

# Welcome to the New College MCR

Dear New College MCR Freshers of 2020,

I am delighted to welcome you to your new home for the next part of your life. For those of you that don't yet know what all of this means: The Oxford colleges divide students into communities independent of subject, giving you both the resources and advantages of a large university, and the personal and more intimate support of a smaller organization. Despite its name, New College is one of the oldest colleges in Oxford; it is also one of the prettiest and has some 700 students from around the world who you will be joining. Founded in 1379 and situated in the heart of Oxford, New College is full of history and tradition. However, it has always been possessed of a modern outlook; its original founder William of Wykeham gave it the first non-latin motto of any Oxford college: "Manners Makyth Man" which means that regardless of background or upbringing, attitude is what makes you who you are. New College has maintained this style merging the traditions of Oxford with an open and welcoming pattern of university life.

The Middle Common Room (MCR) is the community of all graduate students at New College. It is also a student run organisation headed by the MCR committee. In addition to maintaining and developing the physical MCR facilities, we organise a wide range of events for you throughout the year: bops (Oxford term for parties), formal dinners, bar and movie nights, exchange dinners with other colleges, competitive and recreational sports, artistic and cultural events, and much more, to provide you with a fun, engaging, and friendly community to be part of.

The MCR will be the heart of your life here at New College and the base to build your Oxford experience. As we are brought together by our affiliation to the same college, not by the subjects we study, you will get to know people that may spend most of their time thinking about radically different things than you. This may mean a welcome break from your own studies, unlocking a new perspective on your work, or simply a chance to learn something new. I hope that within this diverse company, you will meet interesting people, widen your intellectual horizons, and make close and lifelong friends.

The MCR also provides significant resources for the provision of the mental, emotional, and academic welfare for our members. Our welfare representative, Peer Support Team, representatives for various identity groups, and a group of friends and colleagues are here to help you navigate the ups and downs of student life here and be on hand throughout.

We maintain this support especially in the face the current global pandemic, which will mean that this year will at least initially feel very different, and it might feel a bit scary to go to a new place. In this time, your MCR will be there for you and help you as much as we can. We will ensure that everyone will be able to obtain food, particularly when self-isolating, and continue to put on a wide array of social events balancing safety and making new friends.

You will be kept up to date on MCR news and events on a weekly basis via email and through updates on the MCR Facebook page, which you can join prior to your arrival. There is also the "[New College MCR Freshers 2020](#)" page we have created for you. It will allow you to keep abreast of all the freshers-only activities and information for your first weeks at College. If you are looking for housing, it may also help you find other freshers to join forces with.

Regardless of the path that has brought you here, your time at Oxford will be a unique experience and will provide you with memories to last a lifetime. Even and especially in the midst of a pandemic, we are a community and are here to help you make the most of your time at Oxford. Don't hesitate to approach me or any committee member by email or personally if you have any questions or queries about anything. We will do our utmost to help. That only leaves me to say welcome to New College and I hope you have an amazing and life affirming time here.

Steffen Ridderbusch

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