treasurer) way and pidgeing him your receipt(s), or if you feel uncomfortable doing that, any of the welfare reps/peer supporters can sort it for you anonymously.

Free food is also provided about twice a week at Welfare Teas - baguettes, carrot sticks, brownies, anything your heart desires - just look out for the Facebook post and comment your requests. These welfare teas provide a welcome respite from that essay crisis and a nice opportunity to have a chilled out chat with your pals.

Peer supporter drop-in:

We will notify you of drop in times, during which the peer supporters will be available for you. These are times when you can come and see the peer supporters if you have an issue that you want to talk through or even just for a chat.
There are plenty of University wide welfare services available to all students:

Student Advice Service (SAS) [http://ousu.org/advice/student-advice-service](http://ousu.org/advice/student-advice-service) Telephone: (01865) 288 466; e-mail: advice@ousu.ox.ac.uk or drop in to the OUSU Offices at 2 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.

Nightline: [http://oxfordnightline.org/](http://oxfordnightline.org/) 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 University Freshers’ Fair or posters in College. It’s one of Oxford’s most worthwhile things to do.

Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service [https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/supportservice](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/supportservice) 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.
**WELFARE**

There University Counselling Service [www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling) Telephone: (01865) 270 300, 3 Worcester 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.

The Samaritans Telephone: (01865) 722 122, Address: 60 Magdalen Road. You can phone 24 hours a day, or call in at the centre Monday to Friday 8am to 10pm. They will accept local reverse charges. The Samaritans are a nation-wide organisation particularly involved with the despairing or suicidal, but anyone who simply wants to talk is welcome. They are not a religious organisation and treat all calls confidentially.

Oxford Women’s Line OSARCC; Telephone: (01865) 726 295 Email: support@osarcc.org.uk. Open Monday and Thursday 6.30pm to 9pm, Friday 11.30am to 2pm, Sunday 6pm to 8.30pm. They provide a sympathetic ear and advice to women who have been sexually assaulted.

Other sources of help may be found in the Oxford Handbook or from the JCR Welfare Officers. For more, just ask the Welfare Reps, who will point you towards all the support Oxford has to offer.
Glossary

During Freshers’ Week you’ll hear a couple of confusing words (more than a couple if you’re a beginner’s language student).

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

Oxford weeks are also confusing: You arrive at college in 0th Week (in Michaelmas this is Freshers’ week), and then in other terms you may have exams in college, aka, collections. Work officially starts in 1st Week, and goes through until 8th Week (though in Trinity many people’s exams will be held in 9th Week).

**Battels**: Payment of tuition fees and college fees (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.

**BOP**: BOPs (Big Organised Party) are college parties held in the JCR which normally have a fancy dress theme. These are a great way for the college to socialise as a large community and enjoy the bar and a boogie in the JCR (if you say ‘ceiling damage’ 3 times while looking at a mirror, an Entz rep of the past, present and future will come and scream at you). Stick around for a top secret chant at the end of each BOP.

**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.
Glossary

BYOB: Bring Your Own Booze (alcohol).

Collections: For most of us two types: Master’s collections and collections. Master’s collections are where you have to go and talk to the Master and tutors at the end of term about your progress. Collections are exams taken in the college at the beginning of term (end of 0th week) to let you know how much you have learnt in the previous term.

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

Crew Date: A dinner held at a restaurant between two different groups (usually from different colleges or different years), where sconcing (similar to ‘Never have I ever’) ensues.

Crosskeys: The official drink of the St Peter’s college 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 band nights, bops and RAG events.

Fifth Week Blues: Very odd sinking feeling that affects virtually everyone in 5th Week when you realise that you still have half a term to go. 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.
GLOSSARY

**Fresher**: What you are if you haven’t sat prelims, i.e. you.

**Gown**: A bit of thin black material that you put on over your subfusc for exams/matriculation, or over normal clothes for Formal Hall and collections.

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

**Hack**: Term used to describe people deep into Oxford Union politics.

**JCR**: Junior Common Room; the undergraduates as a student body, and also the physical common room in college.

**Malimoo**: A concoction exclusive to SPC Bar, created and coined by previous Treasurer Ryan Parry. Made up of Malibu and milk, milk alternatives are also available but you would do well to avoid it at all costs.

**Matriculation**: A traditional ceremony that initiates you into the University at the end of Freshers’ Week. Details will be provided during 0th Week.

**Matriculashing**: The event immediately following the Matriculation ceremony. Often involves drinking Prosecco throughout the day.

**MCR**: Middle Common Room - has the same functions as the JCR except 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...
Glossary

**Oxford Union**: A debating society in its origin but many impressive guest speakers and interesting events. Expensive, but membership is for life.

**Pidge**: Pigeonhole in the Porters’ Lodge, where your mates, tutors & family can leave letters or messages for you.

**Plib**: Short for Peter’s Library.

**Plib Dungeon**: Affectionate term for the basement level of the Peter’s Library (English section). Legend has it a friendly ghost resides within the periodical room. Ultimate fever dream and gossip central during exam season.

**Plodge**: Short for Porters’ Lodge, the room through which you enter the college.

**Prelims and Mods**: Preliminary examinations and Moderations. These are university examinations set at the end the first year (or after two terms in a few subjects) that you need to pass in order to continue the course (a maximum of one resit is allowed). One difference is that in Prelims you have to obtain the pass mark on each paper, whereas in Mods the average over all papers is considered.

**Suspension**: A ‘suspended’ student is one who takes time out from university 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.
Glossary

**Scholar**: Someone who has achieved a First in their Mods or Prelims. The biggest perk of being one is undoubtedly the possibility to flex the fancier scholar gown.

**Sent Down**: If you get expelled from Oxford, you have been sent down. Try to avoid this.

**Sub fusc**: This is a traditional dress code that has to be followed on certain occasions, e.g. matriculation and exams. Consists of gown, mortar board (you’ll need it holding but not wearing—classic Oxford) + one of:
- dark suit with dark socks, or
- dark skirt with black tights or stockings, or
- dark trousers with dark socks or dark hosiery
+ white shirt/blouse, black shoes and a bow tie or a ribbon.

**Summer Eights**: See bumps; this is the Trinity rowing competition.

**Torpids**: See bumps; this is the Hilary Rowing competition.
Beyond impressed if anyone has made it to this point! To round off, I thought I would share a few of pieces of advice

1.) *Dive head first into Oxford Life* - you’re only here for 3/4 years, use every opportunity you can to explore interests and passions. Join societies, look into committees, and speak out. Your university experience is only as good as you make it so make sure you get involved in as much as possible both at college and uni level.

2.) *Structure your days* - one of the hardest things to adapt to, especially as a humanities student, is the small amount of contact hours. Allow yourself some time to settle and then try to come up with a timetable for how you are going to structure your weeks. A cheeky trip to WHSmith for a planners is always fun!

3.) *It’s not all Freshers’ Week* - you will figure out people’s names eventually! Life will start to feel a lot more normal after such a chaotic rollercoaster of a week. It is normal to feel totally overwhelmed and slightly sleep deprived at the beginning, everyone I know (including myself) had a little cry during Freshers’ and that is totally okay! Things will settle down and you’ll start to build a routine and form a solid group of friends, I promise.

4.) *Relax!* - I know you’re stressed out at the moment, but please don’t fret too much, life has a funny way of working out just right.

Get ready for some of the craziest, most fulfilling, and enjoyable years of your life! Only a few weeks to go…

*Sofie Cristobal, JCR VP*