

2023

BRASENOSE COLLEGE

JCR FRESHERS' GUIDE



WELCOME TO BRASENOSE!

Hello **FRESHERS...**

Firstly, a massive congratulations on your confirmed place, and a very warm welcome to Brasenose College!

We are Chess and Susie, and we are lucky enough to be tasked with planning your freshers' week, with the help of a lovely team of helpers.

The aim of this guide is to introduce ourselves, the JCR (more on this later!), and give you an overview of life at Brasenose.

We hope this guide will answer lots of questions and help you feel prepared and relaxed heading into freshers week. Please feel free to email us with any question, big or small, and we will get back to you ASAP!

We look forward to seeing you very soon!

Chess and Susie xxx

(or Francesca and Susannah for email purposes)

(Freshers' reps)



@brasenosejcr



Brasenose JCR 2022-23



@brasenoseneeds @brasenosejcr



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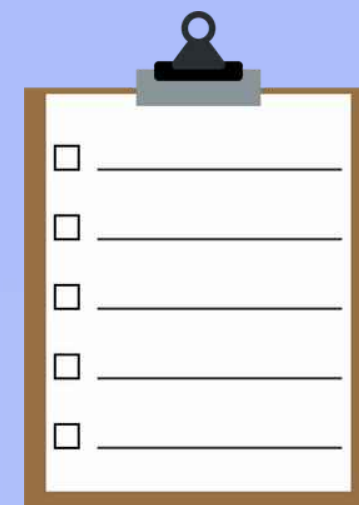
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To-Do List



Before you arrive, please make sure that you have filled in all of the forms that the College Office will have sent to you about residency etc. Doing this straightaway helps the College Administrators organise things and means you will have a much smoother arrival in October.

These to-dos are all listed with more information on the website under the link 'UG next steps' - <https://freshers.bnc.ox.ac.uk/ug-next-steps/>



1. **College Contract and Freshers' Dinner** - print this out, sign it and return it to college via the submissions portal



2. **University Card Form** - print this out, sign it and attach a passport photo. This should also be returned via the submissions portal. Top tip - make sure this isn't a photo you hate, as this will be with you for your entire course at Oxford!



3. **Medical information** - complete the medical registration form linked in the letter from the College Doctors so that you can be registered with Dr Leaver and Partners before you come to Oxford.



4. **Students with Disabilities or Health Concerns** - If you have declared any form of disability or medical condition (including dyslexia and dyspraxia) when you submitted your UCAS application, the Disability Advisory Service will have been in touch with you. PLEASE ensure that you reply to them quickly to make sure you can get any adjustments you need. If you did not declare anything on your application, but would now like to make the College Officers aware, then please email DAS immediately. Email - disability@admin.ox.ac.uk



5. **Online IT Induction and Student Registration** - please complete the set up of your account and enrol online. This is **very** important and you need it before you can study!



6. **Download Facebook** - If, like most of us, you have never used Facebook before, it is most definitely worth downloading before arriving at Oxford. Facebook helps us to keep be up to date with events and things going on in Oxford and Brasenose.

After downloading, please be sure to join 'Brasenose Freshers' 2023'. This page will be updated very regularly throughout the first couple of weeks of term. We aim to utilise this as a virtual space for freshers to ask any question, as well as receive daily timetable updates of fresher events!

Whilst you're there, remember to join 'Brasenose JCR 2023-24'. This group is updated constantly throughout the year with loads of info on upcoming events etc. and is a great space for all Brasenose students



WELCOME FROM THE JCR PRESIDENT

Phew, the wait is over... You did it! You made it! You're coming to Brasenose College, Oxford in October! Sounds pretty cool, doesn't it? Time to stop worrying about grades and start worrying about how many pairs of pants you need to bring, and how you're gonna wash them when it isn't enough...

Hi everybody!

Hi! I'm Lexi, a third-year English student, and I'm the current JCR President here at Brasenose.

As President, I am the bridge between the student body and the SCR (senior common room) - any student concerns, demands or opinions are relayed via myself to Brasenose staff like the Principal and the Bursar. I also have a seat at frequent meetings with other members of the SCR to provide student perspectives and insight when decisions are being made.

During my time as President, I have been striving to make BNC a more inclusive place for students of all social-economic backgrounds and using my own experiences to spread awareness of things that needed to change. (Pushing for more 'in-reach' as Joe Organ likes to call it).

I have an incredible committee of very passionate and determined people whom I work closely with to ensure every student at Brasenose is represented and feels heard.

I'm incredibly lucky to be working with such an incredible committee this year - we're a great and passionate bunch, all looking to make BNC an even better, safer and more comfortable place to live and study in. Genuinely cannot wait to see what we get up to for the next three terms!

See you all in Michaelmas!

Please don't ever hesitate to approach me (or anyone in my lovely committee) if you have any concerns or issues, or if you just want to talk!



jcr-president@bnc.ox.ac.uk



The JCR is a few different things. The junior common room is (unsurprisingly) a room in college. It's got a pool table, a PlayStation, some really comfy chairs- great to nap on- and is the home of undergraduates in Brasenose. It is also the name we use for the collective (about 400 of us now, I think?) undergraduate students. We have a facebook group through which we organise literally everything in our lives and a committee that helps make our little community stay happy and healthy throughout our stay here.

(for more info about the workings of the JCR see the JCR info pack :))

MEET THE JCR COMMITTEE

The "JCR", or "Junior Common Room", is a term with two meanings. The first meaning refers to the body of undergraduate members of the college, including everyone from finalists to first years (you!). The second is the physical room in college reserved for use by those members - our common room is a welcoming, comfortable space, hosting our meetings, welfare teas and much more. The JCR has a committee made up of students, who are all here to help you out!

Let's get to know them....

EL DAHAN - VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

hi, i'm El (she/her), a third year classicist from london and your new academic vice president! i'm looking forward to organising all things democratic in the jcr, from motions and referendums to hustings for jcr positions. i'm also looking forward to getting as many people as possible involved in jcr meetings and supporting our newly elected president lexi!

when im not in the library, you can usually find me playing pool in the jcr, dtb, or in the pret queue :)



**VICE-PRESIDENT
(ACADEMIC)**
El Dahan

SAM BEALING - VICE-PRESIDENT (DOMESTIC)

Hi, I'm Sam a 3rd year Medic from Manchester and I'm your VPD for this academic year. I'll be in charge of all things domestic in college from JCR storage to the room ballet and singing process. I also organise Guest nights (arguably the biggest perk of the job). If you have any questions about accommodation or hall food etc please feel free to contact me or stop me in a quad for a chat!!!

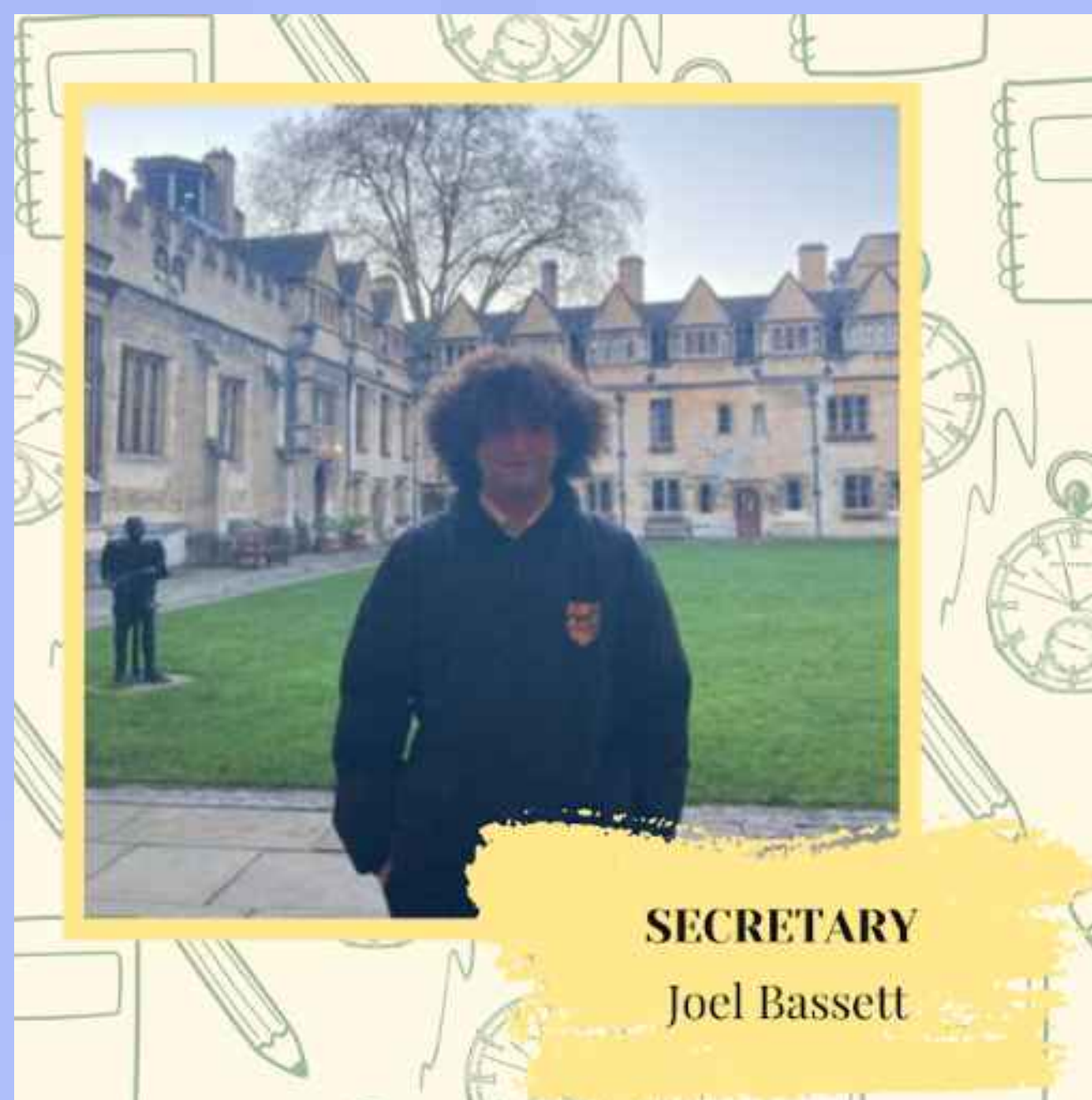


**VICE-PRESIDENT
(DOMESTIC)**
Sam Bealing

JOEL BASSETT - SECRETARY

Hi everyone! I'm Joel (he/him), a second year historian, and I can't wait to start as your new JCR secretary! I'm honoured to have been elected alongside such a wonderful committee, and I hope to continue Yas's brilliant work in helping the JCR to run efficiently.

I'm sure you'll all be hearing from me soon (perhaps too much!) over email or at JCR meetings, but please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions about the JCR!
Huge BNC love



REN PALMER - TREASURER

i'm ren (she/they) and i'm your newly-elected jcr treasurer! i take care of jcr finances, sort out the levies each term (something you'll become well acquainted with soon), and help make events as accessible as possible. i can often be found in the library (likely distracted, not studying) or wandering the streets of oxford befriending cats. most of what i do is behind the scenes, but i'm always around to answer any questions (or if you would just like to chat)!



JUI ZAVERI - D&E

hi! im jui, a third-year classics and english student and you new diversity n equality rep! i cannot tell you how excited i am to work with all of you this year so that bnc can continue to be the wonderful place it is and celebrating the diversity that makes it so special. additionally, im here to address any issues faced by minority groups in college, so please get in touch with me if you ever need anything (even if it's just a chat and some tea) ❤️❤️❤️



oh also! shameless plug - follow @bncdiversity to keep up with all the fun, funky and fresh d n e content!!!!!!



