

October 2021

Dear first year undergraduate student,

As the Tutor for Admissions I welcome you most warmly to New College. I sincerely hope that your arrival at Oxford, your introduction to your fellow students, your tutors, and your academic work, proves to be a positive experience. In this most unusual of years, we are all very conscious that the previous few months have been extremely stressful. There will, no doubt, be many challenges to come before we can return to complete normality, but we are all optimistic that a corner has been turned and that we can look forward to better times ahead. Our hope is that we can continue to provide you with a safe and stimulating environment in which to begin your University experience, whatever the pandemic may throw at us over the coming months.

As Tutor for Admissions, I have overseen the interview and confirmation processes, and my final responsibility before turning my attention to next year's cohort is to oversee arrangements for freshers' induction week. I hope you will join me in extending grateful thanks to the students from the Junior and Middle Common Rooms who are helping with the events, and to all the staff who have worked hard organising this programme. As you can imagine, this has been particularly challenging this year, and we are all very grateful to the domestic team, who have had our collective safety at the forefront of their minds throughout the preparations. If you have any questions in these first couple of days, the JCR helpers are your first point of contact, the staff of the academic administration team are available at the top of Staircase 4 in the front quad, and you can contact me by emailing [john.mcgrady@chem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:john.mcgrady@chem.ox.ac.uk). As the week goes on you will meet all the staff and academics who have responsibility for your academic progress and welfare.

My formal role ends after Tuesday and the Freshers' Dinner, and I look forward to meeting many of you in person there. I hope that most of you will also get to meet your tutors at this event, in this case for the very first time following our enforced switch to online admissions interviews last December. I hope this marks the beginning of a successful term's work on your degree

course. Meanwhile, we're all here to offer you any help you need with your induction into New College and the University of Oxford.

Yours sincerely,

Professor John McGrady