St Peter’s is...
Welcome

Hey Future Peterites!

Firstly, I want to congratulate you all on getting into Oxford. If you were selected by some of the world’s leading talents in their respective subjects, it means you thoroughly deserve your place here. What awaits you are countless opportunities to thrive academically and socially. Oxford is your Oyster – seize every moment you have here and treasure them unreservedly.

You are incredibly lucky be coming to St Peter’s College. Not only does it boast a great location at the heart of the city, it has an amazingly friendly and welcoming community, which will certainly make your transition into university life easier. Few places maintain such a balance between a relaxed and informal culture, whilst also inspiring a genuine college pride. Before you know it, you’ll experience this feeling too! Peters is made by its people, and we’re so glad you’re joining our community.

This guide should give you some heads up about what’s to come. It will introduce the JCR and Freshers’ Committee for this year and then show you what life is like at Oxford. I hope my hours spent trawling over Adobe InDesign tutorials were worth it and you can gain some valuable information about St Peter’s to make your transition smoother!

I’m looking forward to getting to know every single one of you.

Dillon
JCR Vice President
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Lucy Lupton - President

Hi! My name is Lucy, I study History and I’ll be your JCR President this year! I have grand plans to make positive and lasting changes to college life, but for now having my name misspelt as Lumpton on the SPC Facebook page remains the highlight of my presidential career. I know that university can be daunting, but rest assured you are coming to a fantastic college with lovely people! The bar alone more than makes up for the thirty years you’ll spend paying off your student loan. That being said, if you have any questions at all please feel free to get in touch. Thanks to a certain global pandemic and the subsequent death of my social life, I am now worryingly quick at replying to messages. Enjoy your summer and see you soon! Big JCR love x

Dillon Somia - Vice President

Hey Guys, me again! I study PPE, which means when I’m not daydreaming about Rishi Sunak or Bernie Sanders, I’m often wondering about the meaning of life. I hail from the ‘exquisite’ city of Birmingham – so I expect all of you to do your very best Brummie impersonation whilst reading this in your heads. Around Oxford you’ll often see me in the Oxford Union’s Gothic libraries scavenging on the latest student-political gossip (sorry), in Uni Parks pretending I can run, or in a Coffee Shop pretentiously drinking a double-mocha and reading some Marx. But genuinely, Peters’ is such an amazing college and I’ve had so much fun making this document and writing about a place I love – I’m sure you will enjoy it just as much (Peter’s, not my cringy humour). I look forward to seeing all your facemasks in the Fall!
Ryan Parry – Treasurer

Hey I’m Ryan. I do E&M which means I was destined for a spreadsheet. Basically all I do is hit pay when you guys tell me to. Number 1 Peters’ tip: join touch rugby.

Number 2 Peters’ Tip: Watch Out for the E&Mers, especially this one! His Excel skills will lure you in but I’d stay far away.

Emma Rath – VP Welfare

Hi guys! I’m Emma and I study Religion and Oriental Studies (surprisingly enough, it’s a course!). I’m your VP for Welfare this year which means that I’ll be organising lots of different activities to keep up Peter’s welfare. We’ll be doing relaxing activities like yoga and movie nights, as well as more excitement inducing ones like mario cart tournaments and meeting the college welfare dogs. Usually you’ll find me in Society Cafe with an oat flat white in hand, photographing my friends for art projects or climbing mountains and fighting bears at home in Norway, either way I’m always happy to have a chat. I can’t wait to meet you all and feel free to message me with anything before freshers, I’m here to make sure everyone enjoys next year in a different first term!

Stanley Godfrey – Secretary

Hi everyone! I’m Stanley and I study Music (alongside being one of the college’s two Organ Scholars in chapel). I’m going to be your JCR Secretary this year which (luckily for you) means that you can expect to receive regular emails from me about getting involved with the JCR and perhaps even joining the Committee. If you have any questions about life at Peter’s or how the JCR Committee works then feel free to drop me a message. Looking forward to seeing you all in Freshers’ Week!!
Rueben Harris - Male Welfare Rep

Hi I’m Reuben, I study English and I’ll be your Male Welfare rep this year. Fortunately I spend most of my time neglecting my reading list, so I’m always available for a brew and a chat about any worries or concerns you might be having, whether they are big or small. I’m super excited to be part of a wonderful Welfare Team, and through the year we’ll organise a bunch of fun welfare activities for you folks to get involved in. In my spare time I’m also a committed member of the SPC RFC (cough we won Div 1 cough).

