

Dear Freshers,

First of all, a huge congratulations! Getting into Oxford is no small feat- whether it still feels surreal or it's finally starting to sink in, you should be incredibly proud of what you've already achieved. Now that the stress of offers, exams and results is behind you, I hope you're starting to get excited about what's ahead! It was the JCR Committee that helped turn Oxford from something daunting into somewhere I could genuinely feel at home- and we can't wait to welcome you in just the same way.

Oxford can feel like a whole new language at first- between words like 'collections', 'vac' and 'plodge', it's easy to feel a bit lost! The JCR is another one of those terms that might seem confusing at first because it refers both to the entire undergraduate body, as well as the physical common room we all share within college. The JCR Committee is made up of over 30 students who work to make college life as easy and enjoyable as possible, whether that's by representing your views to college leadership or putting on events that will form the basis of your social life in college. From welfare treats like ice cream trips and picnics in the summer, to social occasions including pub quizzes and BOPs (our themed parties), the JCR has something on offer for everyone!

Whether it's something happening in college or an event across the wider university, the JCR is here to help you get stuck into everything Oxford has to offer. You will be kept up to date with all things JCR-related through my weekly President's Post and regular emails from specific JCR Committee members. Please also be sure to join the New College JCR [Facebook group](#) and follow the [Instagram account](#) where we will be posting lots of informal updates! And do take the time to read through the Freshers' Guide- it's packed with everything you'll want to know before you arrive, and it's a great way to feel a little more at ease before the term begins!

However you're feeling right now, whether it's excitement, nerves, or somewhere in between, please know that it's completely normal! Starting at Oxford means stepping into a whole new world: moving away from home, living on your own for the first time, and being surrounded by strangers in an unfamiliar place. It's a big change that can feel overwhelming at times, and there is no expectation that you'll have figured it all out in the first few weeks. The best piece of advice I can offer is simply to get involved- come along to events, say hello to new faces even if it feels daunting at first, and give yourself space to take a break and adjust at your own pace. Everyone is in the same position as you so, whether you're spending time in the college gardens, playing in a college sports team or joining a university-wide society, you'll find that people are just as eager to make new friends as you are!

First year is all about finding your feet. It's the time to make mistakes, try new things, and balance your studies with life outside of essays and problem sheets! You'll quickly find there is always support around you in college- our Freshers' team has put together a fantastic week of events designed to help you settle in, with karaoke, the annual Freshers' Formal, and even a Mario Kart tournament!

If you have any questions at all or just want to say hello, please don't hesitate to drop me an email or send me a message on social media. No question is ever too small or too silly- the JCR Committee is here to make sure your transition into college life as smooth as possible!

We are all really looking forward to meeting you in October!

Harry Aldridge (JCR President- 2025/26)

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