

BRASENOSE COLLEGE

JCR FRESHERS' GUIDE

2024



WELCOME TO BRASENOSE!

Hello **FRESHERS...**

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

We are your Freshers' Representatives, Andrew and Gabby, 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/message us with any questions, big or small, and we will get back to you ASAP!

We look forward to seeing you very soon!
Andrew and Gabby xxx (Freshers' reps)



@brasenosejcr

@bncfreshers24



@Brasenose JCR 2024-25



@brasenosejcr

@BrasenoseNews



jcr-freshers@bnc.ox.ac.uk

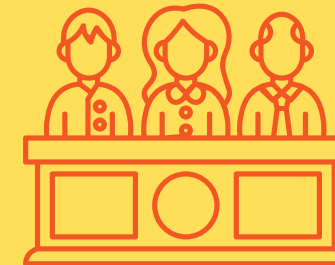
CONTENTS

President's Welcome



Essential To-Do list

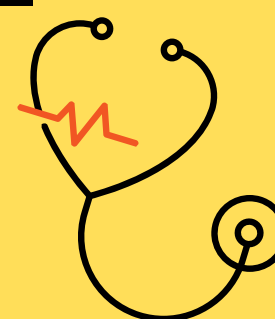
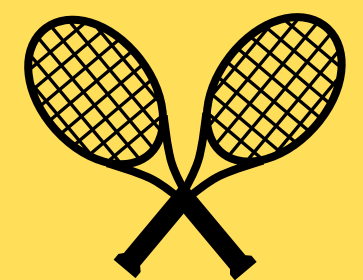
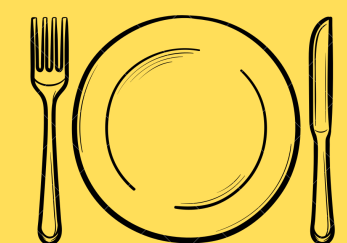
Meet the JCR Committee



Meet your Freshers Reps

Life at Brasenose

- Academic life
- Food and drink
- Facilities
- Finance
- Discipline and the 'blue book'
- Clubs, societies, and events
- Welfare
- Health
- Safety
- Diversity and equality
- What to wear



Freshers' Week

- Your first day
- Information for International Students
- Matriculation
- Packing Checklist



Oxford and BNC Glossary



WELCOME FROM THE JCR PRESIDENT



SANTHAKUMAR ARJUNAN
HE/HIM

Hi everybody!

Congratulations on getting into Oxford! You must be really excited to be coming to Brasenose in October (I definitely was!). I'm Arjunan, a third-year Economics and Management student, and I'm the current JCR President here at Brasenose.

What does that mean? Well, the JCR (Junior Common Room) is a few different things. The junior common room is (unsurprisingly) a room in college. It's got a pool table, a PlayStation 5, some really comfy chairs, and is the home of undergraduates in Brasenose.

It is also the name given to the 400(ish) students that make up the undergraduate body at the college. Our JCR committee is a student council of sorts who are in charge of managing all the events and budgets for all of us undergraduates. 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 (for more info about the workings of the JCR see the JCR info pack 😊).

As President, I coordinate between the student body and the people in charge of college (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 various meetings with other members of the SCR to provide student perspectives and insight when decisions are being made. I also enjoy working closely with members of the committee to ensure every student at Brasenose is represented and feels heard. During my time as President, I have been striving to maintain the fun and friendly atmosphere at the college and to guarantee that everyone has the best student experience possible whilst at Brasenose.

Cannot wait to see what we get up to next year!

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!

Santhakumar Arjunan



jcr-president@bnc.ox.ac.uk



ESSENTIAL TO-DO LIST

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...

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' 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 (DAS) will have been in touch with you. PLEASE ensure that you reply to them quickly to ensure 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: 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! See the IT guide/webinar session later run by college for more details.



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, and as you'll soon see, a lot of stuff here is coordinated on Facebook.

After downloading, please be sure to join 'Brasenose JCR 2024-25'. This group is updated constantly throughout the year with loads of info on upcoming events and information, and is a great and very useful space for all Brasenose students!

