

New College

MCR Yearbook 2020

A message from your editor



Dear New College leaver,

It is with great heaviness, that we, as a community, have to say goodbye to you.

Thank you for being a critical part of the New College MCR. Through your time in Oxford, we hope that all the memories that you made at the bops, formal dinners, bar nights, exchange dinners, sports, and other wild and crazy endeavours, will stay with you for the rest of your life. Of course, however, no place is as meaningful or impactful, without its people. I do not doubt for a minute, that at all these events throughout your time in Oxford, that you formed some amazing lifelong friendships that will long remain a piece of your heart.

Whilst it is due to these exceptional circumstances that we cannot enjoy a glass of cold beer together, I hope that this New College MCR leavers Yearbook, will form a little collection of these memories that you will cherish.

Until we meet again.

In true New College spirit - GDBM,

Irene

MCR Welfare Officer '19-'20

New College MCR Leavers '20



Mirjam Hazenbosch
matriculated 2016



Priyanka Panchal
matriculated 2016



Victoire Déjean
matriculated 2016



Harry Gable
matriculated 2018



Victoria Christmann
matriculated 2018



Julia Cailleteau
matriculated 2019



Aditya Chopra
matriculated 2019



David Lehmann
matriculated 2019



Edward Clark
matriculated 2019



Marc Homs Dones
matriculated 2019



Matsidiso Mdakane
matriculated 2019



Sabine Raaf
matriculated 2019



Sophie Dubois

matriculated 2019



Fei Liu

matriculated 2019



Photo credit: Sabine Raaf



Dear MCR leavers,

I am so glad to have this opportunity to say 'Goodbye' to MCR Leavers in this Yearbook. You came; you entered into the family that is New College; you have participated in our traditions; and you have met friends who will be with you – I promise – for your lifetime.

It is a great sadness that the events of the last term have removed so many weeks of the Oxford experience from you. I do hope that you will always keep close to us, and return in person as soon as you can.

May the best of fortune be with you as you start the next chapter of your careers.

With very best wishes.

Yours,

Miles Young

Warden



Dear leavers,

I'm so sorry not to have been able to wish you well in person at the annual Graduates' Dinner in the Hall, but very grateful to have been offered this opportunity to do so remotely in a rather less impersonal way than through a mass email.

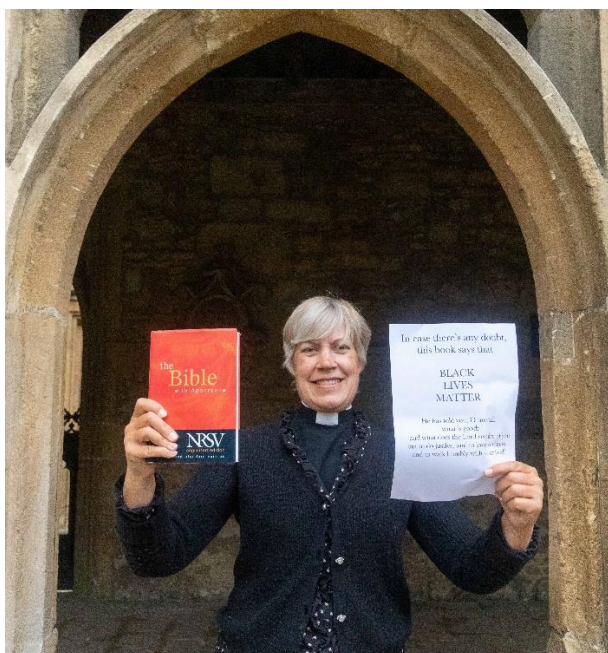
Some of you, I know, have suffered directly from Covid-19 and some have had to experience illness and loss amongst your family and friends, and you have my sincere sympathy. But even for those of you who have remained well, this crisis has had an unprecedented impact on your studies and your lives.

I have been struck over and over again by your resilience, by the cheerfulness in adversity of those of you whom I've had contact with this term, and by how you've made the best of the situation and managed to work through it. It's a remarkable achievement to complete an Oxford degree in these circumstances, and I hope you will take yours away with you feeling very proud of it. And as I've said before, I hope eventually to welcome you back in person to celebrate your achievements with you wearing my Dean of Arts hat (literally!) at a degree ceremony.