Natalya Robinson- Female Welfare Rep

Hello! My name is Taly / Natalya and I am your Female Welfare Rep. I study History (the best subject, I’m sure our President will agree) and am mostly found in college or in one of Oxford’s many cafés. As a welfare rep, I will always be around for a chat, or to give advice, however big or small. Arriving as a fresher can be daunting, so feel free to message me or reach out if you need anything. I also have a say in the Welfare Tea snack menu, so I will pull whatever strings I can (within reason).

Jade Calder - LGBTQ+ Rep

Hi, I’m Jade and I study History! When I’m not buried in the Lower Gladstone Link I can be spotted at a gig, doing student journalism or something quiz related. Peter’s has a lovely little LGBTQ+ community and I can’t wait to welcome you to the college and the wider university scene. Moving to university can be an equally exciting and intimidating experience, particularly if you’re not totally out at home, so I hope I can help you settle in as well as I can. Oxford is home to a diverse range of people of different genders, sexualities, interests, backgrounds and experiences, so you’ll be sure to find like-minded people you can connect with! If you have any questions or concerns prior to coming here feel free to get in touch with me at jade.calder@spc.ox.ac.uk
Amy Wahab - Disabilities Rep

Hi! I’m Amy, I’m from London and I will be disabilities rep for this year! My role basically involves looking out for the interests of anyone in college who has a disability and working to keep Peters’ the inclusive, kind community we love. Always open to any suggestions on how to do this, or just for a chat. I study Earth Sciences, but when I’m not licking rocks for my degree, I enjoy cooking and a good night out. Looking forward to meeting you all in fresher’s week!

Michael Smith – BAME Rep

Hi guys! I’m Michael, I study French and Spanish and I’ll be one of the BAME reps next year. We want to make sure everyone feels empowered in being their best and true selves and so we will be running events and socials to promote the BAME community within Peter’s. BAME related issues have obviously been brought to light more recently and I’ll always be around college to support anyone with any concerns. In the meantime, I can’t wait to meet you all in Freshers, Peter’s is an amazing place and I’m sure you will end up loving it as much as I do!

Jemine Barrow – BAME Rep

Hi guys, I’m Jem and I study Law. I’m going to be one of your BAME reps this year, and my job is to ensure that the BAME members of our JCR feel comfortable and heard in the Peter’s community. When I’m not in Peter’s library, which unfortunately for my degree is 99% of the time, I can be found playing for the college’s rugby team (if I’m not milking a knee injury), eating dumplings from Gloucester Green, or just loitering around Oxford to procrastinate. Peter’s is great and I’m sure you’ll love it. See you all in Bridge!
Natasha Gascoigne – BAME Rep
Hi! I’m Natasha and I study Philosophy and Spanish. I’m one of your BAME reps this year, so my job is to represent the interests of BAME students and help ensure Peter’s is welcoming and inclusive for all. I understand the added fear of coming to Oxford as a minority student, so I’ll be here to ease the transition during freshers’ week and support you throughout the year – feel free to message me anytime. Peter’s is a great college and I’m sure you’ll love it. See you all in October xx

Anastasia Pantazopoulou - Internationals Rep
Hi guys, my name is Ana and I’ll be your international representative for this year! I study Earth Sciences (Geology+) and just like how brilliantly I take care of my rock collection, my job is to take care of the vibrant international community at St Peter’s. I am half Greek/half Russian and my family currently lives in Africa. Having moved to the UK around 3 years ago, I know first hand the challenges an international student might face when coming to Oxford from abroad. I’ll be always there throughout the year to have a chat, provide advice, and help regarding any questions or concerns ranging from the more bureaucratic/legal to more personal/social issues. I will also organise events to help break the ice and empower the international community. I will try make the process of coming to uni from abroad as seamless as possible and help you make Oxford your home away from home! Email me at anastasia.pantazopoulou@spc.ox.ac.uk if you have any questions

Darcy Dixon - Access and Outreach Rep
Hi! I’m Darcy, your JCR Access rep. First of all, congratulations on making it to the start of your first year of uni! You are in for a real treat – especially at Peter’s. It is a great place, with even greater people. My role is to help prospective students decide whether Oxford is for them, and help those from disadvantaged backgrounds in particular access Oxford and higher education more broadly. I also realise that access doesn’t stop once you get an offer, and I want you all to feel as comfortable and welcomed as possible in your time here. Do not hesitate to get in touch with me at any time, and let me know if you want to help with college’s access initiatives. In the meantime, enjoy your summer and relax! Drop me an email if you have questions about any part of college life or Oxford more generally. See you soon!
Dominic Cox – Bar Treasurer

Hi all, I’m Dom, I study (perhaps a generous word) History of Art and I’m this year’s Bar Treasurer. You’ll usually find me in the bar, sometimes working but always drinking Guinness. Although we’re not sure entirely how the bar is going to operate this year, rest assured that Chris and I will be working hard to keep it the best bar in Oxford. I’m in charge of doing rotas for the bar, so if you’re interested in earning our exorbitant hourly rate then speak to me or Chris. See you in the bar!