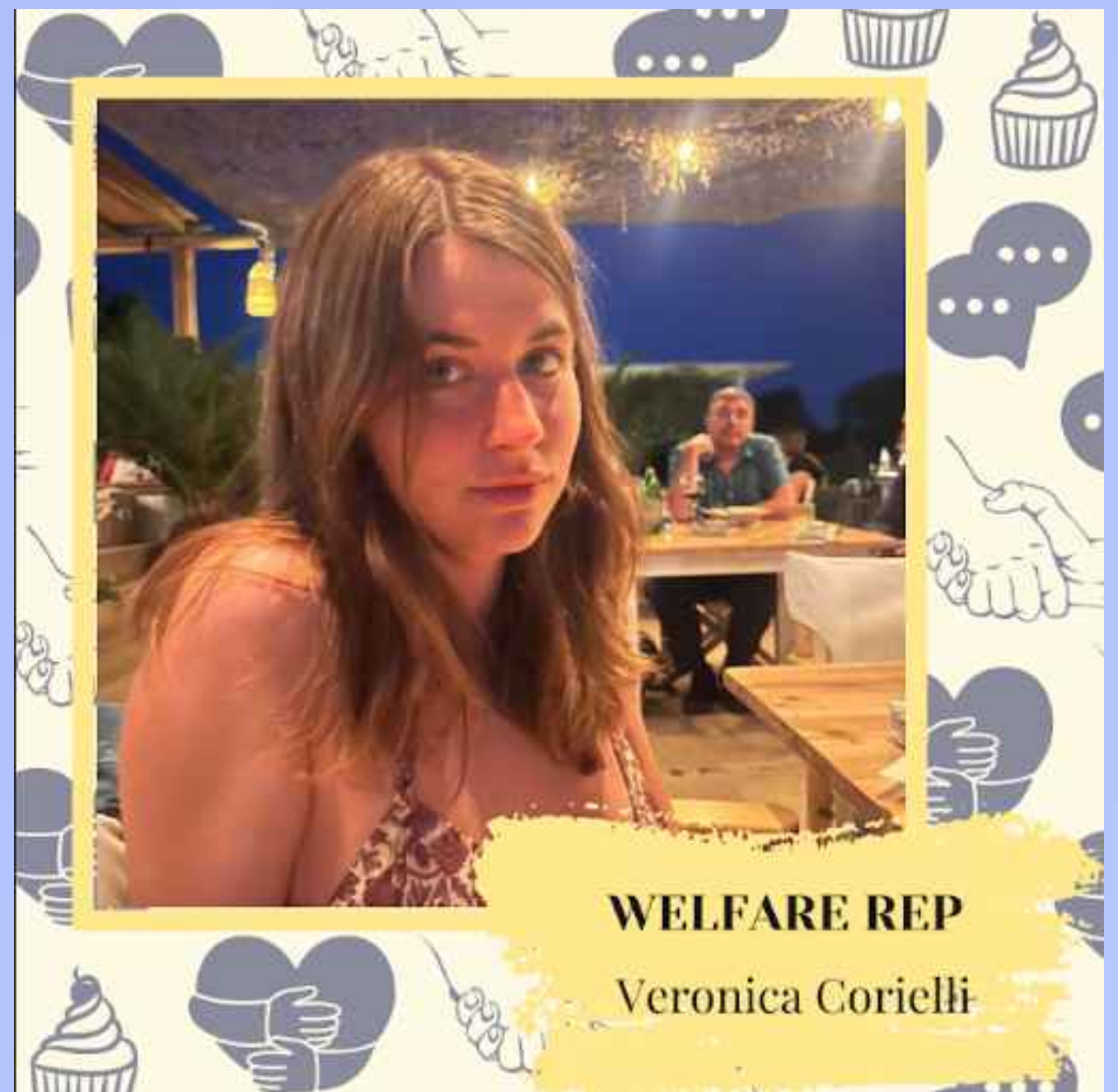


LILY MCDERMOTT - WOMEN*S'S

hi everyone! i'm lily (she/they) a second-year english student, and i'm so excited to be your new women*s's officer my job is to represent the interests of all the wonderful women, non-binary, and femme-identifying people here at brasenose! this will include signposting you to resources, organising events, and generally doing all i can to maintain our equality, welfare, and safety in college! if you have any questions, or just want a chat about anythings women*s's related, please drop me a dm! i'd love to chat
i'll also use this opportunity to plug @bnc_femsoc so that you can stay updated on any upcoming events! i absolutely can't wait to get started lots of bnc love xxx

VERONICA CORIELLI - WELFARE REP

Hi! My name is Veronica (nickname Vero) and I am a second year classicist, originally from Italy but I did my A-levels in the UK. I'm going to be one of the three Welfare Reps this term . I love drawing, especially with watercolour and am a big fan of musicals. Looking forward to meeting all of you!!

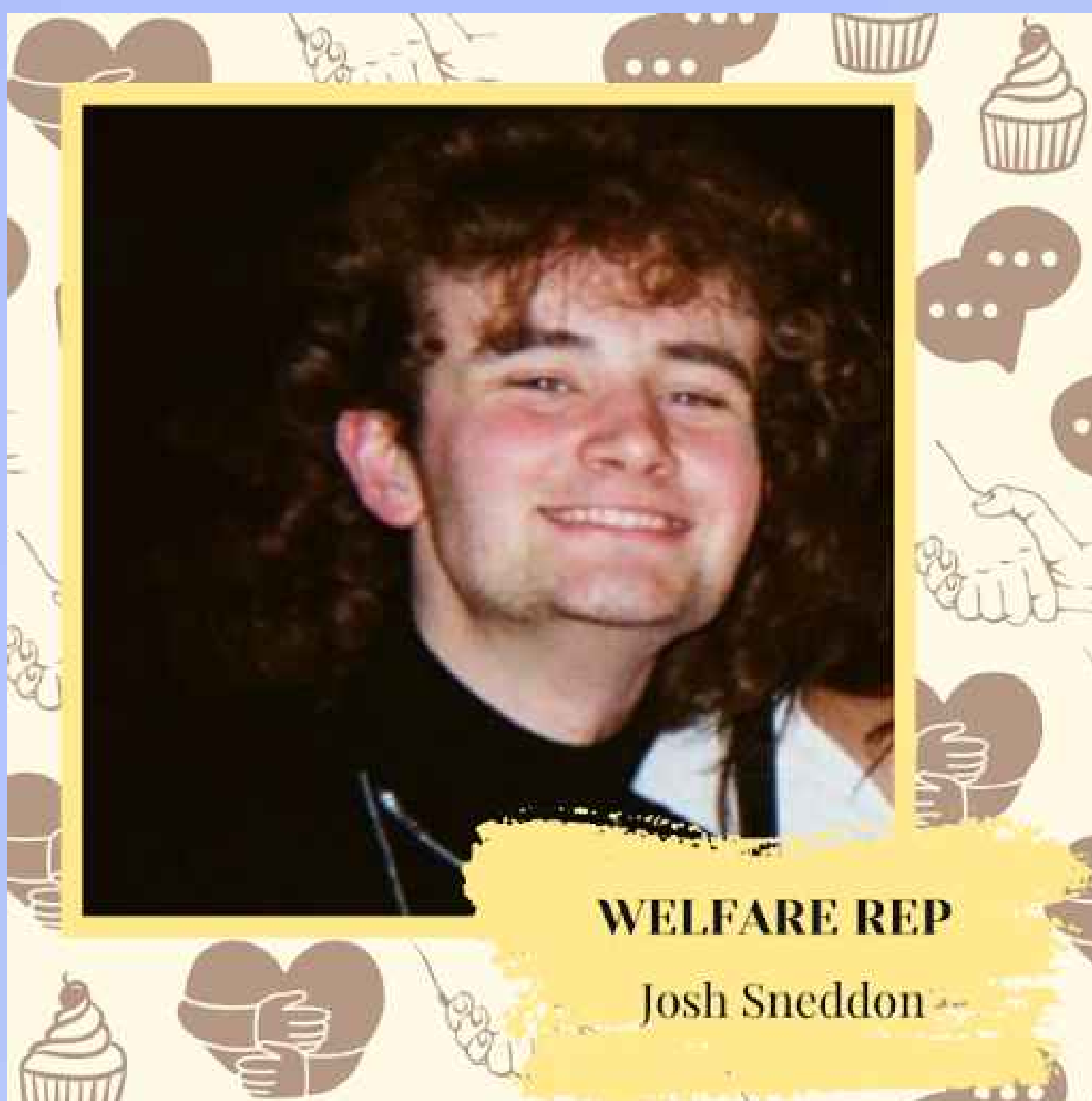


WELFARE REP
Veronica Corielli

JOSH SNEDDON - WELFARE REP

Hi I'm Josh (he/him) I'm a third year English student from Lichfield, and I will be one of your welfare reps this year! Alongside Issie and Emily, we'll be here to support you throughout this year, so feel free to to come say hi if you want to have a chat with us about anything.

I hope you've had a wonderful vac!
Massive welfare love,
Josh

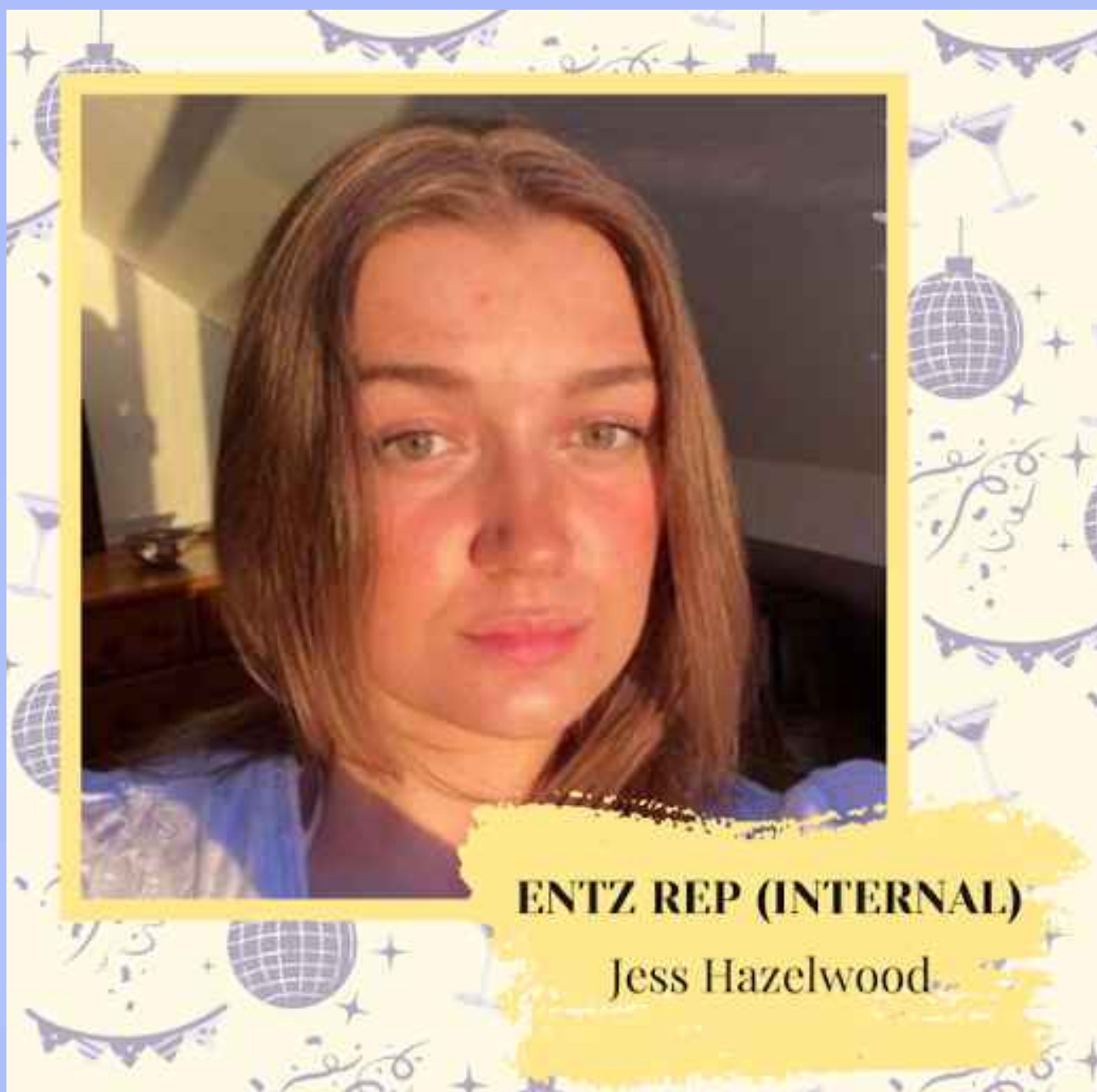
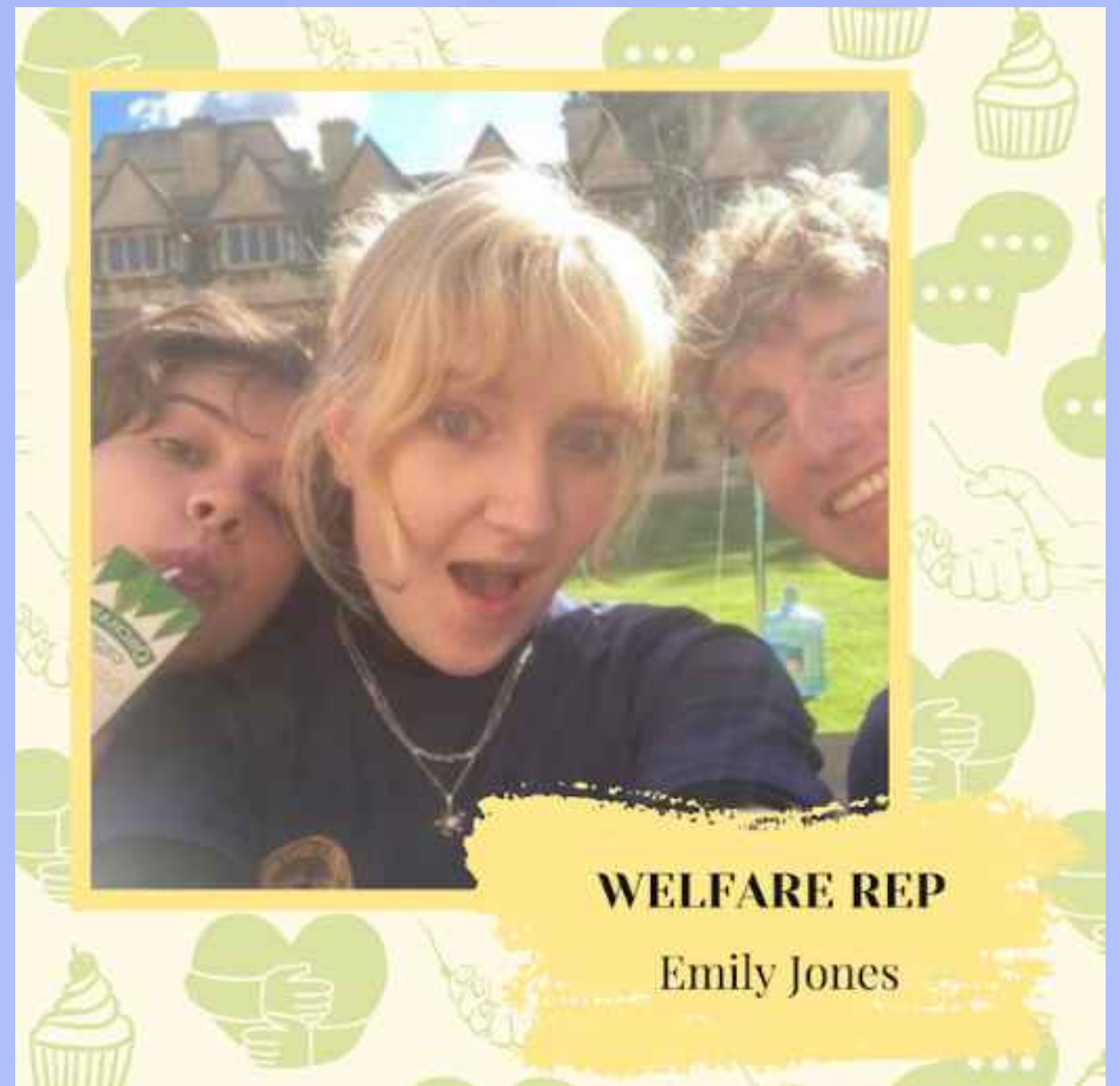


