

Dear New College Freshers,

Congrats! Firstly, for making it this far. It will have been a long road getting here and, like I have, I'm sure you'll find it's worth it. But also on picking the right college. A wise choice in my (unbiased) opinion.

New College is among the largest in Oxford, we have a vibrant and inclusive community, and it's a community that fits no stereotype. Anyone can explore their niche and make themselves fully at home. Our College motto is 'Manners Makyth Man', a radical motto at the time it was created (1379) because it symbolised the idea that you are the sum of your actions and not your background, which I've found to be true in my time here. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whatever you're interested in, there is a place for you and we're looking forward to welcoming you to the family!

Enough of the soppy stuff. I hope by now you've got the point - through the freshers' guide and this letter - that we're here to support you and make you feel at home. Let's explore a few reasons the college is so great and what it can offer you. It is, of course, a strong academic performer. Consistently ranking towards the top of the Norrington table (A scale of the nerdiest college in Oxford). I'm sure many of you know this already, and it may well have influenced your decision to apply here. For those who aren't fussed, do not fear, the exceptionalism doesn't stop there. We've got an abundance of sports teams - with netball, hockey, rugby, powerlifting and tennis all winning cuppers this year. We have annual Greek plays, pantos, orchestra performances and a world-renowned choir. Bragging complete.

All of that is great. It makes New College stand out. But what will characterise your time at uni is probably not your goal scoring record for the footy team, how well you delivered your line in the panto, or what part you had in the Greek play. You'll likely remember how happy you were, the quality of the friendships you formed, and the life lessons you learned along the way. This is what makes New College a place I've loved being a part of. It's been my social hub at uni, and it'll likely be yours. Informally through the friends you make and what you get up to in your spare time, but also through the varied social calendar the committee will provide. There'll be college bops, arts weeks, open mic nights, quizzes, cocktail nights, garden parties and much more. If it's not already on the agenda, anyone can pitch for some funding and get it on there.

I'm sure by now, offer confirmed, the reality that you're moving across the country to live with a bunch of strangers will be dawning on you. My advice is to harness this nervousness, however tricky that might be. It's not often you get a chance to fully throw yourself out of your comfort zone and immerse in a new world. Enjoy it. Realise that everyone else is in the same boat. They'll appreciate you introducing yourself, it saves them from 'breaking the ice'. Comfort can be great in many aspects of life, but it can also be your enemy. Try to meet a new group of people every day. It will probably be quite draining but, by the end of the week, you'll be able to look back on the amazing set of people you've met and the range of interactions you've had.

This attempt at inspirational thoughts may or may not have left you with anything useful. But what will be useful is the freshers' guide that the team have worked hard to provide - check it out. If you're left with any questions, feel free to message myself (via email or Facebook) or any of the relevant committee members. If you're only going to do one thing, it MUST be to join the [Facebook page](#). This is where we'll convey much of our important information to you in the lead up to the start of term.

See you in October!!

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