All good wishes to you for your future,

Ros

Tutor for Graduates



Dear leavers,

Congratulations! I hope that, in spite of the challenges of this past term, you have found your time as a postgraduate here has expanded your horizons, and opened up new ways of thinking and seeing the world. I did my D Phil here in Oxford (at a college not far from New College), and those years are still some of the most exciting of my life, when I met fascinating young scholars from all over the world, working on a range of subjects I hadn't even known existed. Those years also formed me as a scholar, gifted me with friends I still treasure, and shaped my professional life for many years to come. I hope that New College MCR has given you the same firm foundation, lasting friendships and opportunities for growth. Thank you for all that you have given back to the college in your time here, and for all that you will do in the future. Manners maketh man, and her students make the college.

New College love,

Erica

Dean of Divinity, Chaplain and Fellow

P.S. I chose the photo as I thought it captured the spirit of Trinity 2020: protest and lockdown hair!

Founding a New Oxfordian Society

Now let us grasp the opportunity

To advance the community

Disguised as a charity

Proclaim prosperity

For the society

In its entirety

For all eternity

Promoting herbal tea

- Sabine Raaf



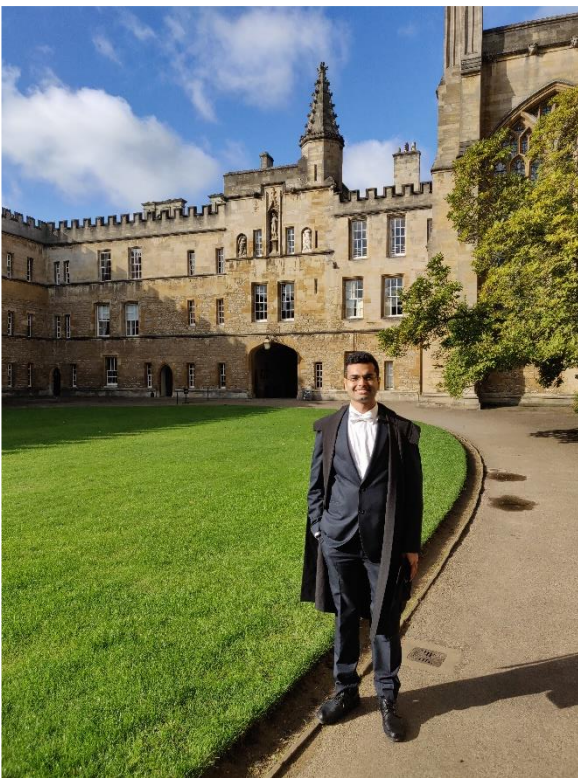
Photo credit: Fei Liu

An excerpt from the New Collection TT '20

“...Oxford University is rightly proud of its traditions, and they are a big part of being a student here. However, disability inclusion (particular access equality) often appears to be in tension with tradition. Between 2016 and 2018 across all colleges, Oxford admitted an average of just 5 undergraduate students per year who are wheelchair users or have significant mobility impairments. Talent is evenly distributed throughout society, but opportunity is still sparse for this demographic, many of whom would not even apply because of the (now often misplaced) perception that Oxford is inaccessible to them. New College is no exception, founded in 1379 and with buildings as old as they are beautiful. Access is improving vastly, but as a physically disabled student I am still sadly unable to access many of the teaching rooms in college or its impressive library, and am clearly one of the only wheelchair users to have ever been able to live on site. However, being part of the New College MCR over the past two years has helped me put my desire to celebrate my differences into action, and I have become vastly more confident as a result. The MCR is a welcoming, supportive and vibrant community of innovative thinkers and diverse talents. This environment has helped me to throw myself into college life. During my time here I have been the first occupant of the Kimber Wing, brand new state-of-the-art accommodation which has given me more independence in my daily life than I ever thought

possible. I have also served as the MCR's first ever Disabilities Officer, working with the college to improve access and ensure that my happy experience here remains available to the next generation of New College students, regardless of physical capability (the Pavilion building is now fully accessible, a big change from not being able to get up to the MCR for the official Freshers welcome event when I started!). Lastly, I have edited this journal, and am proud to have opened it up to non-peer reviewed submissions, which has resulted in the publication of three important pieces celebrating equality and diversity. Most importantly however, I have met some great people who have given me cause to believe that Oxford truly can become a place that celebrates diversity. Tradition is a powerful force that mediates the links between past and present. This is important to maintain but can be done inclusively or exclusively. If we learn to challenge tradition to include our differences, we may better reap its benefits in uniting people as a community that is open, understanding and embracing of the inherent diversity that makes us strong. There is a long way to go and many battles still to be fought, but the more that people feel comfortable to celebrate what makes them different, the easier these will become and the more we will all benefit from their contribution."