WELFARE REP
Josh Sneddon

EMILY JONES - WELFARE REP

Hello lovely Brasenostriils! My name is Emily (she/her) and I have the privilege of being one of your welfare reps this year alongside the amazing Josh and Veronica I'm always down for a coffee, walk in uni parks or even a little crafting sesh – but most of all I'm here for a confidential chat about anything and everything (and the provisioning of free food ;)).

Please get in touch any time and I hope you enjoy all the fun events ahead, too !! <3

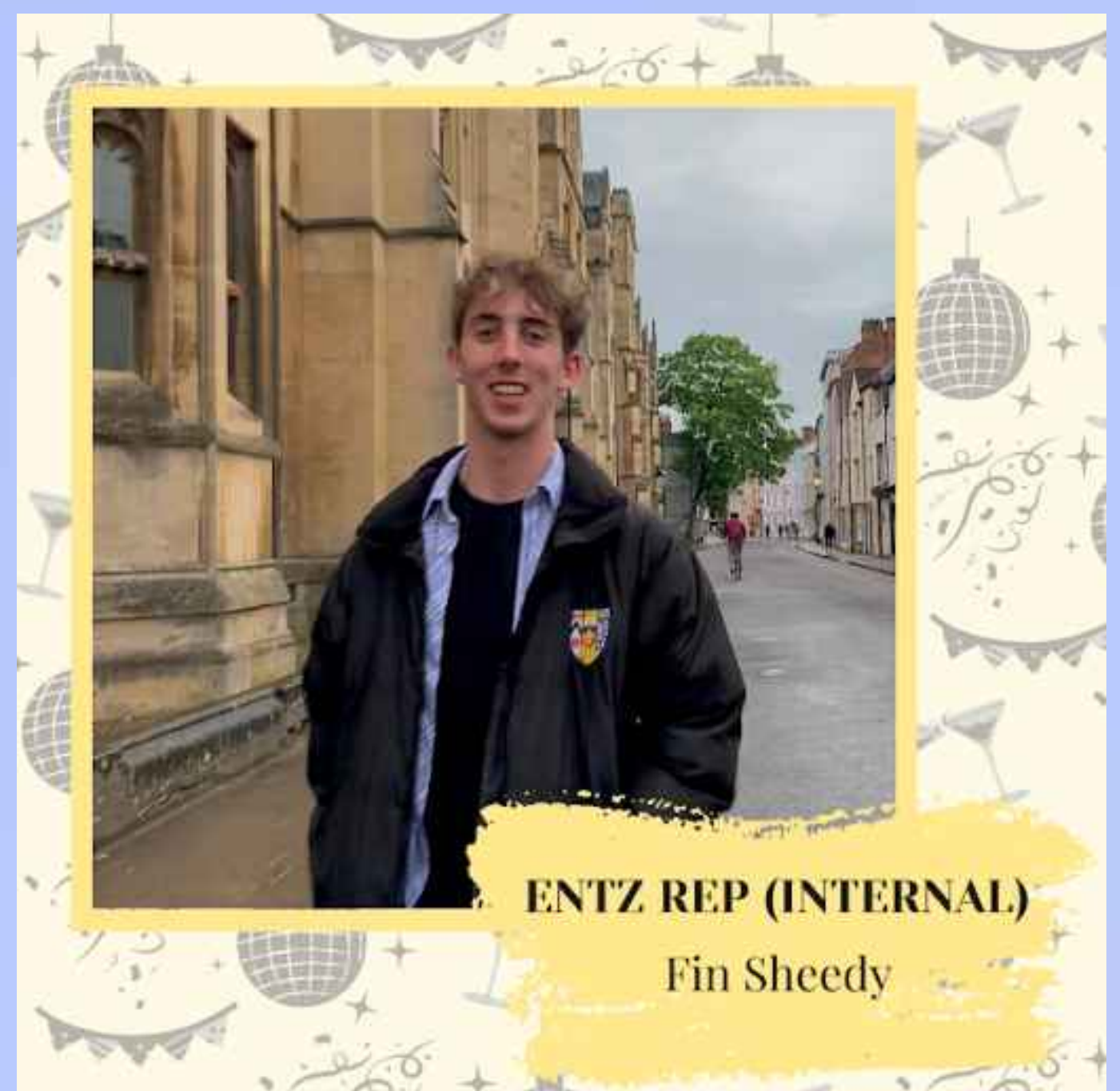


JESS HAZELWOOD - INTERNAL ENTZ REP

Hi guys! I'm Jess (she/her) and I'm internal entz rep. This means I'm in charge of in college events and bops! Very excited to continue to throw the best parties in Oxford, also excited to work with Fin and trust me we have loads of fun in store for you all be sure to follow the entz instagram for updates @brasenosentz

FIN SHEEDY - EXTERNAL ENTZ REP

As External Entz Rep, Fin works alongside Jess to ensure the smooth running of everything Entz in college. In particular, he is focused on organising the Balls (e.g. Matriculation, Christmas, etc.), Garden Parties, and other unmissable Brasenose celebrations for all to attend.

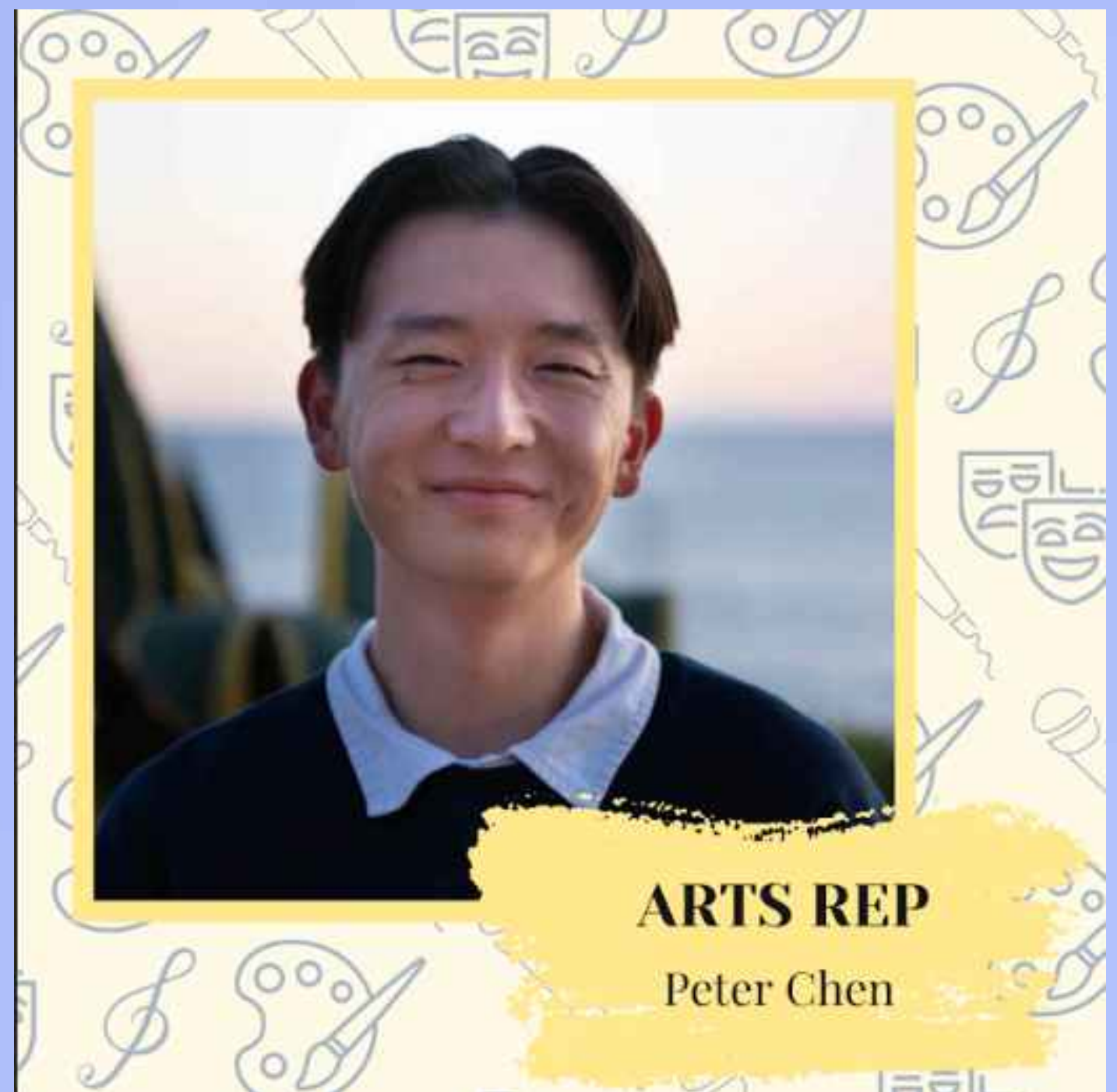


PETER CHEN - ARTS REP

"Hey everyone! My name is Peter and I'm your new Arts rep! I'm a second year lawyer from Los Angeles, California and I'm very excited to be your go-to for everything arts related! I'm a massive art history nerd so please come chat to me about Jeff Koons (but not the balloon dogs), medieval religious art, or Basquiat.

Please do send me (jcr-artsrep@bnc.ox.ac.uk) any arts-related performances/exhibitions/events that you're involved in so I can promote it within college!

