

Dear Freshers,

You've probably heard it a thousand times already, but it doesn't hurt to hear it again: congratulations on making it here! It's an amazing achievement and you should all be very proud. The JCR committee and I are really excited to welcome you to New College this year and get to know you all during Fresher's Week.

For those of you who don't know, the JCR is a committee of 30 elected students who represent undergrads at New College and organise student events throughout the year. We're here to look after your interests and welcome you to your new home for the next three years. As you'll soon find out, first year absolutely flies by! It feels like just yesterday when I was arriving at college for the first time in October, feeling all the nervousness, excitement and anticipation that goes with moving to a new place and meeting new people. The JCR is here to help you and make your life easier!

Now for some unsolicited advice from me for Fresher's Week and first year... My best piece of advice is to remember that everyone is in the same boat (pretty cliché, I know!). Everyone is nervous about meeting new people and moving to a new place, so the best thing you can do is try and push yourself out of your comfort zone: talk to as many people as you can during Fresher's Week and get involved in as much as possible! You won't click with everyone, but you're guaranteed to make some great new friends. The Fresher's team have put together a fantastic schedule for the week, including a poker night, the iconic toga party, Fresher's Formal, karaoke and loads more! Equally, don't forget to rest and recharge; the week can feel a bit overwhelming at times, so don't be afraid to take one night off to wind down.

I'd also like to congratulate you on choosing objectively the best Oxford college! New College has a pretty big undergrad cohort, so we have a great mix of interesting people from all different walks of life. In spite of this, we have a wonderful sense of community at college; you'll find everyone is very friendly and you'll have the opportunity to get involved in lots of different college events: BOPs (college club nights), hanging out in the college bar, playing in college sports teams and more. You'll probably find that college is the centre of your social life, but don't forget that there are lots of different university wide societies that you can join as well.

My final piece of advice: remember that first year is not the be all, end all of your university career, especially in terms of academics. It's the time to try new things, meet new friends and make mistakes: you're figuring out how to live by yourself and manage your time with loads of different commitments. Make sure to cut yourself some slack, and don't be afraid to reach out if you need any kind of support.

Thanks for making it all the way to the bottom of this letter! If you have any questions, please message me on Facebook or send me an email. There's no such thing as a silly question and the JCR and I are here to make your transition to New College as smooth as possible. Also, please make sure to join the [Facebook page](#) and follow our [Instagram](#)! We'll communicate a lot of information on it in the run up to Fresher's Week.

Looking forward to meeting you in October!

Emily (JCR President – 23/24)  
[emily.cameron@newc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emily.cameron@newc.ox.ac.uk)