MEET THE JCR COMMITTEE

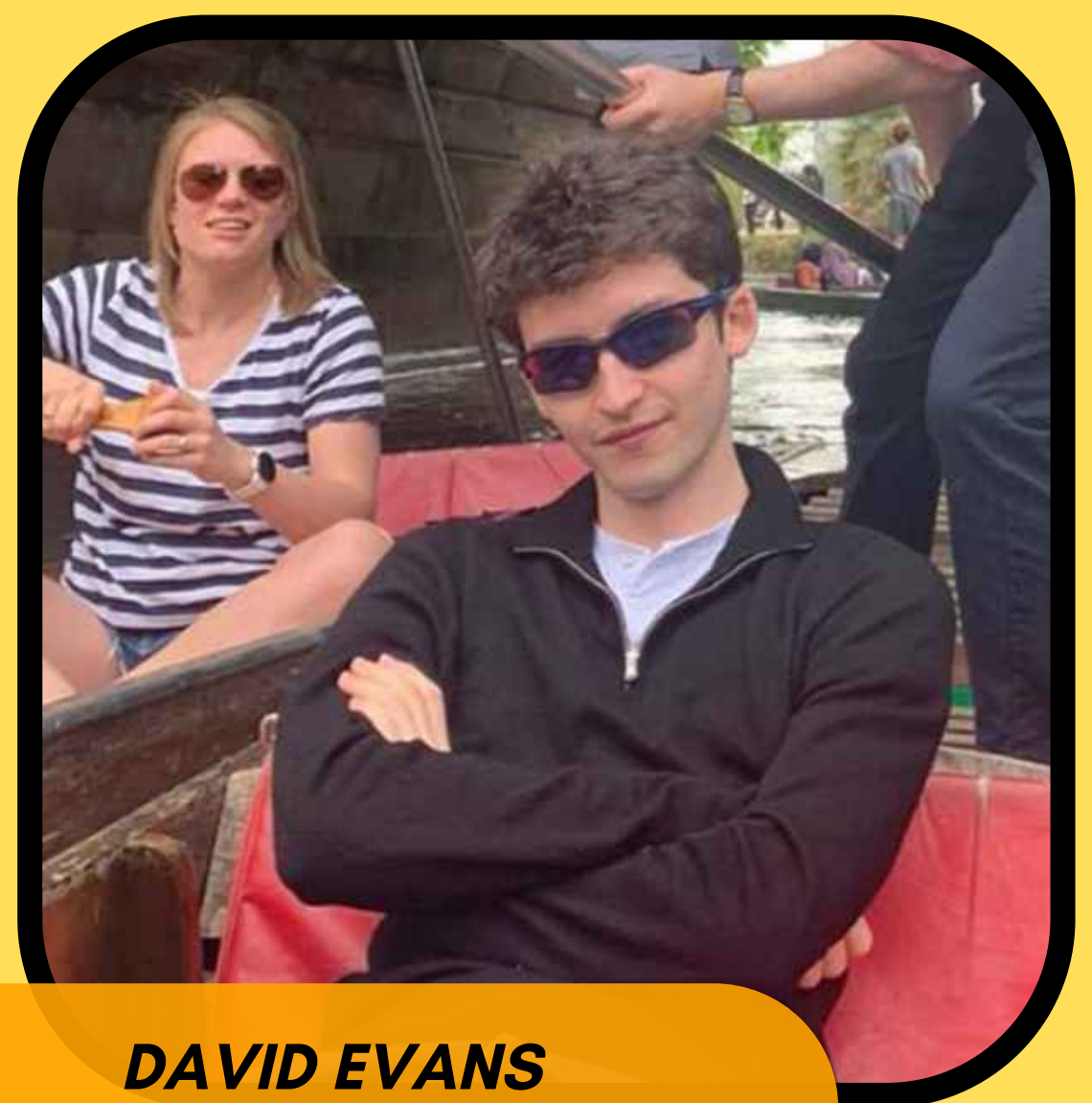
The “JCR”, or “Junior Common Room”, is a term with two meanings. The first meaning refers to the body of undergraduate members of the college, including everyone from finalists to first years (you!). The second is the physical room in college reserved for use by those members – our common room is a welcoming, 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....

VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

I am a reluctant Bristolian, who pretends to be French by dress-sense and American by superiority-complex. Though a historian by trade, I have a passion for Anthropology, serving as the society's Secretary, and have begun to write occasional literature reviews for the Cherwell. I do an unusually convincing impression of Willy Wonka, if requested.

VPA consists of three roles: I am the Machiavellian advisor of the President who can also deputise, the chief officer of all legislation passed and elections run by the JCR; as well as the manager of career events around college.



DAVID EVANS
HE/HIM

VICE-PRESIDENT (DOMESTIC)

Hey!! I'm a second-year geographer from Surrey and my responsibilities include being your representative for all things domestic, unsurprising given the name.