I also really want to encourage everyone to apply for the arts committee so that we can make arts week in Trinity ABSOLUTELY AMAZING and keep up bnc's reputation as the best arts (and law) college! 🎨"

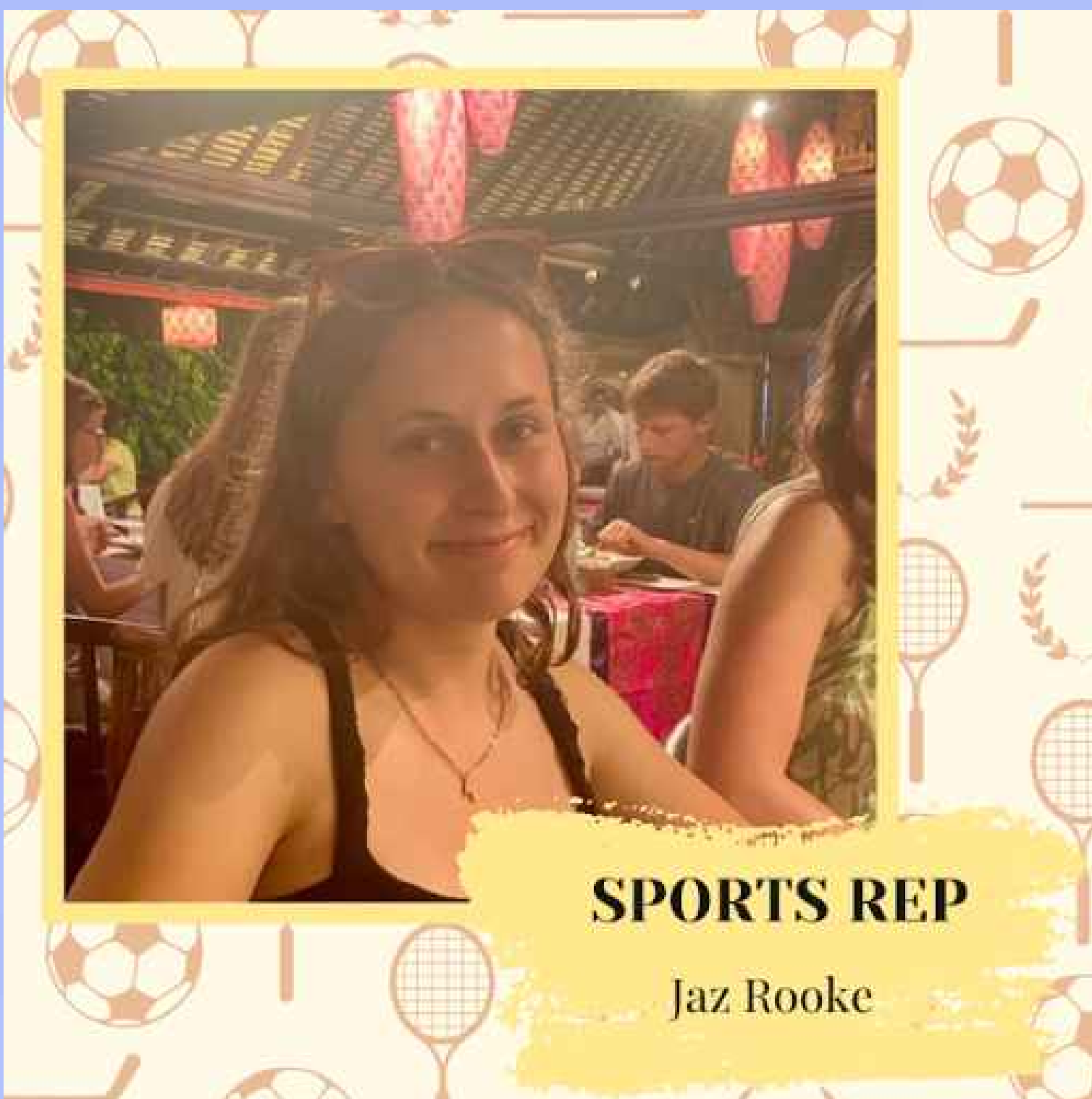


JAZ ROOKE - SPORTS REP

"Hi, I'm Jaz (she/her), a third-year geographer from Bristol, and I'm your new sports rep!

I'm so excited for this year of college sports and all the fun events we have lined up! I'm really hoping we can get as many people as possible involved in trying new sports this year and hopefully get some cuppers wins...

If you want to keep updated with our sporting successes, follow @brasenose_sport, and feel free to message me if you have any questions!"



WYATT RADZIN - ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS REP

Hello!! I'm Wyatt Radzin, a third year PPEist from the US. As this year's E+E Rep, I'm looking forward to promoting a culture of sustainability and love for the environment in the Brasenose community. I'm also always here to listen to your ideas about making BNC a more sustainable and/or ethical place, so please never hesitate to reach out! :)





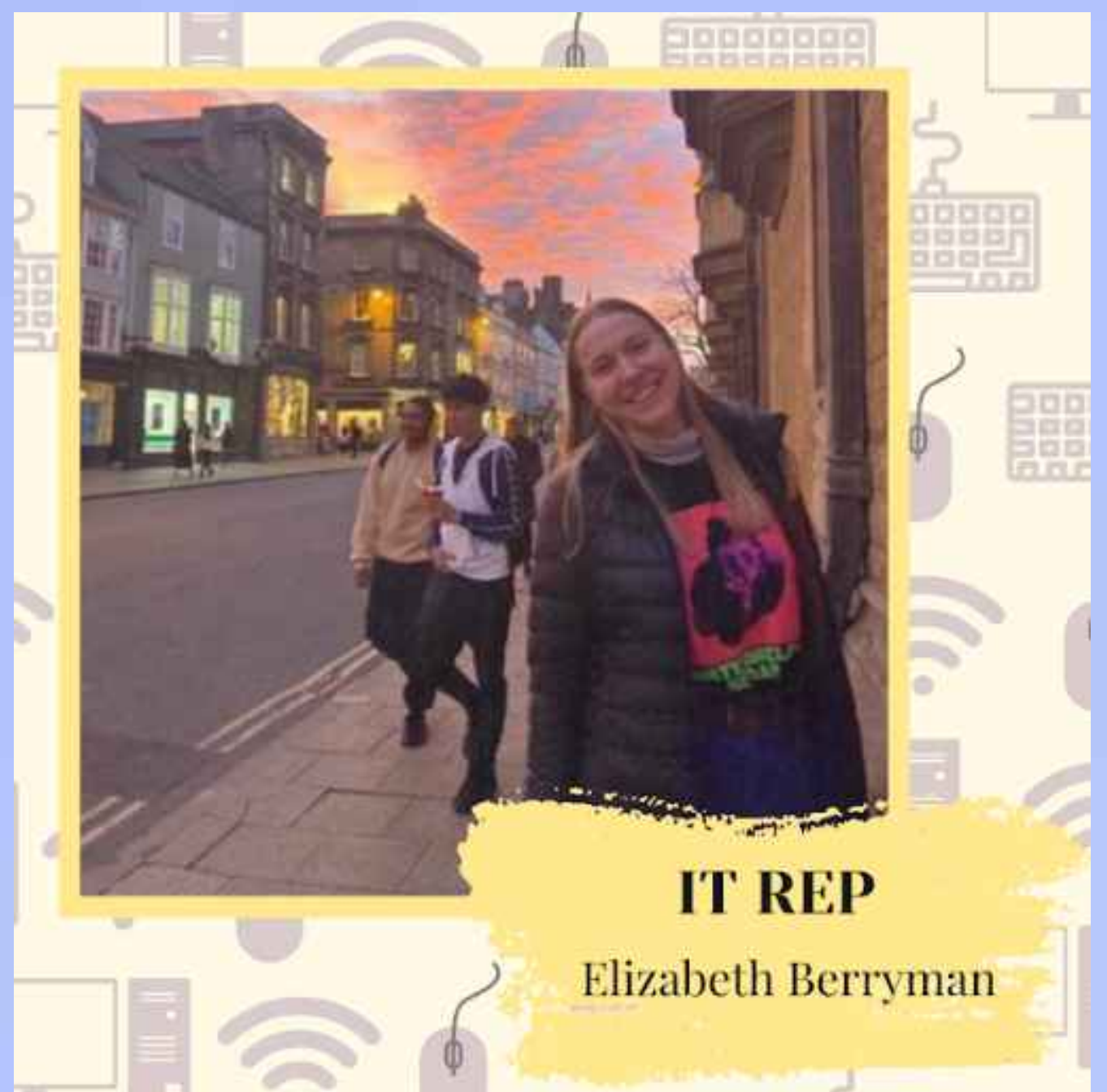
CHARITIES REP
Rebecca Woodfield

REBECCA WOODFIELD - CHARITIES

Hey everyone! im rebecca (she/her) and im super excited to be your charities rep this year! im a third year geographer from, Somerset and im looking forward to supporting some really great charities and organisations! if you ever have any ideas i can generally be found in one of the many coffee shops in oxford or the library! :))

ELIZABETH BERRYMAN - IT REP

Hi I'm Elizabeth (she/her). I'm a 3rd year physicist and your new IT rep! My main role is to help out with all things IT related in the JCR and maintaining the JCR website. I am also here to offer help where I can with any personal IT issues and will try my best or connect you to the IT department who can also help! Feel free to drop me a message with any IT related ideas or struggles :))



IT REP
Elizabeth Berryman

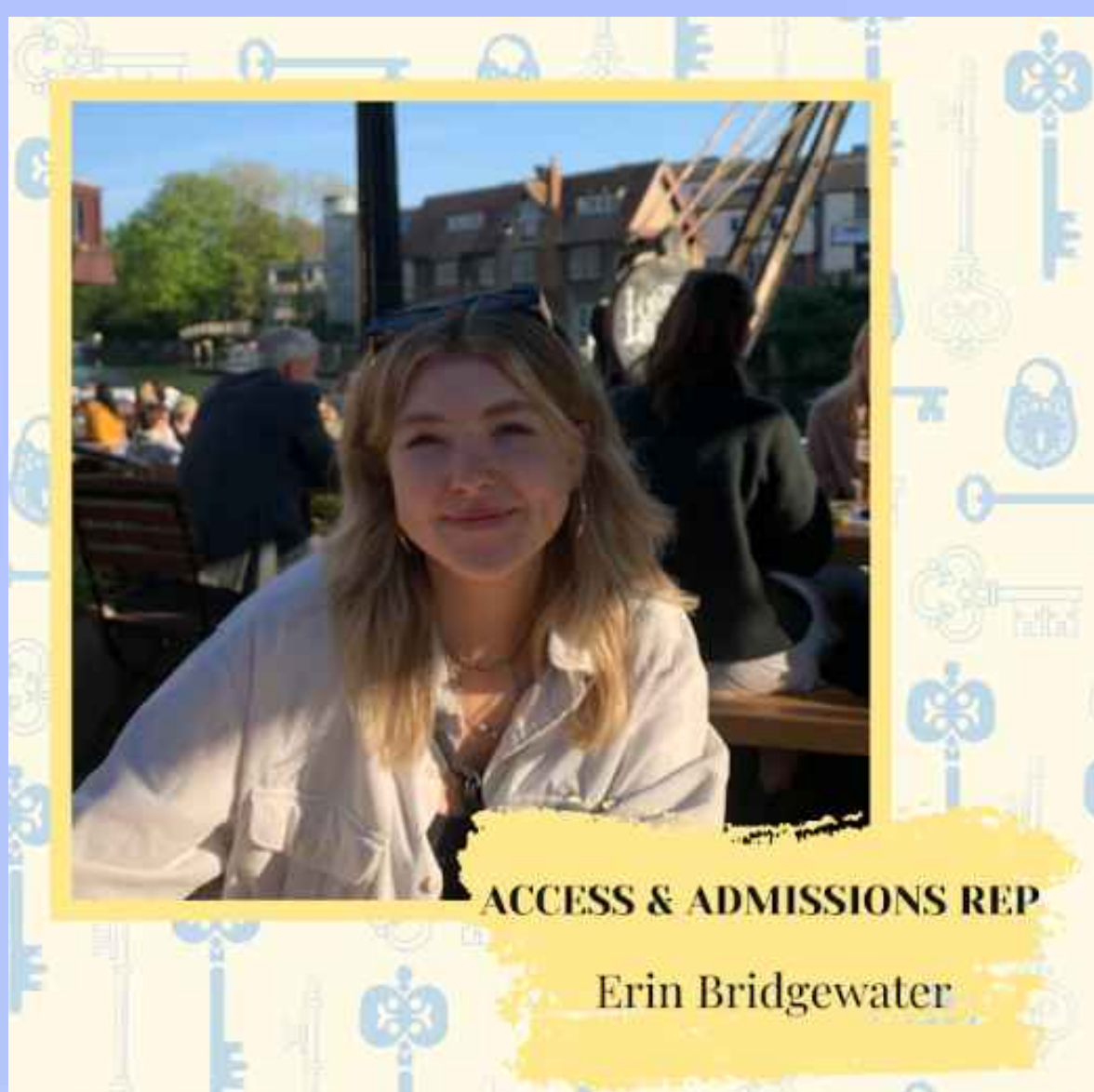
ERIN BRIDGEWATER - ACCESS & ADMISSIONS REP

"Hi, I'm Erin (she/her), a 3rd year historian from Barnsley, South Yorkshire, and I'm very happy to be your access and admissions rep for this year!!

Alongside running our college social media pages, I'll be working with the incredible Joe and the rest of the college access team to organise tours, offer holder days, open days and much more accessy-fun to inspire as many people to apply to Brasenose, and Oxbridge, as possible.

BNC outreach is so amazing, and I hope as many people as possible continue to be involved in all things access over the coming year. I can't wait for everything we have in store and to continue all the great work we've already been doing.

