

Dear Freshers,

A huge, huge congratulations on being accepted into New College! This is an incredible achievement, and I know how much hard work and determination it has taken to get here. I hope you have enjoyed a well-deserved summer after your exams, and are looking forward to getting started on university!

My name is Paarth, and I am your JCR President for the next year. Oxford is quite a unique university as it is collegiate, and the community of undergrads at a college is the Junior Common Room. Slightly confusingly, the common room which has our pool table, table tennis table, TV and lots more, is also called the JCR. The JCR receives a budget from college each year, to run a wide range of events and initiatives. There will be fortnightly JCR meetings in which you will be able to hear what the JCR committee is up to, motion for funds, and enjoy free pizza!

As President it is my responsibility to ensure the JCR functions as it should, and to represent the interests of the undergrads to the various college committees and the Warden. That means if you ever have any concerns or questions you can always knock on my door or drop me a message. You will meet many of the committee, as they are central to making college life enjoyable, and do take a look at the roles, as many of you will be taking up the reins in a years time!

First year is an amazing experience, being placed in the heart of a city with such history, with a whole new group of people, will not be something you are likely to experience again. So make the most of it! Go out, explore, grasp every opportunity that comes your way- there is something for everyone, and this is the best time to find the communities and places that resonate with you the most.

As term goes on, you will learn to adjust to the academic demands of being at Oxford and it can feel like a lot at times, to manage and stay on top of essays and problem sheets. However, don't forget that there is plenty of help around, don't hesitate to get in touch with your college parent or anyone in the older years- New College is a closely knit community and everyone will be ready to support you!

If you have any questions before term starts, feel free to drop me an email, and the JCR will be running a Q&A session in September to make you feel more ready to move in!

Looking forward to seeing you in October.

Paarth Goswami

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