

Dear New College MCR Freshers of 2018,

On behalf of the entire Middle Common Room, I am delighted to welcome you to New College!

The New College Middle Common Room is made up of over 300 students from nearly 60 countries around the world, studying everything from Hellenistic poetry to planetary astrophysics. In this diverse company, you will have the opportunity to forge new friendships, expand your personal and intellectual horizons, and make your mark on a college that has stood for over 600 years. Here at New College, “Manners Makyth Man”—an exhortation to strive always for self-improvement and a reminder that it is not where you come from but who you choose to be that will matter most in your time at the college. We are genuinely happy and excited for you to join us!

The MCR is at the heart of college life and, by extension, the Oxford experience. The MCR Committee, which administers the facilities and social programming of the MCR, is here to serve your needs and the interests of all members. As well as maintaining our physical common spaces, the Committee organizes a wide range of events throughout the year: formal dinners, twice-weekly bar nights, exchange dinners with other colleges, bops, competitive and recreational sports, artistic and cultural programs, and much more, all designed to foster fellowship and community. The MCR also provides significant resources for the promotion of the mental, emotional, and academic welfare of our members, with our welfare representative, our Peer Support Team, representatives for various identity groups, and a company of friends and colleagues all ready to help you navigate the ups and downs of student life here.

Graduate students will be informed of MCR news and events on a weekly basis via email and through regular updates on the [MCR Facebook page](#), which you can join prior to your arrival. We ask that you fill out this [Google form](#) so that we can verify requests to join the Facebook page and so that we can add you to the MCR Freshers’ Facebook page when it goes live. This latter page will allow you to keep abreast of freshers-only activities and information. The Committee has also put together the MCR Freshers’ Guide as a resource to help you settle into the college.

No matter where you are in your intellectual journey, your time at Oxford ought to be a challenging and rewarding experience, and the MCR is here to help you get the most out of it. Please feel free to reach out to me or any other Committee member with questions, comments, or suggestions about college life or Oxford in general. Coming to a new place can be daunting, but I sincerely hope that in your time here, you will come to think of New College just as I have done—as home.

My best wishes for the rest of your summer, and I look forward to getting to know you this fall!

David Clifton

MCR President 2018–2019

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