Please join the access Facebook page, if you haven't already, and look out for upcoming access emails! Also feel free to message me with any questions etc.
Much access love xx"



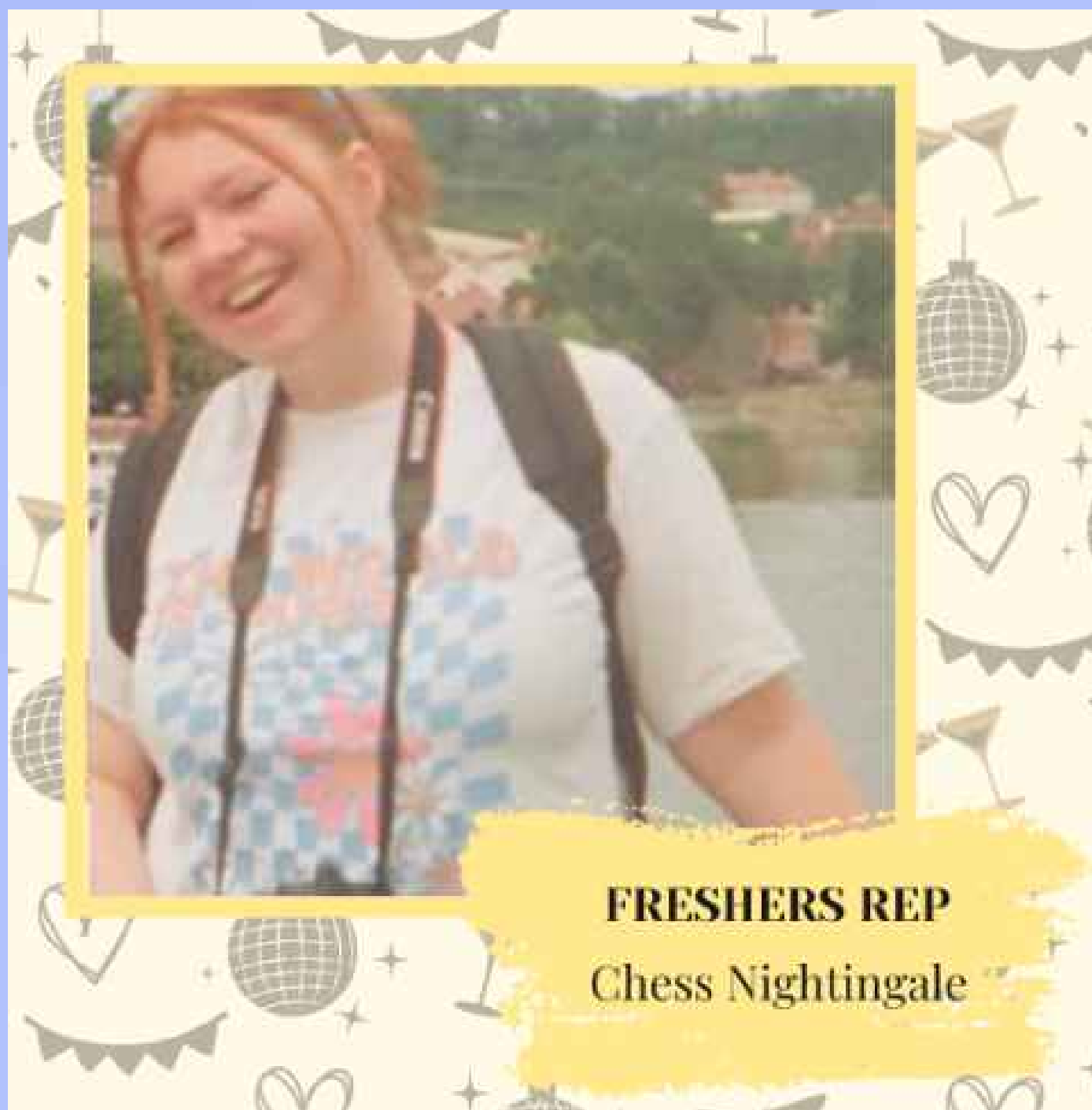
ACCESS & ADMISSIONS REP
Erin Bridgewater

SUSIE WEIDMANN - FRESHERS REP

Hey everyone, I'm Susie! I'm a second-year English student from Hertfordshire and I can't wait to be one of your 2 freps (freshers rep) this upcoming year!

Chess (my fellow frep) and I are so excited to be working with such a dedicated committee who work so hard looking out for the interests of BNC students.

It was the dedication of my freps who made me want to take on the role and ensure to the best of my ability that new students feel as comfortable and supported as possible. Oxford can be an overwhelming place for new students (and everyone) and Chess and I, as well as the whole committee, will do our best to make settling in as easy a process as possible. When I'm not chilling in the BNC library you can find me in one of Oxford's atmospheric black box theatres or enjoying an aperol somewhere...



CHESS NIGHTINGALE - FRESHERS' REP

Hiya everyone, my name's Chess and I'm a second year Geographer from North London. I'm one of the halves of the Fresher Rep team, along with the incredible Susie.

I'm super excited to be meeting all the new freshers and get involved with all things freshers!! If at the end of the year you all feel comfortable and accepted within the Brasenose community I have succeeded in my role, which is the sole reason for me taking on this JCR position. Both Susie and I are always down for a chat, particularly when in need of a library break. We understand how stressful and confusing the first year of university (especially Oxford) can be and we hope to reduce that as much as possible. When not chatting in the Quad or hanging out DTB (the college bar), you can probably find me playing netball or "acting" in one of Oxford's many drama things. If you have any questions, just ask and both me and Susie are happy to help.

ACADEMIC LIFE



Studying at Oxford can be a very rewarding experience! While it isn't the *only* thing we do here (contrary to a myth I heard before arriving), it is what you applied for and so is very important! This section is intended to ease any worries you may have about the workload in Oxford – it can seem overwhelming, but you can get through it! Hopefully this will help you to understand the aspects of academic life that will make up your time as a student here. Listed below are the main educational components of Oxford's routine that you are guaranteed to experience during your time here. The amount of each of these can vary from subject to subject and it is also worth noting that scientists also have labs. It can be worthwhile speaking to your tutors or college parents if you are unsure!



The beautiful Brasenose library....

open 24/7!

TUTORIALS

Tutorials form the central part of your academic life at Oxford. These are weekly sessions with your tutor and typically last at least one hour. Tutorials are usually conducted in small groups or as a 1:1 session and involve going through the week's essay or problem sheet with the aim of furthering your understanding of a given topic. You may be asked to hand in work via email/ pigeon hole up to a day or so before the tutorial.

LECTURES

One of the main differences between arts/humanities/social science courses and STEM courses is that STEM courses tend to be the more structured of the two. Teaching for science courses is based far more on lectures, whereas other subjects tend to stress more the importance of taking a personal direction from reading lists, which are normally provided each week. Nevertheless, regardless of course, lectures are an invaluable source of learning and should not be avoided. Tutors will let you know which lectures you ought to be attending.

COLLECTIONS

At the beginning of every term (except your first term, and any term where you will have sat official exams at the end of the previous term) your tutor might set you a small test based upon the previous term's learning. This is called a "collection". They take place in college and are completely informal; unlike your University examinations, gowns do not need to be worn. Tutors and college do take your marks fairly seriously though, despite the informality. Your first set of collections will take place at the beginning of Hilary term (the second term of the academic year).

Don't worry too much about the academic issues for now. During Freshers' Week, you will have the opportunity to have a meeting with your Tutors, dinner with your college parents and the chance to meet students in the years above you. Each of these gives you an opportunity to have any worries alleviated and be able to ask questions. Tutors will be reassuring and will be very understanding in the first few weeks.

They all know that Oxford life takes a bit of getting used to.

GOOD VIBES

Rest assured, your tutors have chosen you because they think that you will be able to handle the life of an Oxford student. No matter what you got in your pre-university qualifications, you are definitely meant to be here and you are more than capable of doing well.

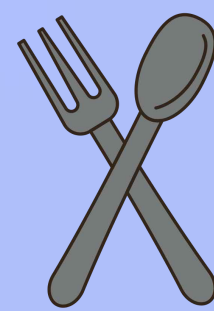
A FEW TIPS...



1. Try to plan your work and make sure that you ensure there is some time to relax and have fun.
2. Make sure you are prepared for tutorials. These are a really key piece of learning at Oxford, and pretty unique to Oxbridge. Think of it as you are getting to spend an hour a week with an *expert* in your chosen area of study - take advantage of it!
3. Ask for help when you need it. Whether that means asking your college parents (or referring to this guide) exactly what a black tie event is, or something serious like bereavement or health issues, don't feel that you have to suffer in silence. Ask as soon as you recognise you need help - you can look at our welfare section to find out more about avenues of support.



FOOD AND DRINK



Most importantly – food and drink in college!

When eating in hall, food is paid for using the University Card ('Bod Card' – this is why it is so important to get those card forms in!) and you top this up online with the UPay app. There are no kitchens in college so eating in hall is a popular option! Most staircases will have a little kitchenette with a fridge, microwave, kettle and toaster.

Breakfast	Monday-Friday 8:15-9:00	Cooked and continental breakfast available. Tea and coffee provided!
Brunch	Saturday and Sunday 11:00-12:15	Breakfast but bigger and better. Brunch is a fantastic social occasion at weekends. Timed to allow for a lie in, brunch is a time for catching up on the night before
Lunch	Monday - Friday 12:30-13:15	Usually a selection of several main meals, soup, salad, rolls and pudding. (£2.50-£4.50) Take-away sandwich options also available
Dinner (informal hall)	Tuesday and Friday 17:45-18:15 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 18:15-19:00	Usually a selection of main meals, soup, salad, rolls and pudding (£2.50 - £4.50)



The infamous Brasenose brunch



Brasenose hall at Christmas!

FORMAL HALL

Tuesday & Friday (7:15pm) and Sunday (7:30pm)

“Formal” is a three course dinner, with service, that is open to students at a cost of about £7. Wine/other drinks are not included in the price, but can be purchased from the Bar before formal begins.

Tickets are purchased via Upay up to one week before. Students can book up to three tickets for a formal so you can invite friends/family! You are able to list any dietary requirements. Tickets can be cancelled up to 24 hours before, and there is also a Facebook group for ticket selling – get your college parents to add you!

In terms of the formality, gowns are usually worn – more on this later, but aside from this the dress code is not too strict but most people tend to opt for smart casual. There is also a ‘high table’ at formal – you stand when the high table walk in, someone will say something in Latin (ask a Classicist what they’re saying maybe!) and then you sit down. When they leave, you follow them out. It isn’t as complicated as it sounds. Just follow everyone else’s lead!

Occasionally, there may be a themed formal such as recent Women's formal or Chinese New Year, there is also a Freshers' formal in your first week where you have the opportunity to get to know your peers and tutors over dinner!



Brasenose Ball Formal



Chinese New Year Formal



Women's Formal



Brasenose Hall

BRASENOSE BAR

The college bar is a great place to socialise in the evenings. It serves a variety of drinks on tap, as well as bottled beers, lagers, ciders, stouts, wine, soft drinks, crisps and chocolate. We also have music, a TV, table football and a variety of boardgames and darts boards to provide some extra fun. Students are able to work down the bar ('dtb') too!

Brasenose bar is a fantastic place to catch up with friends before a 'BOP' (big organised party) as well as release some competitive energy in the fortnightly student-run bar quiz!



'dtb' for a Halloween BOP



Very quiet giggling in the library

BRASENOSE LIBRARY

During your first week here, you will be shown around your faculty library and also the Brasenose libraries. You will be shown how to check out books and how to use SOLO, the University's online library. If you can't find the books you need, ask a library rep or our lovely librarians.

The main College Library requires your fob to enter and is open 24/7. Books can be taken out for a term (unless you're a lawyer, then it is a week) by scanning the barcode on your Bod Card and the barcode in the book.

The college library can get very busy so it can sometimes be difficult to get a seat, especially around the exam seasons. You are also able to use your faculty library and other libraries around Oxford. Throughout the Covid-19 situation, it has been necessary to book slots in the library - this may be maintained in some areas across the university so make sure you are aware of how this needs to be done! This information will be shared with you in Freshers week

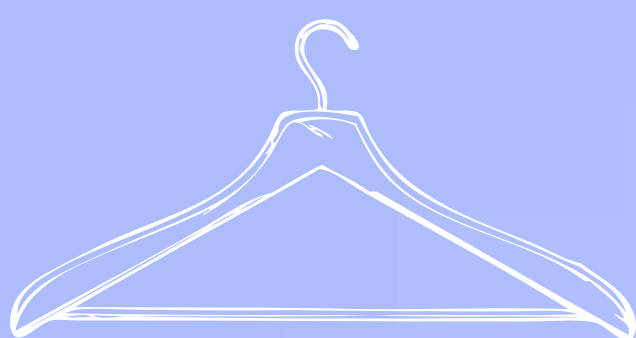


IT AT BRASENOSE



You will receive your own personal email address in the form ***name.surname@bnc.ox.ac.uk***. Email is the main form of communication with College tutors and JCR members, so be sure to check it regularly - a few times a day, or get the emails on push notifications. You can set emails up through Apple Mail, for example, but I can vouch for downloading the Outlook app, which I found much easier!