Chris Gilmour - Bar Manager

Heyo I’m Chris and I study Philosophy and Theology. I’ll be running the bar this year alongside the lovely Dom (he handles the financials). Take a break and come down to the best (only?) student run bar in Oxford and we’ll be there to guide you through your first Crosskeys – we hope you’ll be back for more. We’ll be working non-stop to keep the bar as friendly and welcoming a place as possible, so if you’re not satisfied shoot us any suggestions you have for things you’d like to see: drinks or otherwise. Also, everyone’s entitled to work a shift once they’ve been trained, so keep an eye out for your shot to get behind the bar yourself. See you all in a bit!

Maddy McInerney - Entz Rep

Hi! I’m Maddy and I study English. I’m Entz rep this year, which means the task of organising ‘rona-proof social activities falls to me. You might see a lot of my face promoting more *homemade* versions of a club night, so stay tuned for that on the Entz Facebook group! If you have any questions or suggestions for the Peter’s social scene please feel free to send me a message :))
Joe Lewis - Academic Affairs Rep

Hi all! I’m Joe and I’m your Academic Affairs Officer for this year. This means that I’m responsible for communicating with the college about how to improve courses, learning etc. (I know, very exciting!) I’ll be asking you for feedback throughout the year, but I’m also always around to talk if you ever have any concerns with tutorials or workloads – or anything else! In second term I’ll be holding academic feedback sessions (probably accompanied by free pizza) so I hope to see you then. Enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to meeting you in October!

Trinity Ashley- Socio-Economics Rep

Hi my name Trinity, I study Arch & Anth and I am the JCR’s socio-economic rep. My role aims to represent those from low income households, state school educated, first generation or from a working/ lower class background. You might identify with one of these things or all...either way I’m ya girl. From concerns about funding to just worries about Oxford and fitting in I have been there and I am here to help. Plus im always down for a chat and catch up. So don’t be afraid to reach out! Oxford is daunting but it is amazing as well and you have more than earned your place here. I’m also on the freshers committee so you’ll be seeing me in person soon. Xxxx

Hattie Dent – Charities Rep

Hi! My name is Hattie and I’m your Charities Rep this year. I study Medicine and my hair may or may not be pink next term (spontaneous lock-down decision!)
I’ll be involved in selecting this year’s JCR charity and organising fundraising events, so if you have any fun charitable ideas please don’t hesitate to get in touch :)) (harriet.dent@spc.ox.ac.uk)
I know you will all have the best time here at St Peter’s and I’m always happy to have a chat or catch up over coffee if anyone has any queries. Looking forward to meeting you all soon!
Sophie Shorthose - Environment and Ethics Rep

Hi everyone! My name’s Sophie and I am your Environment and Ethics rep for this year. I study Geography, so when I’m not outside marvelling at the wonders of nature in my ample free time, you can probably find me frequenting the bar (or even Thirst which you will all come to know and love) or perhaps occasionally the library in an essay crisis. Peter’s is committed to becoming more sustainable, and I’d love your input and help this year!

Freddie Wright - Sports Rep

Hi my name is Freddie and my passions are sport and Robert Pitkethly’s satsumas. My role is to look sporty by only wearing stash and to occasionally help out with university sports subs or I can normally be found at the bar, the Said or in Ryan Parry’s shadow.

edit: I even had to crop Ryan out of this picture

Theo Jupp - Alumni Relations Rep

Moin! I’m Theo, I do French and German and I’m the JCR’s Alumni Relations rep. In a nutshell, my role is to represent the JCR for the alumni community and to seek opportunities for the two to interact - this year hopefully in the context of SPC’s access initiatives. Between my vampirical library seshes (parties) and post-midnight pilgrimages to Hassan’s, you may find me taking Doctor Who far too seriously, obsessing about partially recognised states in the former USSR or swearing at the automatic doors. I also quite like pasta. Can’t wait to meet you in October, and if you need anything in the meantime give me a shout! Big Peter’s love xoxo
**George Robson - Homelessness Rep**

Hi, I’m George and I’m the homelessness rep for next year. I spend my time playing hockey, throwing darts at the wall, and losing money on the quiz machine. Aside from that I study Biology. If you consider yourself to be (or want to seem) philanthropic, and want to get involved with tackling homelessness next year (or helping me win on Big Reds), please give me a shout.