- *Harry Gable*



“One of my best experiences at Oxford has been the music performances at the New College church and other places including the Sheldonian Theatre and Holywell Music room. In all these experiences, I have been inspired and energised by the talent, the sense of community, the sense of history and tradition and the sense of belonging that is unmatched. Coming from a sciences and engineering background, I had not experienced the wonderful world of leadership through music and the arts. Its given me a lot of perspective and equipped me, I hope, to tackle the opportunities and challenges that await us.” - Aditya Chopra



- Matsidiso Mdakane

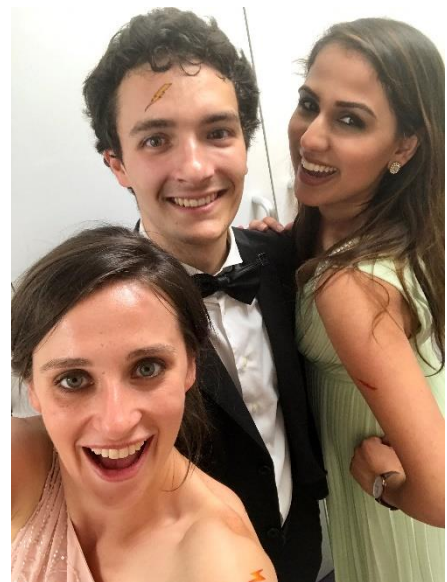
What is your best memory at Oxford?

“The Hall singing happy birthday to me at a Guest Night followed by a bop... That night set the benchmark for birthdays!” - Harry Gable

“Exploring, experiencing, simply doing and thinking so much that I could easily fill the pages of my diary every day.” - Sabine Raaf

“Beautiful college, nice friends and our MCR.” - Fei Liu

“We hosted a cultural food exchange day with other students from the business school. It was such a fun night of dancing and eating delicious food” - Matsidiso Mdakane



“The people! And the dinners, parties, and balls!”

- Priyanka Panchal





“BBQs, G&Ds and Catan nights at Marston Manor and Regent Palace.”

- Victoire Déjean





“There are so many! Matriculation day, the Christmas Dinner, the bops, the Merton Winter Ball...”

- Julia Cailleteau





“Evensong at New College Chapel - A very warm thank you to the chapel and choir team for maintaining this wonderful tradition!”

- David Lehmann



A message to the leavers from a friend...

“September 28, 2016 changed my life forever. I had just arrived to Oxford from North Carolina. Lugging 2 large suitcases and a few other bags slung across my shoulders, I eventually made the trek to New College and the Weston Buildings – even if I got lost a time or two on the way. Not knowing anyone on this side of the world, I gazed upon my empty room, and I was convinced that I had made the biggest mistake of my life. Lonely and exhausted, I remember collapsing to my knees, crying, and wishing I had never boarded that plane. Today, as September 2020 quickly approaches, I wish I was boarding that plane again. Knowing what awaited me, I would gladly re-live it.

Like most of us, I was supposed to be in Oxford for Trinity 2020, over the summer, and most likely into Michaelmas. As fate would have it, I was going to be in the same house (Weston house 2!) as my first year. It was the perfect set-up for a storybook ending. I was looking forward to the brunches, guest nights, bops, garden parties, and other fun times with all of you – including an epic night of karaoke. I hoped to stand where “2016 Andrew” had once been and recognize all of the positive ways I’ve changed as a person. Some of you played a key role in making “2020 Andrew” a much better version of “2016 Andrew.” More importantly, I wanted to spend one last Oxford summer with the people who have impacted my life forever. Alas, it was not to be.

I cannot begin to list all of the wonderful times I had with my New College MCR family. My DPhil’s not quite finished yet, so I am not an “official leaver,” but I will be one before I know it! (I will try my best to return!) Nevertheless, I know many of the people who brightened my days at Oxford are leaving or will be soon. I talk to some of you all the time, I haven’t heard from some of you in a while, and perhaps we used to see each other but for various reasons we haven’t been in touch. Whichever category you fit in, please know that you truly blessed my life and I miss you so, so much. Whether you’re leaving now, soon, or not for a few years, I would love to hear from you.

My tears now are not for “the biggest mistake of my life” but for how much I miss you and how truly beautiful the past four years have been – the best decision I ever made! I think of the times with you and smile.

Feel free to reach out anytime. If you don’t have my number, send me an email: ajtzavaras13@gmail.com.

- Andrew Tzavaras



“Four years of DPhil life at Oxford is difficult to summarise in one single memory. Guest Night dinners, rowing Summer Eights, punting, running through Port Meadow, travelling back-and-forth between Oxford and Madang in Papua New Guinea – they are all very fond memories that I will treasure!”

