Dear Chemistry Fresher,

Congratulations on achieving your place to read Chemistry at St Peter’s College! I am writing to give you some information relevant to this course before you arrive.

In your First Year, you will be taking Inorganic Chemistry; Organic Chemistry; Physical Chemistry; and Mathematics for Chemistry. Detailed information about these courses can be found at www.chem.ox.ac.uk/teaching and in particular http://course.chem.ox.ac.uk/home.aspx. I would encourage you to look at these web-sites to familiarise yourself with the course before you arrive.

Over the summer vacation, it is very important that you spend some time to revise and consolidate your A-level work. This includes all of your subjects, i.e. chemistry and mathematics, and physics and/or biology if you took them. However, I would specifically like you to revise your organic chemistry, since your tutorials will begin with this topic immediately term commences. In order to help you with this, I have included a copy of Hornby and Peach, which provides an excellent introduction to organic chemistry. A listing of the Assumed Knowledge for organic chemistry is also included with this mailing, and you should revise these topics too, and complete the questions. We will be going through this material during the very first week that you arrive, so please make every effort to get this done before you come to Oxford. You should also learn the first 18 elements of the Periodic Table! Your first organic tutorial is also enclosed, and you might like to prepare some of this in advance; you could for example prepare notes on all of the topics covered in that tutorial.
Also enclosed is your first physical chemistry tutorial; if you can make a start on this over the summer, it will get you ahead in what will be a busy first term.

In addition to this chemistry related work, I would like you to complete the enclosed short questionnaire concerning study skills; it is very important that you spend some time thinking about your study habits, and come to Oxford prepared to consolidate your strengths and improve in any areas that you feel you may be weaker. Spending some time reading about “How to Study” might seem to be unnecessary, but anything which helps you study more efficiently when at university is very valuable.

I trust that you will enjoy your summer, and I look forward to meeting you in October! Should you have any queries before then, please feel free to contact me at the address above.

Yours Sincerely,