**Annabelle Grigg – Gender Equalities Rep**

Hiya!! I’m Annabelle and I’m studying history at Peter’s. I can’t wait to meet you all and know you will love it here. As Gender Equalities Representative, it’s my job to make sure SPC is aware of and addressing any gender related issues at a college, university and more broader level. Outside of my degree, you’ll probably find me in the college bar or writing a rambly article for one of the uni papers. If you have any questions or ideas feel free to drop me a message!

**Bethany Clarke - Finalists Rep**

Hi! I’m Beth and I’m in my final year studying Maths. I’m the finalist rep this year, meaning I organize things for those leaving next year, and (most importantly), help decide the theme for the Finalist bop! If you have any questions about Oxford life then feel free to get in touch! St Peter’s is the loveliest college and it’ll feel like home in no time. Looking forward to meeting you all!
Claudia Warren – Freshers’ Committee

Hi everyone! I’m Claudia and I study History of Art. I’m not part of the JCR committee so don’t have a specific role but am on freshers committee to help make sure that freshers’ week runs as smoothly as possible this year. Like everyone else on the committee I’ll be a friendly face around college. You will all have a brilliant time in Peter’s as there’s literally something for everyone, and really looking forward to meeting you all in October!

Heather Piare – Freshers’ Committee

Hi! I’m Heather and I study English. I’m just here to help you settle in/ participate in the awkward icebreakers, especially since this year will be a little different. You’ll probably (definitely) see me in the bar, or the library at ungodly hours. I promise I’m very friendly so feel free to come to me with any Q’s!! See you in October xx

the halo in this pic gives the impression Heather is quite the angel, but I’d watch out for her when you get here!
“It’s probably time to address the big, fat, corona-shaped elephant in the room. If you’re anything like me, you’ll have spent the summer with a dodgy haircut, feeling like you’re in some sort of apocalyptic film with zero comedic value. To vastly downplay the state of affairs, it’s pretty safe to say that this term will be a little unconventional.

First and foremost, St Peter’s is concerned with your safety and the safety of all those who keep the college running smoothly. Unfortunately, that means social distancing and adhering to government and university approved guidelines. If you’ve watched the daily briefings as religiously as my Dad, then I’m sure I don’t need to tell you how important it is that we stick to these measures. I know that many of us can feel that coronavirus doesn’t pose a significant threat to our own health, but it’s important to remember the bigger picture. Following the guidelines helps to protect yourself, but also your friends, your family, your scout, your tutor and the most vulnerable in our society. The more of us that adhere to the rules, the sooner we can get back to normal!

That being said, I want to reassure you that we are doing all we can to make your student experience the best it can be. Granted, you might not make the traditional pilgrimage to Thirst (worst club in Oxford, so blessing in disguise?) but you will go down in history as the first year to receive face masks as well as freshers’ t-shirts on arrival. Regardless of whatever global catastrophe is going on outside its walls, Peter’s is a fantastic college and we’ll do our utmost to help you love it as much as we do!”

Lucy, JCR President
Arriving

St Peter’s is located in the centre of Oxford - a blessing on every day but the first and last of term. When you arrive, 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. This should be enough time 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 know who they are by their green St Peter’s T-Shirts (you’ll probably find me there, feeling too important to help with the carrying).

Once you’ve moved in, the best place to start meeting other freshers is around the JCR and the quad behind it - there will likely be members of the Freshers’ Committee who’ll 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!

If you turn up before Sunday/ Monday then just head straight to the Porters’ Lodge where you will be provided with a parking permit and room details. There are usually lots of Peterites around college who will be eager to welcome a new face and help you move in.

Plenty of these Grey Boyz in Peter’s, we’ve even forever immortalised them in college culture through our mascot. Make sure to say ‘Hello’ on your way in!
Accommodation

As a first year you’ll probably be either in New Block or Matthews Block, although you could also be in Chavasse. 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 supreme, a dispute 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, don’t feel obliged, many people prefer to pursue their masterchefs careers in the JCR kitchen.

You have to move out of your room at the end of each term, which means you have to empty it completely from 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.

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

New Block
Feast your eyes on that brick arch - they say’s it’s better than the Arc De Triomphe. Clue’s in the name, the newest block of accommodation in Peter’s (apart from Perrodo - where you might be living in 3rd Year), reflected in the really nice decor. Light and airy, and near hall for an easy stroll to Sunday Brunch!