- Mirjam Hazenbosch





*"My best memories in Oxford
are all the times I got to
spend with the wonderful
people I met here."*

- Victoria Christmann





The message wall

And so I rise...

- Matsidiso Mdakane

I love New College and all the people here. Feel honored to be a member of this family.

- Fei Liu

“A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step” – Lao Tzu. Thank you all for making my Oxford journey a great one!

- Mirjam Hazenbosch

Vagi bé!

- Marc Homs Dones

The past 4 years at New College have been amazing, and full of such great memories! I will miss the MCR, College, and the people but am so grateful for the wonderful friendships made.

- Priyanka Panchal

The last two years have been the hardest I've ever worked, but also the most fun I've ever had. Thanks to everyone who has been part of that! #NC4evs

- Harry Gable

This year at Oxford has been incredible in some many ways and I will cherish the memories I made! I met the best people and will never forget this experience!

I was so happy to have met you guys!! You made this year so special so thank you!

- Julia Cailleteau

Thanks to all my friends who made my life at Oxford truly exceptional! I have so many wonderful memories at New College! GDBM

- Victoire Déjean

Many thanks to all friends who I met for the wonderful dinners, celebrations and inspiring and insightful conversations over the last few years. I hope we will keep in touch, and I wish you all the very best for the future!

- Tanja Müller

Dear Warden Miles, I really enjoyed the music and chat-over-lunch sessions you hosted for students each term. They were a delightful addition to my New College and Oxford experience. Thank you :).

Farewell and bon voyage my friends!

- Aditya Chopra

Bis bald!

- Sabine Raaf

“Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself

any direction you choose.

You're on your own. And you know what you know.

And YOU are the [one] who'll decide where to go.

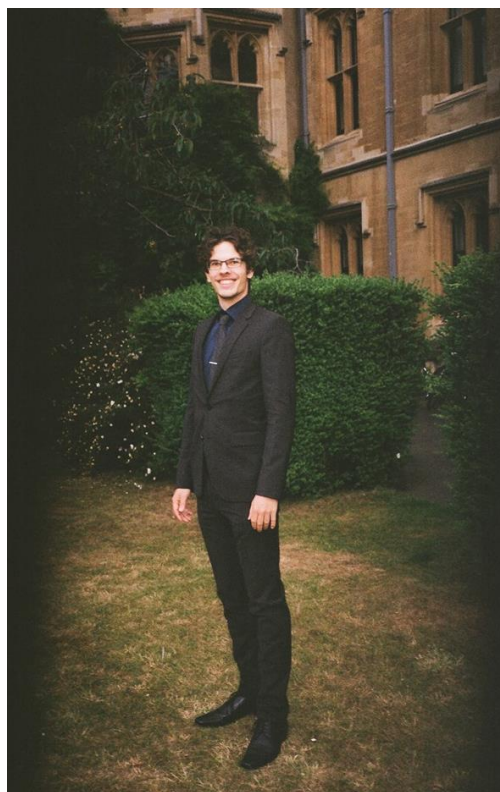
...

OH!

THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!”

- Dr. Seuss, *Oh the Places You'll Go!*

A final word from your MCR President



To everyone leaving us this summer,

I hope that you found Oxford, and New College in particular, a special place, both before and during the pandemic. As someone who left Oxford once already (after I graduated my Masters), I hope that you too will look back at the memories that you made and the people that you met and feel inspired.

Every single one of you has been a part of the Oxford life, which means that you not only take with you what I hope is a treasure chest of experiences and new skills, but you also leave something behind. Maybe you did not notice every moment when you contributed to someone's good time, gave someone a new perspective on their work

or life, or inspired someone to try something new, but I am absolutely sure that they were there.

Of course, there will also be bad memories of stressful times or bad encounters, leaving you with grey hairs or new wrinkles. In fact, when I handed in my Master's thesis, I declared that never again would I do something like this... but here we are, and I sincerely hope that in the end, the good outweighs the bad and that you are glad to have been here.

I hope that many of you will return to Oxford at some point or another, either in person, or in spirit when you are talking to the friends that you made here. I have really enjoyed meeting each one of you, and hope that you will think back on the MCR with fond memories. Until then, I wish to congratulate all of you. As you enter a new chapter, take a moment to acknowledge that you successfully finished a degree at Oxford - you did it and you deserve it.

With my very best wishes,

Steffen

MCR President '19-'20



Photo credit: Fei Liu

Title page photo credit: Fei Liu

Thank you to the New College MCR committee for feedback and input