The IT guide will give you some more information on this and you will also be led through this by the IT Team in college in your inductions.



LAUNDRY FACILITIES



The Laundry room in college is at the bottom of Staircase 13 (to the left of the archway towards the back gate, if you're coming from New Quad) and there are a few washing machines and dryers. Both machines accept contactless with a wash costing about £2.20 and a dry costing £1.10

OUR LOVELY PORTERS

At Brasenose we are lucky to have the most amazing Porters that always provide a friendly face and big welcome.

Andy Talbot, our head porter, and his team do their best to remember everyone's names and chat to students as they come in and out of college. There is always someone in the lodge, so it is a great go-to if you're confused or need something and you're not sure where to find it! There is always a first aid trained porter on call, with the porters being the first point of contact for any emergencies you may have.

Everyone also has a pigeon hole ('pidge') where post can be placed and that is where your letters and packages will be. There is also a slot for "parcel chits" - parcels too big to go in your pidge - which you hand to a porter to get your parcel.



Andy Talbot - Head Porter



BATELS AND FINANCE

“Batels” is the name given to your termly bill. This will be sent to you at the beginning of each term by email, and should be paid within two weeks. Payment can be made by bank transfer, cheque or debit/credit card. Batels include things like

- College and University fees (if you are self-funded)
- The rent charged for your room (including a ‘fixed facility’ charge for electricity and heating)
- The costs of any events which you have opted in to, such as Arts Week or the JCR Punting Scheme
- Additional charges such as key insurance or printing costs.



FINANCIAL HELP

Oxford is a very expensive city – one of the most expensive places to live in the UK. This can mean that students might face some financial struggles. However, Oxford and Brasenose offers some of the best student finance support in the UK. These include the Oxford Crankstart bursary or the Oxford bursary and a huge range of hardship funding and bursaries. You might be contacted about a bursary or scholarship from the university before you arrive if you are eligible.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please make sure that you contact the Bursary to discuss as soon as you can. Several different funds and grants do exist – Brasenose’s Annual Fund is probably one of the most well known – for those who need it, and the College Accountant can help advise students when applying for these. You are able to find different funds and grants on the university website.

It is also worth noting that Oxford as a city is expensive, but college life is not. Rent is considerably lower than that you would have to pay if you were to ‘live out’ and Hall and the bar are heavily subsidised. You are also able to work for the university – University Ambassador roles are often paid, and there is also the opportunity to undertake paid internships or roles such as running the Telethon outside of term time to make up some money. Furthermore, you can work for the student run bar and earn some money around your studies which is also a great social opportunity!





DISCIPLINE AND THE BLUE BOOK



All those coming up to Brasenose are strongly advised to read the Student Handbook - the Blue Book of College. It details college rules and regulations and is useful to refer back to if you ever need to. It includes important information such as information about exams or suspending studies, and the College goes to considerable lengths to make sure it is comprehensive and understandable.

The Dean is responsible for discipline in College. The Dean also has a welfare role - you can read about the welfare team later on, and in the welfare booklet.

Penalties for misconduct (eg. Serious drunken behaviour, vandalism, smoking on site etc) include:

Fines

Exclusion from College - apart from the attendance of tutorials

Rustication - expulsion for a set period

Sending down - permanent expulsion

Any member of the College has the right of appeal to the Governing Body against any serious penalty imposed by the Dean (ie, an incident that incurs being sent down or rustication for a period of a term or more)

However, it is important to note that harsh punishment is unusual, the vast majority of students never incur any fines, and breaking the rules is easily avoidable.



Brasenose in Bloom



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Both the college and University have their own Freshers' Fairs, and attending these will give you the opportunity to discover the wide range of clubs and societies on offer, for all abilities, here in Oxford. Time to go round the fairs will be scheduled into the timetable and I really really recommend you go! There are hundreds of options, from Tea-Drinking to underwater hockey to getting involved in university wide activism. Here is an overview of four of the things you can get involved in in Brasenose - Sports, Music, Drama and Access.

SPORTS

Brasenose has a great sporting tradition and a solid reputation for it too. We have several different in-college sports teams which vary in skill levels and also in the level of commitment required; Brasenose sports really does have something for everyone.



The college has a Sports Ground located on Abingdon Road. (It is on the other side of the river to college; you can enter through two gates: one opposite Folly Bridge Inn and other across from the Londis Store). It has three hard tennis courts, eight grass courts, rugby, football, hockey and cricket pitches. The Pavilion is equipped with toilets and changing rooms.



During Freshers' Week you will have the opportunity to get involved in sports at both the uni wide and college Freshers' Fairs. These events will give you an opportunity to meet the team members and sign-up to the teams you wish.





Brasenose has the world's oldest boat club which enters at least two women's and men's crews into multiple competitions throughout the year. It has both high quality coaching and lots of social opportunities!

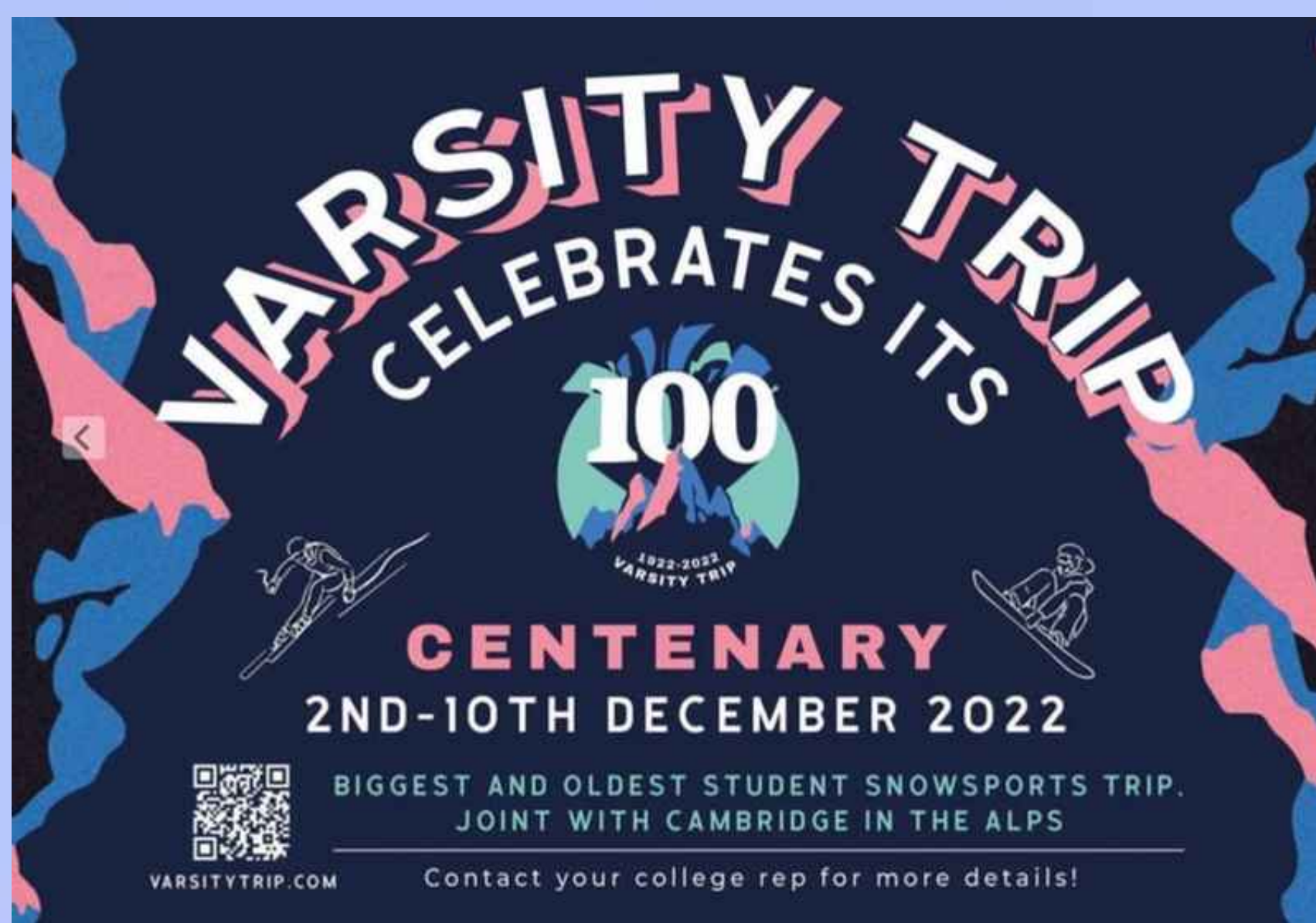
We would definitely recommend giving rowing a try during freshers week, as the boat club put on lots of daily sessions to encourage everyone to get involved! Please get in touch with Ella Shalom, the boat club president with any questions you may have!

As well as intercollege leagues, there are also Cuppers tournaments. While Covid has put some restrictions on the ability to play team sports over the last year, Brasenose still had a fantastic term, including winning the rounders college tournament and doing well in rowing!

Enthusiasm and willingness to show up are the main skills usually required for college teams, but competition can be fierce! Many people start playing sports for college having never taken part before, and sometimes end up playing at university level!



VARSITY





MUSIC

The College has an extremely active non-auditioning choir and musicians of all standards are encouraged to put on concerts. Some of the best include open-mic nights in which everyone is encouraged to get involved!



Students are able to book out the piano or organ in the chapel via the lodge and there are plans to rebuild the music rooms in Frewin over the next few years, though there are some building works occurring in Frewin Gardens right now. There may be some other available rooms across college to increase rehearsal space.

The College Music Society organises lunchtime concerts in the chapel as well as other events including performances during the summer arts festival.

Over the last year, we have also had open mic nights, performances from Brasenose Jazz band and students place in university wide competitions for music.

It is relatively easy to get involved in college music as most of them let you join if you simply turn up to rehearsals. So if you play anything, or are interested, get involved at Freshers Fair!





Drama is very active at Brasenose. For newcomers (both on the stage and behind the scenes) there is usually Drama Cuppers in Michaelmas. This is an inter-collegiate competition for first years to produce a short drama, which is then performed at a studio. Our Arts Rep, Liv, will be happy to help those wishing to get involved.

One of the most popular drama events is drunk Shakespeare in which a slightly intoxicated cast perform one of Shakespeare's finest plays to an equally intoxicated audience.

You can also get involved in the University Drama Society and if you want to work behind the scenes, check out the Tabs Are For Flying website.





ART

Brasenose is home to one of the largest arts festivals in Oxford. This year the week was organised by our arts rep Liv.



Last year, arts week took place during Trinity term with some super fun action featuring The Crucible play, a mind reader, still life and life drawing, pottery painting, pole dancing, morris dancing & more!!

Arts week is a great opportunity to try new things and get involved in lots of different events. There really is something for everyone!

Even if you prefer to take a back seat, there are many events for spectating. Bottomless pims served daily for just £1 also made for a great library break during exam season.





ACCESS

Lots of students also get involved in access work across college and the university. In College, we have an ambassador team that help out on usually weekly access events, including tours or virtual Q&As, and also on interviews and open days. Anyone can be involved in access work, no matter where you are from or what type of school you went to. You can also get involved in the University access roles, where you might get the opportunity to get involved in schemes such as UNIQ, and other societies also have their own outreach limbs too.

Access is a great way to give a little back to Brasenose, show prospective students our beautiful home and help ease any anxieties associated with the application process.



Keep an eye out for an email from our brilliant access rep, Erin, with links to all of these opportunities.



WELFARE

Our lovely Welfare reps Veronica, Josh and Emily are more than happy to help wherever and whenever possible. Please make sure that you read the welfare guide carefully, as it describes their role, the college's welfare provision and includes details of our peer supporters and also a welcome from our D&E rep Jui.



Don't hesitate to email the Welfare reps if you have any questions before you get here.

As a brief overview, here are some of the welfare bodies across college:

- JCR Reps and Peer Supporters - these are trained through the SU to act as listeners if you have any problems and can help direct you to further services if you need. You can also attend JCR run welfare teas and the drop in sessions with peer supporters which will be advertised on the JCR Facebook page.
- Porters - as mentioned before, the Porters are in the Lodge 24/7 and have many roles, including security and welfare. The team are all super approachable and friendly and will always be willing to offer support if needed.
- The Dean also has a welfare role and can be approached for support if needed.
- The Chaplain is a welfare key contact. She supports people of all faiths and no faith and works with a wide team of other welfare contacts.
- The Junior Deans are postgraduate students who have taken on a role in college and offer out of hours support.



HEALTH...

The College Doctors are Dr Lawrence Leaver and Dr Mark O'Shea. During Fresher's Week, you will have the opportunity to sign up to the surgery here in Oxford – make sure you attend so you are able to get help should you need it!