Matthews Block
Olden but golden, kitted out with washing machines and driers, along with deliciously close access to the legendary Peter’s Bar. Larger rooms as well with great views of Oxford from the upper floors. The walls are also thicker than New Block ;)
- for playing your music of course

Alternatively, around eight of you will be housed in the Chavasse building which is separate from both New and Matthews block and around the back of college. One perk is you’ll have particularly large windows (currently shrouded in scaffolding) to watch all your friends in New and Matts have a ball of fun as a tear rolls down your face. I’m only kidding, the larger rooms in Chavasse are nothing to be scoffed at - especially considering they also make a great place for pre-drinks due to their size.
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 and study area all rolled into one, but hopefully not your toilet.

Whilst not everything on the list is necessary, I wouldn’t personally recommend turning up to Uni without any spare underpants. I’d recommend:

1. Mugs, Glasses, Plates, Cutlery, Bowls etc. and a Kettle
2. Duvet, Pillows and Bed Linen - two sets for when you wash one
3. Clothes (including Sub Fusc), bring Sportswear/ Equipment if you’ll be playing.
4. Towels and Hand Towels
5. Washing up Sponge, Fairy Liquid and a Dish Cloth
6. Multi Socket Adapter
7. Padlock - Almost all rooms have a safe box for valuables

OPTIONAL

8. Lamp - there is one by your desk but it might be nice to have another for your bedside
9. Rug - helps you personalise your room and absorb dust
10. Drying Rack - as opposed to using the driers, its probably more cost efficient
11. Mini Fridge - if you’re going to be eating/ snacking in your room a lot then a mini fridge to store some essentials in is a good idea. I brought mine in second term and found it helped having cereal and teas/ coffees on hand in your room.
12. Fairy Lights (battery operated) - makes your room feel more cosy.
What NOT to Bring

1. Microwaves - we have one in the JCR Kitchen and they don’t comply with fire safety regulations

2. Toasters - not fire safety compliant

3. Pets - fairly self explanatory. We have our own college Tortoise, Aristurtle!

4. Candles - not fire safety compliant

5. Food - you will be automatically signed up to Hall Food in Freshers’ Week.

BIKES

I want to stress that you CAN bring a bike, but you certainly don’t NEED to.

Because you’ll all be living in college in first term you are in the centre of Oxford - almost nothing is more than a 20 minute walk from you. Lectures, Tutes, Pubs and Events will all be walking distance from you.

Sure, bikes certainly can help if you fancy waking up 10 minutes before your lecture - but in reality its probably more stress trying to find a place to lock it up and fiddling around with your helmet as opposed to just walking.

You will probably benefit from having a bike if you are taking regular trips down to Iffley Sports Centre in a week. It’s a 25 minute walk and if you are training regularly it is probably better to bike it.

If you are going to bring a bike, make sure you have a suitable helmet and strong lock - bike theft is common in Oxford.
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. 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 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.

With officer roles ranging from sports to charities to the arts, the committee is your first port of call for pretty much any non-academic issue - not that our welfare team isn’t more than happy to give advice or just talk about any problems you may have with tutors or work! If you have a wider issue you think the JCR committee should be looking at, then general meetings (GMs) are your opportunity! Every other Monday at 7pm in the JCR, 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. Essentially, there is no pressure to be an active member of the JCR during first term, but for any of you who would like to get involved there is a position on the committee for first year rep, visiting students’ rep, first year entz rep and college mascot; elections at end of 1st term. Chat to Lucy if you’re interested - we’re husting for a new Social Media Freshers’ rep!
Domestic Facilities

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 from £1.50, 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 dab hands at helping 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 man 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 banter, latest footy scores or just a friendly natter.
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 available. The way in which you pay for your food is simple: using the uPay website (https://upay.co.uk), you log on 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. A typical ‘informal hall’ dinner meal will offer one or two meat and two vegetarian options for mains, with accompanying vegetables, salads, fruit, dessert, yoghurts and juices; lunch and dinner menus are emailed out weekly. ‘Informal hall’ refers to the usual, ‘canteen-style’ arrangement for eating. The uPay pay-as-you-go system is really convenient because it gives you complete freedom with where you eat - if you would rather cook in the JCR kitchen or eat out in the town you won’t have lost out on a meal in college that had already been paid for.

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 sandwich if you miss meals in hall!
**Food**

Formal Hall
Currently runs 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 tends to be of better 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 to bring guests along to. 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 as of last year were**
**given the ongoing social distancing rules, mealtimes will probably be staggered so only a certain number of people are in hall at any one time.

