

FRONT QUADRANGLE (1)

As you move from the original Porters' Lodge, you enter the Front Quadrangle. The arrangement by which all essential buildings, such as the Chapel, Hall, libraries and sleeping quarters, were placed in one quadrangle was novel at the time, and has since formed a model for many later colleges.

Looking up, you will see a third storey that was added in the late seventeenth-century. You can also see numerous grotesques and gargoyles above the Chapel and Hall, which are commonly seen throughout the College.

CLOISTERS (2)

The Cloisters and Bell Tower were the last part of the original College buildings to be completed (in 1400). Cloisters were originally intended as an area of peace and quiet meditation and study, and New College retains this original function. There are also numerous memorial tablets on the walls and graves beneath the flagstones, and the fourteenth-century statues around the walks of the Cloisters represent various saints.

The nineteenth-century *Ilex* (evergreen holm-oak) in the corner is more recently known as the scene from *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*.

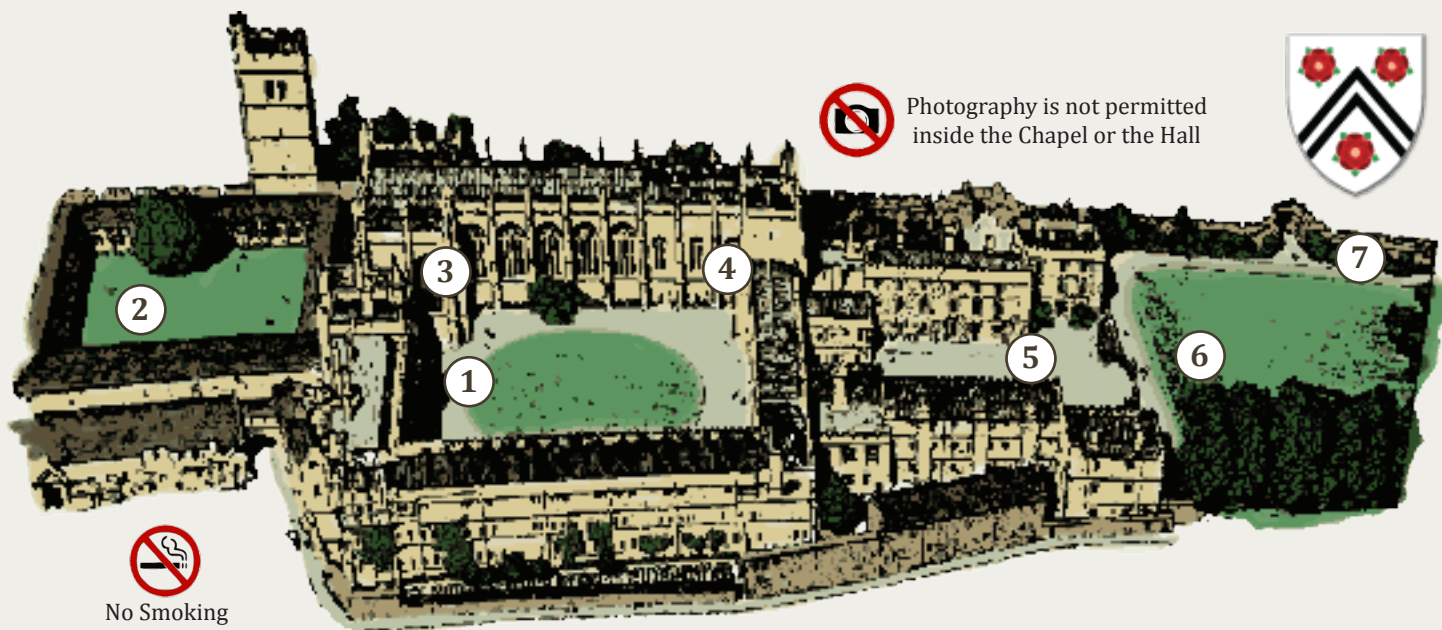
CHAPEL (3)

The Chapel is an original feature, with the walls and tracery dating from the fourteenth-century. The roof and woodwork are nineteenth-century additions.

Evensong, sung by the internationally-acclaimed New College Choir, takes place most days during University Term. Details of services and of the choir can be found on the noticeboard outside the Chapel, or at the Old Lodge.