The doctors can be found at **Jericho Health Centre, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6NW (tel 01865 311324)**

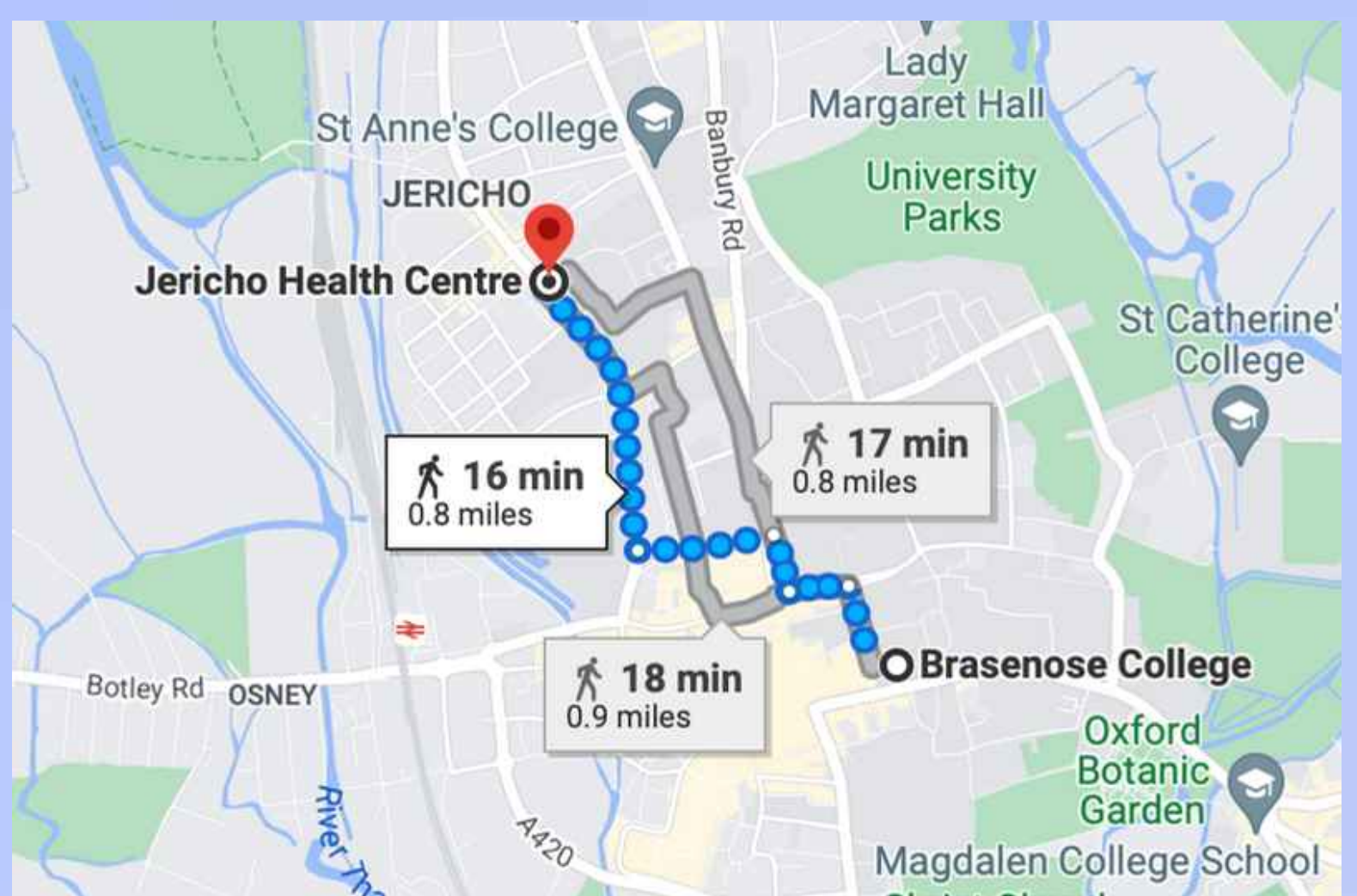
If you are need of dental advice you should seek advice in the first instance from the college nurse. Where appropriate she will arrange an appointment with the College Dentist in Headington – **6a The Parade, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7BL**

Treatment of dental emergencies will usually be under the NHS arrangements. However, unless patients are exempt from charges the fees will be payable at the appointment. The treatment is for the relief of pain and stabilisation of the condition. You should arrange further treatment with your regular dentist. If you do not have a regular dentist and wish to find one in Oxford, you should find local surgeries taking on NHS Patients. A good port of call is Studental, in the Brookes Headington campus. It is also worth noting that students on a low income may be able to apply for reduced NHS fees through a HC2 form.

Remember to register with a doctors in Oxford – from now on, Oxford should be your permanent doctor and when you return home you should be seen as a temporary patient.

The University's DisCam (Disabilities Campaign – part of the SU) also has a variety of groups for students in Oxford that have specific disabilities. You can find these through their Facebook page:

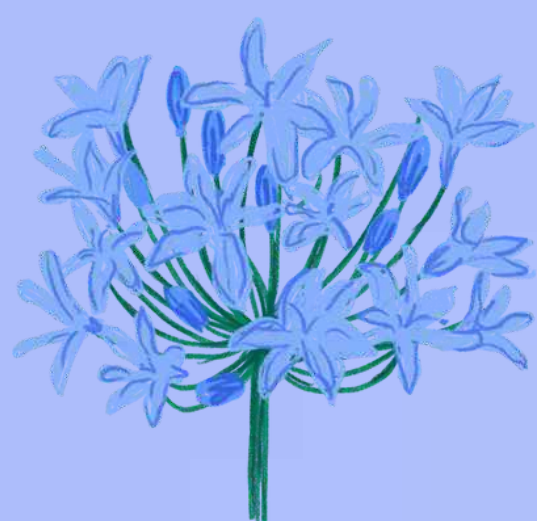
<https://www.facebook.com/OxfordDisabilities>



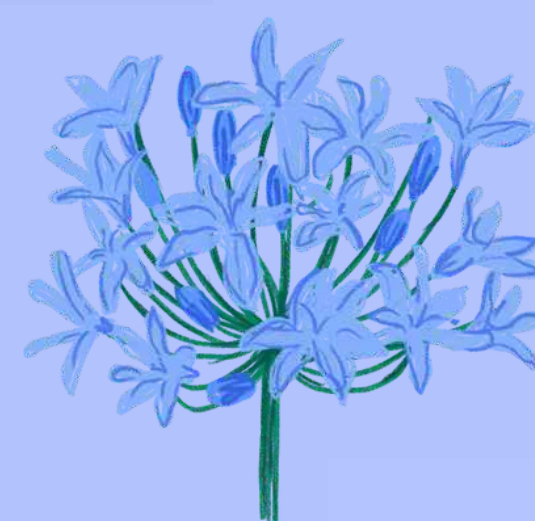


... AND SAFETY

Oxford is a lovely city but, as with any other city, you must be careful. Be wary of walking on your own anywhere at night (even just down Brasenose Lane). There are various University bus and walk services. You will also be given the lodge phone number, and you can ring the night porter if you are walking at night and concerned about anything. Free panic alarms are also available from our welfare reps for anyone who requests them. The JCR runs a scheme whereby it will pay a share of your taxi fare if you are travelling to or from college (or home if you are living out) and are anxious about your safety. You might also want to join:



Oxwarnings
Oxford Women* and NB Walk Home Safe



PERSONAL PROPERTY

The cosy atmosphere of College can easily lull one into a false sense of security, but be aware that thefts do occur. Always lock your door and close your windows, even if you are only popping out for a few minutes. If anything does go missing, report it immediately to the lodge. If you find any lost property, the best thing to do is hand it into the porters. Your room contents are now covered by College insurance (information attached).

The College charges students for the replacement of lost keys. Keys are extremely expensive to replace. The JCR Key Insurance Scheme, operating on an opt-out basis, assures that every undergraduate can be provided with the insurance at a yearly rate of about £5. This is a highly recommended investment as keys tend to be easily lost or stolen – especially while travelling.

Additionally, Brasenose is equipped with an up-to-date fire alarm system, including a detector in every room and fire extinguishers located at various points.

NOTE: Misuse of fire equipment results in a considerable fine and/or sending down! The fire alarm in College is tested every Friday at 11am (there is no need to evacuate College on these occasions). The college will have a fire safety talk during Freshers' Week detailing all of the information you need to know about the proceedings in the event of a fire in college.



DIVERSITIES AND EQUALITIES

Our amazing JCR Diversities and Equalities Rep, Jui (jcr- diversity@bnc.ox.ac.uk) , works with our welfare reps and the D&E committee to aid and create a diverse and inclusive atmosphere in college. This covers a wide range of issues and manifests in a range of ways.

You are able to contact any member with questions or concerns!



WORKSHOPS

A number of compulsory workshops will run during freshers' week, which aim to inform and guide you. These will include a sexual consent workshop, CRAE (Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality) workshops, LGBTQ+ workshops, religion workshops and disabilities workshops.

These have been designed by their corresponding Oxford SU Campaigns and officers - WomCam (Women's Campaign), CRAE and LGBTQ+ Campaigns respectively - to facilitate productive conversations at a university, college and JCR level. In Brasenose, we believe in creating an environment which prioritises equality based on gender, race and sexual orientation, and an atmosphere in which all students feel safe and respected.

The workshops are small and confidential and will be facilitated by fellow undergraduates who have been trained to deliver the workshops. We aim to hold these workshops in person. Attendance at all workshops is compulsory. We understand that some of the workshops may contain triggering or sensitive content, so please speak to a welfare officer if you have any concerns.

If you have any questions, if you would like to be moved from one group/time to another, or if you have any specific accessibility issues, please don't hesitate to contact Ish (email above) or myself (jcr- admissionsrep@bnc.ox.ac.uk)

WHAT TO WEAR

Oxford is known for having rather...interesting? and archaic dressing up traditions, which can feel daunting on arrival! Here is a quick guide to help you out with some of the dress codes and events you might encounter during your time here.

SUB FUSC

Sub fusc comes from the Latin for “of a dark/dusky colour” and refers to the clothes worn with full academic dress in Oxford. Recently, the regulations on subfusc dropped references to gender, so anyone can mix and match from the historically gendered lists.

Historically, men were required to wear:

- Dark suit and socks
- Black shoes
- White shirt and collar
- White bow tie
- Mortarboard (carried)
- Commoner’s gown (no sleeves – might be updated to a scholar’s gown, which has sleeves, during your time here!)

But I don’t own a commoner’s gown!

No, neither did any of us when we got here! Most people buy their subfusc after they arrive, usually during freshers’ week, as matriculation is usually at the end of 1st week. Lots of shops will do a fresher’s deal including a gown, bow tie/ribbon and mortarboard, with all the other kit being fairly standard. The deals are about £25. Shepherd and Woodward is opposite the High Street Gate of College!

Women were required to wear:

- White blouse
- Black ribbon tied loosely around the neck
- Black shirt or trousers
- Black stockings or tights
- Black shoes
- Dark coat, if desired
- Commoner’s gown
- Mortarboard (carried)



When do I wear subfusc?

You won't be wearing it much! You have to wear the full outfit to Matriculation and to university exams. For these occasions, the outfit is essential and should be seen as a rule not a suggestion.

So I don't wear my gown much?

Your gown is probably the most used element of the sub fusc! As well as wearing it for matriculation, you will also wear your gown over your clothes for formal hall. Some special dinners (such as the Law Society's Ellesmere Dinner) will be black-tie plus gowns. Gowns can also be worn for principal's collections (like parents' evening, but without parents) and, if you've misbehaved, decanal summons (hopefully not something you'll have to go to!)

Does black tie just mean I need to turn up with a black tie?

No! Black tie is dress code developed by Edwardians, invented as a less formal alternative to white-tie. The dress code isn't as strict as subfusc. The "official" black tie dress code includes:

- A jacket with silk facings (usually grosgrain or satin), peaked lapel or notched lapel.
- Trousers with a single silk or satin braid covering the outer seams
- A white dress shirt, cuffs and cufflinks, and a foldover or winged standing collar.
- A black silk bow tie matching the lapel facings
- Shirt studs and cufflinks. Studs are often dispensed with today.
- Black socks
- Black shoes
- (Optional) Cummerbund (google it!) or waistcoat
- Cocktail dress (knee-length)

If I'm honest, I don't even know what half of the things on the dress code list are - which hopefully shows that this is a bit more relaxed than subfusc!

You might like to replace the cocktail dress with jumpsuits, smart trouser suits or similar. If you're concerned about black tie events, ask your college parents, or email me! For most formal occasions - such as a ball - floor length gowns might appear. My top tip would just be to check in with your friends and see what they are wearing, which will hopefully be useful.



Black tie at Brasenose Ball



Gowns worn at formal

When should I wear black tie?