- Breakfast (Mon - Fri): 8am- 9am
- Lunch (Mon - Fri): 12pm - 1.30pm
- Dinner (informal hall): 5.30pm - 7.30pm (until 6.30pm on formal hall nights)
- Dinner (formal hall): 7.30pm prompt
- Brunch (Sat & Sun): 11.00am - 12:30pm (the waffles are arguably the best hangover cure going!)
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.
Getting Your Computer Connected

St Peter’s college provides high-speed internet access to all Freshers via a wired link to their computers in their rooms.

This being the case, one thing you might want to bring with you - besides the computer itself - is an ethernet cable. These cables can be bought at pretty much any electronics or computer shop and come in two varieties: patch and crossover. Make sure that you get a patch cable (a crossover cable simply won’t work). There is wifi in college and all the libraries you’ll need to work in but with the high amount of traffic, a cable might provide a faster connection. In addition to bringing along a patch cable you should confirm that your computer does indeed have an ethernet socket to plug the cable into.

Once your computer is actually plugged into the wall, the final step towards getting online is registering your computer onto the St Peter’s college network. A step-by-step guide on getting registered will be finding its way to you soon. Briefly, getting registered involves nothing more than locating a unique number that belongs to your computer, making sure you’re using university approved anti-virus software, and then installing a small program. Registering is (almost always) a one-off procedure and can occasionally be tricky to do. St Peter’s has dedicated IT technicians, including Chris Beesley, IT Officer - available during office hours on the ground floor of Staircase III and 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 panic. The college has a number of computers with internet access that any student is welcome to use, which can be found in the library.
Facilities

The 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, comfy sofas, a vending machine, a pool table, a table tennis table, a table football table and a constant supply of all of the major national newspapers. You can’t say what degree you will leave Oxford with, but it’s pretty much a certainty that your pool skills will improve.

The Bar
Ever wanted to hear a drunk crowd mumble the words to Angels by Robbie Williams? Well look no further than St Peter’s College Bar.

As one of the only college bars at Oxford that is fully student run, the SPC Bar is a place where 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. The Johnny Fraser memorial garden is an excellent place to enjoy the warmer Trinity term nights - and comprises the ‘grille’ aspect of the St. Peter’s Bar and ‘Grille’ (we are not responsible for any illness contracted through use of the outdoor barbecue).

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. What the bar team try to do is create a great atmosphere, with affordable drinks, in a space in college where anyone feels welcome - any comments, queries, or inclinations to purchase someone a drink please contact Chris ‘Greene King’ Gilmour or Dom ‘Crosskey Alchemist’ Cox.

p.s. Anyone found drinking ‘Corona’ is getting kicked out
Facilities

The Punts
The JCR hires a punt from Magdalen Bridge each Trinity Term - you’ll hear more about this nearer the time. If you’ve paid the punt charge, you can book the punt for free as many times as your plans allow.

The Library
The college library is a really useful resource - it will have many (but not all) of the books you need for your course. It is also a great place to work with the added advantage of it being open 24/7 during term time (the solidarity you feel with others during the ‘night shift’ is truly a sacred bond). You can borrow 15 books at any one time, and the standard loan period is 28 days. There is also a photocopier upstairs. You will be given a library induction at some point in Freshers’ Week to tell you how to find books and take them out.

The Music Room
The music room is a large airy room situated above the MCR (Middle Common Room). It boasts a grand piano and an electronic drum kit. You can collect the key from the porters to use it for rehearsals/practices. You have to apply to be put on the ‘approved users’ list first, which can also be done through the Porters’ Lodge. You may also be able to practise on the piano in the chapel, with permission - ask the Lodge for more details.
**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. I have two current accounts so I can transfer myself a weekly budget and (try) to only spend what I’ve allocated. Tracking spending via Monzo is great.

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, but there are a few things you need to look out for. There unfortunately are not many (if any) incentives for internationals - many offers are only available if you have lived in the UK for at least three years, but you can still easily open up regular accounts.
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, but this is 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”
GRANTS & BURSARIES

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).
**BOOKS**

Books, probably going to see a fair few of them during your time here. If that comes as a surprise, consider me impressed.

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).

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.

In terms of reading lists, some of them will seem really daunting! 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, be it your college parent or your tutor. Don’t put it off till the end of summer, some books are always going to be a pain to get a hold of, be proactive!
LIBRARIES

I’d 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 ever so often. Different libraries have different vibes, so get exploring and find out what you like. Feast your eyes on these pictures and then tell me Cambridge is better than Oxford - I dare you.
THE CITY

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 and a few more unusual places too. There are two shopping malls within a three minute walk from college: the Clarendon Centre and Westgate. 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.