Items of interest in the Chapel are:

- the Founder's crozier of silver-gilt and enamel
- El Greco's (1541-1614) painting of St James, now thought to be a self-portrait
- the organ (Grant, Degens, and Bradbeer, 1969)
- the 18th-century stained glass
- the medieval misericords underneath the rear seats
- the reredos behind the altar, which represents the orders in the Te Deum



ANTE-CHAPEL (3)

The Ante-Chapel is the entrance to the Chapel, and forms part of the first T-shaped plan, an arrangement now seen in many Oxford College chapels.

Items of interest in the Ante-Chapel are:

- the medieval stained glass
- the great West Window by Sir Joshua Reynolds, a painted 18th-century piece depicting the nativity and the seven virtues
- Jacob Epstein's statue of Lazarus
- the war memorial to the members of College, including a separate memorial to the College's German members

HALL (4)

The Hall is the oldest dining hall in either Oxford or Cambridge, and remains in daily use for student meals. It is also the tallest College Hall and normally seats 200.

The linenfold panelling on the walls was added in the sixteenth-century, and the portraits on the walls are mainly of previous heads of the College (wardens). To the right of the West wall is a portrait of Reverend Spooner, well known for the 'spoonerism'.

GARDEN QUADRANGLE (5)

The Garden Quadrangle buildings were added successively in the fifteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and are now home to both Fellows and students. The Quadrangle is closed by an 18th-century wrought-iron screen, crafted by Thomas Robinson.

GARDENS (6)

The Mound is an Elizabethan feature, with such 'mounts' commonly found in formal gardens during the Tudor period. Contrary to belief, the Mound was not a burial ground and is purely decorative, intended as a viewing platform above the City Wall.

The Gardens are said to boast the longest herbaceous border in the country, which can be found on the North side by the City Wall. To the South side are several larger trees: a Manna ash, a Luccombe oak, and a golden yew.

CITY WALL (7)

The City Wall is considerably older than the College, dating from the 12th-century. When the Founder secured the land on which to build the College, he also accepted the obligation to maintain the City Wall. Every three years, the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of Oxford circumambulate the Wall to assure themselves that the obligation is being fulfilled.



New College, founded in 1379, is one of the thirty-eight constituent colleges of the University of Oxford.

The College consists of the Warden and 60 Fellows, as well as 600 junior members (undergraduates and graduates), most of whom live in the College Buildings or College houses nearby. The courses of study cover a range of subjects.

THE FOUNDATION

The College was founded by William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester and Chancellor of England, and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, whose statue stands beside the Founder above the Front Gate. New College, or “the College of St Mary of Winchester in Oxford”, is the second Oxford college to be named after St Mary Winton, which is why the College has been known as New College from early days.

New College, originally founded for the education of priests and as a choral foundation, has played an extremely important part in education at the University, being the first college for undergraduates, and the first in which senior members of the College had tutorial responsibility for undergraduates.

THE FOUNDATION TODAY

Today’s College is very similar to that in 1379, and stays true to its original foundation. New College remains, first and foremost, an intellectual community, and its only criterion for admission is that of academic excellence.

Nowadays, however, most students will have their own individual rooms, the majority of which are en-suite, in stark contrast to the provisions even fifty years ago. The College began to admit women in 1979, and has continually adapted to offer new courses of study.



VISITING THE COLLEGE

- **Please remember that the College is a place of study all year round.**
- To avoid interrupting the College’s daily functioning, please keep to the areas indicated on the map, avoid wandering into staircases or areas marked as private, and try to make as little noise as possible during your visit.
- Photography is not permitted inside the buildings.
- Visitors are not permitted to smoke anywhere within the College Grounds.
- Please keep off the grass, and do not climb the stairs to the Mound.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- *Fire:* you will hear a continuous alarm. Please leave the building immediately and assemble in the Front Quad.
- *Hall steps:* these are uneven and can be slippery when wet. Please take care and use the handrail.
- *Uneven surfaces:* owing to the age of the grounds and buildings, many surfaces are uneven. Please take extra care when walking around the College.



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NEW COLLEGE

A VISITOR'S GUIDE