Normally you will be told if an event is black tie when the invite is sent; events such as most college balls, the Christmas party, guest night formal etc are examples. The Matriculation Ball isn't like the main college ball, so even though it's black tie, it won't be strict so you can wear what you feel comfortable in! I would recommend buying a couple of trusty "black tie" outfits – if you're going to be wearing a suit, I would say to pick up black tie formal wear as you will probably wear it quite a lot! You can pick up a decent quality outfit for around £100 and it will be an investment – you'd definitely be spending more if you were hiring.

What about white tie?

White tie is more formal than black-tie and is far rarer these days. At Oxford, the main occasions for which it is expected are some of the more grand college balls – Magdalen and Trinity, for example. A lot of people will go through their whole degree without requiring it so I won't give the full details, but they can be found online.

What is a BOP and what do I wear?

Bops are college fancy dress parties and they are great. The theme will be announced in advance and the afternoon before a bop will be spent getting together a costume which can be paraded around a bar (and then probably a club) that evening. Don't ever be concerned that your costume is too absurd, or ludicrous or that you've put too much effort in. Some people take BOP outfits very seriously and others (like me) tend to opt for the easiest thing.

Use the first BOP as an opportunity to get to know people! The theme will be BNC – dress up as something beginning with B, N, or C



most importantly...

FRESHERS' WEEK!

Hopefully, this guide has reassured you about life at Brasenose and the many wonderful things that Oxford has to offer.

This final section will explain more about Freshers' Week and provide the details you need to really enjoy your first week here.

College Families

The College Family system is one of my favourite Oxford traditions. You have been assigned a college "family" – you are usually paired up with some "siblings" and given two or three second year "parents", one of whom will usually do your subject. Later, you'll have the opportunity to get "married" and continue the cycle. Some parents have extended families – you might end up with college aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins!

Your parents are there to give advice and to help you settle in. Don't be scared to talk to them – they will remember how daunting the first few weeks are! College parents are very useful in suggesting what books (if any!) you should purchase before arriving and can assist you in borrowing from nearby libraries upon arrival. They will make contact with you before you arrive, or during the week, and will meet you in person hopefully to help you move in, and definitely for parents' dinner during Freshers' Week.

Make sure you check the timetable and bring it with you so you know what's going on when during the week and you don't miss anything compulsory (like medical talks, workshops etc). But most of all, try to relax and enjoy it – you might not meet your best friends on the first day, but keep an open mind and talk to everyone and you'll soon be



YOUR FIRST DAY



When you arrive:

- There will be parking space available outside Brasenose, in Radcliffe Square, and the surrounding area.
- As you walk into college a student helper from second or third year will meet you and show you where you can collect your university card and room key, as well as sorting out a couple bits of admin.
- The helper will then show you to your room, help you with your luggage and leave you to unpack with your family/friends.



DURING THE DAY:

The JCR will be the main place to go when you have a spare moment and, throughout the week, it will be full of second and third year student helpers who are ready to make you refreshments, have a chat or answer your questions. There will also be a notice board (updated regularly) bearing information about the day, advice about what you should and shouldn't miss, and tips for enjoying the week. So come to the JCR as often as possible. It's a great place to chat with other first years and will easily allow you to get to know the people you will be spending the next few years with!

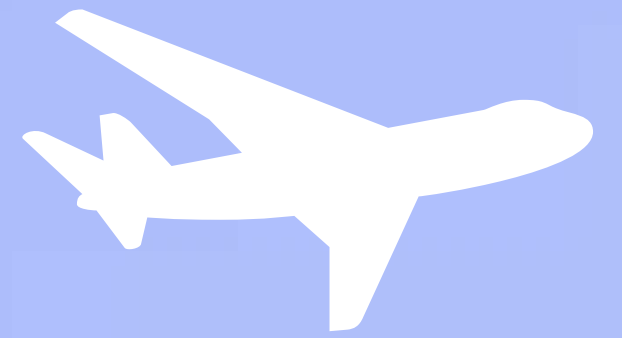
Try to arrive and unpack by 4pm as there will be meetings and events later on!

IN THE EVENING:

In the evening there will be a Freshers' reception in college serving cocktails and soft drinks (all made by your Freshers' Committee!) where you can all get to know each other. When this is over there will be a couple of options for you: leaving you free to decide whether or not you want to go out to a nightclub or chill in the JCR with games and a film. The JCR will also be open all night with students from the older years staying in there to be on hand, so feel free to head back there after your night out or at any point during the week.



International Students



There is a separate letter in this pack for you if you are an international student, which offers advice and information. You will also have been assigned an “international godparent” on top of your college parents. Our international rep will be around throughout the week. Look out for events for international students during the week too, as these are deliberately put on to help you settle in.

We are also aware that international students may face different entry requirements into the country with regards isolation and covid-19 status. Please get in touch with college if you have any questions or queries regarding this and any periods of isolation you might have to undertake.

Please let me know if you don't have your international student letter or godparent letter and contact details!



Matriculation

Matriculation is a formal ceremony which marks your initiation into the university – in a lot of ways, it is the opposite of graduation. This used to consist of an exam, but now students just have to listen to some Latin whilst wearing fancy clothing called sub-fusc. Gowns are also worn and students must carry their mortarboards.

Don't worry, we don't spend all our time in sub-fusc; it is only worn for Matriculation, University exams and graduation.

We are hoping that your Matriculation ceremony will be held in person this year! If you have any questions about Matriculation or the entertainment, feel free to contact me (jcr-freshersrep@bnc.ox.ac.uk) or the entz team (jcr-entzrep@bnc.ox.ac.uk).



PACKING CHECKLIST

For your room...



- ✓ Bedding - including duvet, blankets, sheets and pillow cases
- ✓ Coat hangers
- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Toiletries
- ✓ Hair Dryer, Straighteners, Curlers, Brush, Comb, etc.
- ✓ Extra pins for your notice board
- ✓ Alarm Clock
- ✓ Extension plug(s) with a long cord and plenty of plug spaces
- ✓ Kettle, Mugs and Glasses
- ✓ Cutlery, Crockery, Corkscrew, Bottle Opener, Tin Opener
- ✓ Tea Towel, Dish Cloth, Sponges, Fairy Liquid

PACKING CHECKLIST

Academic & Admin



- ✓ Passport Photos: clubs and societies may need them for membership cards, etc.
- ✓ Paper, Pens, Folders, etc.
- ✓ Laptop computer - almost essential
- ✓ Passport/Driving Licence/NHS Card
- ✓ Chargers for electrical items (batteries are really useful too!)
- ✓ Printer- not essential but may be useful
- ✓ Home Utility Bill: essential proof of address
- ✓ Bicycle, helmet, and a bike lock - if considering bringing a bike
- ✓ Musical instrument or sports kit if needed
- ✓ Umbrella, Coat, clothing, also bring dresses and suits for events
- ✓ Camera if you want one

OXFORD/BNC GLOSSARY

At Oxford we have a lot of jargon, but don't worry if you don't know what people are talking about at first, soon enough you will be saying this stuff without thinking about it.

Term Names

Michaelmas – The first term, October to December

Hilary – The second term, January to March

Trinity – The third term, April to June

Every term is eight weeks long, and every week is numbered. Dates are usually written as "Tuesday of 3rd Week" rather than "Tuesday 1st December." Oxford weeks begin on Sunday and end on Saturday, and the week preceding 1st Week is known as '0th Week' and, on that same token, the week before *that* is '-1st (minus first) Week'. Likewise, the week after 8th is 9th, and so on and so forth.

DTBH: Down the Boat House. Rowers and anyone watching Torpids and Summer Eights will run into this one.

BNC: Brasenose College, the most common way to refer to Brasenose.

DTB: Down the Bar.

DTG: Down the (sports) Ground.

HCR: The Hulme Common Room, which is for graduates.

JCR: The Junior Common Room, which is composed of both undergraduates and graduates. You automatically become a member of the JCR upon entering the college. It is primarily run by and for undergraduates.

Batels: Your termly college bill.

Blue: An achievement given to those who do well at university wide sports. This term is used at both Oxford and Cambridge

Bodleian (the Bod): The main University library which is one of the only four copyright libraries in Britain. This means that it has the right to a copy of every book which has ever been published in Britain. You will be sworn in as a member of this prestigious institution at Matriculation at the end of 1st Week but obviously you can use the facilities as soon as you receive your BodCard on arrival.

Bod Card: The colloquial name for your University Card. Technically, the card that gives you borrowing (and, in many cases, entry) privileges at the Bodleian library and many departmental or college libraries around Oxford. It is also informally considered your main 'student ID' from Oxford, because no other body issues such an identification. ! At Brasenose we also use our Bod Cards as pay-as-you-go food cards

BOP: 'big organised party' Often fancy-dress themed Bops are a great night as most of college are usually there!

Collection: These are tests set for students at the start of each term to test them on the work done during the previous term. They do not count towards your final degree classification but are an important part of the academic process.

College Family: The Access Rep assigns you college parents. They are there to give you general support and advice and a meal during Freshers' week. You will also have college siblings who do the same subject as your other parent. Who you marry is completely up to you - **they just can't do the same subject.**

Crew Date: Events where one society or sports team meets up with another - often from another college - for a night of food and drink. These can be a lot of fun as people play different games and you get to know new people.

Cuppers: Inter-college tournaments, a chance for you to show other colleges what you are made of and have great fun doing it.

Dean and Junior Dean: Deal with discipline and general supervision of College social events. The Junior Deans are usually three graduates who make sure that College rules are enforced.

Entz: Short for entertainment, i.e. bops, cocktails, quiz nights, etc. The college has a committee who deals organises these events.

Finals: Exams that count towards your final degree.

Fob: This electronic key allows you access into college (after hours), the college library, and Frewin.

Frewin Annexe: The Brasenose annexe off New Inn Hall Street and St. Michael's Street (next to the Oxford Union) where you will be living in your second year.

Gown: An unflattering piece of black cloth you have to wear to Formal Hall, Principal's Collections, University exams, Matriculation and some other occasions. Do well at your first set of exams and the College might reward you by electing to an Exhibition or Scholarship, entitling you to a larger gown.

High Table: The table at the head of the dining hall, where the fellows are fed incredibly good food, welcoming academics and college guests to Brasenose.

Living in/ Living out: You live in if you live in College accommodation (i.e. the main College Site or Frewin). You live out if you do not. Those living out must give their Oxford address to the lodge.

Matriculation: This is the procedure by which you formally become a member of the University. The Vice-Chancellor welcomes you to the University and says a few words in Latin and that's that. You must wear Sub-Fusc for this.

Mods, Prelims: These are exams that all undergraduates have to take and pass usually towards the end of their first year (sometimes later, sometimes earlier in certain subjects). In some subjects they are called Honour Moderations (Mods) and in others the Preliminary Examinations (Prelims) - the difference being that Mods results are classified in classes, while Prelims are not.

Pigeon Post: Another name for the University internal mail system. Everyone has a "pidge" in the lodge into which their letters are delivered. Pigeon post can be used to send mail to people at other colleges in Oxford for free!

The Oxford Union: The Union is a debating society which provides speaker meetings, parties, balls and lots of other entertainment. Members have access to the Union building which has a popular bar, the Purple Turtle night club, a library, restaurant, and many other faculties. Not to be confused with OUSU which plays the role of representing students to the University and providing rather less glamorous, but ultimately more important, services to all students. Membership of the Union is paid for so opinion is divided on whether it is really worth it.

Principal's Collections: A formal meeting with the Principal, Senior Tutor and your college Tutors at which you discuss your progress for that year. Gowns must be worn.

Punts: Flat-bottomed boats propelled using a long pole. They seat five and the JCR hires four on a permanent basis during Trinity Term. Punting is one of the highlights of summer in Oxford.

Rustication: Another expression meaning to be required to take off time from your studies, usually for a year for academic, medical or disciplinary reasons.

Scouts: These are the College staff that clean your room and empty your bin. If you do not want to be disturbed in the morning, leave your bin outside your door. Be friendly toward your scouts – they will be looking after you for the whole year – and often can answer questions you may have about college.

Tute: Short for tutorials, an hour long class with your tutor.

SEE YOU SOON!!

We cannot wait to welcome you to Oxford in October! You all should be very proud of yourselves and deserve to have the best time here at Brasenose. A reminder that you are now part of the JCR, so everyone is here to help as much as you need. Feel free to contact myself, Jackson, one of the welfare reps or your college parents if you have any questions at all.

Don't forget to join the JCR Facebook group, and you can also keep up to date with us on social media!

Brasenose is also active on social media – to keep up with stuff going on at BNC before you arrive and throughout your time here, be sure to follow our:

- JCR instagram page (**@brasenosejcr**)
- JCR twitter (**@brasenosejcr**)
- official news twitter account run by our Schools' Officer, Joe Organ (**@BrasenoseNews**)!
- JCR D&E instagram (**@bnctdiversity**)
- JCR FemSoc Instagram (**@bnc_femsoc**)
- Brasenose Boat Club (**@bncbc**)
- BNC Sport (**@brasenose_sport**)

We really cannot wait to meet and get to know every one of you!!

Big BNC love,

Chess and Susie xxxx