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. Big Shoutout to the Tescolator.

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 La Baguette, Mission Burrito (50% off on Wednesdays), Itsu (half-price half an hour before closing!) and most other chains. Studentbeans.com is a great website that provides students with many brilliant offers on most large chain restaurants. Be sure to also get the UNIDAYS app when you come to Oxford, as you can get some great student deals there (e.g. up to 50% off in many pizza places around college on weekdays).
Sorry to be rubbing salt in the wounds but clubbing isn’t likely to happening any time soon. But at the time of writing I have no idea what is going to happen, so feel free to wonder about what could’ve been throughout this page ;)

There are quite a few clubs in Oxford which cater to a large range of different music tastes. Student nights are mainly week nights and BOP’s (Big Open Party) are on Saturdays for college only. Here is my definitive ranking:

1.) Park End
The Ultimate Wednesday out. Highlights include Mosh Pits to Jay Z and Kanye on the RnB floor before heading up to the blinding lights of the Cheese Floor.

2.) Bridge
A solid Thursday night out. Highlights include bumping into that random dude you met in a lecture the other week and just about everyone else you know in Oxford.

3.) Fever
If you fancy vibing to Frozen’s ‘Let It Go’ at 2a.m. Whilst covered in sweat, head to fever. Say no more.

There are many other clubs in Oxford, including Hanks, the Bullingdon, the O2 and Thirst (which Sophie forced me to add in)
**PUBS**

Some trivia you will certainly need in a quiz one day: Which city has more pubs per square mile than any other city in the UK?

Yep you guessed right, Oxford is king when it comes to pubs.

From the tiny back-street charms of The Bear to the busy Turf Tavern, Oxford’s worst kept secret, there are old pubs oozing with character to suit every drinker, and every occasion. Sitting in the heart of the southern brewery territory, every pub in Oxford has at least one real ale on draught; White Horse Brewery and the excellent Wychwood range of ales are always firm favourites. Also, there are a few pubs located out of town, such as The Perch or The Head of the River, but similarly to city centre pubs, their locations mean high prices!

**Top tips:**
- Peter’s Bar everyday for price and cringy indie songs
- Head of the River for views and a nice quiet pint
- King’s Arms for rip off pints but banging popcorn
- Swan and Castle Wetherspoons for great atmosphere and cheap prices
- Four Candles Wetherspoons for a meal with friends (spoons food is crimally underated), the upstairs is a bit more quiet than Swan and Castle.
CULTURE

Aside from streaming Love Island 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 newly renovated 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 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. We have hilarious comedians who are in the Oxford Revue and last year Peters’ students put on multiple amazing plays, and we are expecting more to come. We also had our very first art exhibition last year held in St Peter’s, something that will hopefully happen again this year (so stay tuned). For Freshers, the drama Cuppers competition in Michaelmas term offers a great opportunity to act in and produce short plays.

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 arts magazine, MISC, or the satirical Peterphile. St Peter’s has its own drama society ‘Cross Keys’ which has put on a number of successful productions and is looking to do more throughout the coming year. 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!

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, any additional recitals (always happy to help you put on your own recitals of any kind!) and large scale orchestral concerts.
SPORT

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 for flexing if your 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!
SPORT

An overview of Sport at Peters Last Year, courtesy of yours truly, Mr Freddie Wright:

Despite a Covid-reduced year of sport our brawny Peterites still had time to assert their green & gold dominance on the pitch, court, pool or any other vessel of sporting prowess.

Not only did the college teams succeed in many sports at league or cuppers level, participation has remained high as students have jostled to achieve excellence in all spheres of college life. One of the main success stories of college sport this year has been the college rugby team who, shepherded by captain Josh Abbas, got promoted to division 1 in Michaelmas 2019 and subsequently won that division the following term. Despite a relatively small selection pool compared to some other teams in the league SPCRFC worked hard on and off the pitch to win every possible game of the league season.

The success was not matched in cuppers as they were knocked out early doors in a shock result against Jesus College. Despite the apparent college penchant for oval shaped balls, the college’s mixed touch rugby team, whose training sessions were incredibly well frequented, didn’t have a chance to show their mettle at cuppers which was scheduled for trinity term. This was the case for all too many college sports teams who were preparing for a more formal competition in Trinity.
SPORT

Continued:

Both the college Basketball team, which was set up this year and ably led by the absolute unit that is Ram Choudhury, and the cricket team were among the sports whose cuppers were cancelled.

The hockey team merged with Queens college to form a superteam led by Sam Hollowood but were unable to live up to the media hype and crashed out of cuppers in the early rounds. The main college sports of Darts and Pool had mixed results.

The pool team was often overmatched against teams sporting matching polo shirts, an inadequacy captain Max Liddiard attempted to foil with a targeted verbal barrage. Unfortunately, matchy matchy prevailed as we fell to St Catherine’s at the first knockout round of cuppers. Darts fixtures were more difficult to come by as captains Clegg and Liddiard opted to spurn intra-college competition in place of an in-college open tournament. They were no doubt delighted with the results, not due to the greater participation and interest in college darts it garnered, but mainly due to Max Liddiard dominated his way to the inaugural SPC Darts championship.
SPORT

2019-2020 Boat Club President Marcus Speigel gives you a flavour of rowing at Peter’s Last year:

“St. Peter’s College Boat Club had an exciting year fueled by a strong recruitment of new rowers and coxes. Due to river flooding and the pandemic, the major Oxford regattas were canceled, but the boat club remained active. Our crews raced in the Isis Winter League and traveled to compete in Cambridge Winter Head. When weather conditions permitted, we trained on the water, but otherwise bonded over ergs in the college rowing gym. Regular socials, including crew dates, bar nights, and boat club dinners kept spirits up. A highlight of the year was the 24-hour charity ergathon, which raised over £1000 for JCR charities. We look forward to the return of rowing and future success for the boat club.”

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.

If you have questions and your college parent has not made contact with you before mid-September please feel free to contact Stanley.

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 Wife, Shivani - a second year Chemist. We’re not always this happy, she’s currently filing divorce proceedings
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
- listen

College stuff 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
Welfare Officers - Muhammad (Babar) Suleman + Emmanuelle Dankwa
emmanuelle.dankwa@spc.ox.ac.uk
College Nurse - Kate Tempest
spcnurse@nhs.net

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. Whilst none of our JCR welfare team are peer support trained just yet due to Trinity Term being online, the welfare team and at least one BAME rep will take up training in Michaelmas term.

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.
WELFARE

Free stuff:
In the JCR kitchen (cupbaord nearest to the window) you will find
• Condoms
• Lube
• Pregnancy Tests
• Personal alarms

So have fun and make merry. 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 Ryan Parry’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 our 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. We will also allocate each of you with opt-out peer support meeting times for around week 2, which will give you the opportunity to establish a one-one-one relationship with a peer supporter.
WELFARE

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 than you might imagine, 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 if 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

University Counselling Service [www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling](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 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

In Fresher’s Week you’ll hear a couple of strange words (more than a couple if you’re a philosophy student).

Term names:
- **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 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 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).
GLOSSARY

- **Bumps** - the main two college boat racing events (Torpids and Summer Eights) are both bumps-style races. Divisions of 13 boats line up behind each other and race to bump the boat in front.

- **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.

- **Cross Keys** - 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 Cross Keys will probably be a rocky, yet loving one. I’d recommend starting with the mango flavour, indisputably the best!

- **DJ Ollie East** - the unofficial mascot of St Peter’s who you’ll probably see at pretty much every club (if you ever get to go to one lol)

- **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.
GLOSSARY

• **Finals** - the exams you take at the end of your degree to determine what classification you will graduate with.

• **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 sub fusc 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.

• **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...

• **Oxford Union** - a debating society in its origin but many impressive guest speakers and interesting events. Expensive, but membership is for life. Beatrice Barr of Peter’s will be taking up the presidency in Michaelmas
GLOSSARY

• **Pidge** - pigeonhole in the porters’ lodge, where your mates and tutors can leave letters or messages for you.
• **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 of 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.
• **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 gowns.
• **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 competition.
• **Torpids** - see bumps; this is the Hilary competition.
FINAL WORDS

Wow, Congrats to the one person whose still reading this - i’m impressed.
To round off I thought I’d share with you my key 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 socities, join commitees and speak out.

2.) **Structure your days** - allow yourself sometime to settle in and then try to create a schedule in advance of the day ahead. Figure of out when your going to work, relax and what you have on. I’d recommend getting a planner.

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 the week long rollercoaster. You’ll start to build a routine (or try to) and form a solid group of friends.

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 the Adventure of a Lifetime, you’re only a few weeks away**

Your JCR Vice-President,
Dillon Somia
SEE YOU SOON!!!