One of my main roles includes running the room ballot for accommodation for your upcoming years, ensuring this is a fair process, as unstressful as possible, and providing support throughout. I will also be organising lots of the formals, including the JCR Guest Night and Burns Night, and taking care of the JCR storage. Hopefully will also be successful in securing BBQs for Trinity and overall just responding to any sort of domestic emergencies. Please feel free to contact me or come up to me at any point if you need anything, have any questions or just want a distraction from your way to the library lol:)) I look forward to being your new VPD !! Xxx



ERIN FITZGIBBON
SHE/HER

SECRETARY

Hiya! I'm Rabhya and I am the Secretary for the JCR. There are JCR meetings every other Sunday- my role is simply managing all the official work with regards to those meetings! I'm originally from Delhi, and I love cooking and reading!



RABHYA AGARWAL
HE/HIM



PURAV MENON
HE/HIM

TREASURER

Hi! I'm Purav (he/him), a third-year PPEist, and I'll be your JCR Treasurer for the upcoming academic year! My job mostly involves taking care of the JCR's finances, sorting out levies (which you'll find out about soon!), helping keep events accessible, and organising punting for next summer. Feel free to drop me (jcr-treasurer@bnc.ox.ac.uk) an email or a message if you have any questions (or just fancy a chat!) ❤️🧡

DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

I grew up in Nottingham, but I'm originally from Malawi. I love listening to music and singing along (overconfidently), acting and swimming.

My role is to help college continue to be a friendly, inclusive and positive space for everyone. This ranges from organising formal dinners and hosting events, to meeting up with people for a walk & a chat. My goal this year is for D&E to be 'for us, by us'. Our reputation for being the friendliest college in Oxford comes from the amazing people inside, and I want everyone to feel a part of this! Please do get in touch if you are facing any issues, I'm always up to talk!



TAONA MAKUNGANYA
HE/HIM



IMOGEN EDMUNDSON
SHE/THEY

WELFARE REP

I'm a third year English student from Bromley, and I'm one of the JCR welfare reps, as well as a peer supporter. This means I'm trained to listen to any worries or problems you are having, as well as organising fun events like visits from alpacas, and Taekwon-Do tasters.

WELFARE REP

Hello Brasenostrials! I'm Rory, a second year English student, and I'm one of you Welfare reps for next term, along with the awesome Imogen. We're both here to support you throughout this year, so if you have any concerns please reach out! I can often be found walking between libraries to procrastinate work during the day, or having a chat DTB (our college bar) in the evenings – feel free to say hi. Hope you're having an amazing break! We're so excited to welcome you into the BNC family next term. :)



RORY MCGLADE
HE/HIM

WELFARE REP

Along with Rory and Imogen, I am responsible for supporting other students emotional and physical wellbeing. Some ways I do this is by putting on weekly welfare teas and providing a free contraception service. I'm looking forward to offering a wide range of activities for students, so they can unwind from a day of hard work – one aim is to hopefully get some puppies in for a visit as I'm sure this would be extremely popular!!



ESMÉ HUBBERT
SHE/HER

WOMEN*'S REP

Hey!! I'm Lily, a third year English student from Cheltenham, and I'm the JCR Women*s Officer! As Women*s Officer, I represent the interests of the women, non-binary, and feminine-identifying people in the JCR, and my job is to promote and protect gender equality in college. Some of my responsibilities include providing menstrual products, putting on the compulsory Consent Workshops in Freshers week, and being a port of call in any instances of sexual assault or harassment. I'm also in charge of our wonderful Brasenose FemSoc, in which my committee and I work hard to organise fun, inclusive, and varied events for you throughout term! This Michaelmas, look out for some fun freshers introductions to FemSoc :) can't wait to see all of your lovely faces! Follow [bnc_femsoc](#) on Insta to stay up to date on women*s things in Brasenose, and keep an eye out for my emails before term about Consent Workshops and more!



LILY MCDERMOTT
SHE/THEY

INTERNAL ENTZ REP

I'm from London, big fan of notion, google calendar, my cat, archery, doing my nails and sometimes my friends' nails.

I'm in charge of bops and other college social events alongside Matthew + I'm looking forward to putting on more fun events - follow [@brasenosentz](#) for updates



EUGENIE SUMKOSKA
HE/HIM

EXTERNAL ENTZ REP

I'm from a small town called Godalming in Surrey. A fun fact about me is that I'm a twin! My role is to organise the external Entz events including the amazing Prosecco and Pals and the termly balls, as well as working with the other entz rep! It involves booking venues, ordering drinks and most importantly (alongside the internal rep) putting together a term card of exciting events to help our BNC community relax and have fun!



MATTHEW GRIGG
HE/HIM



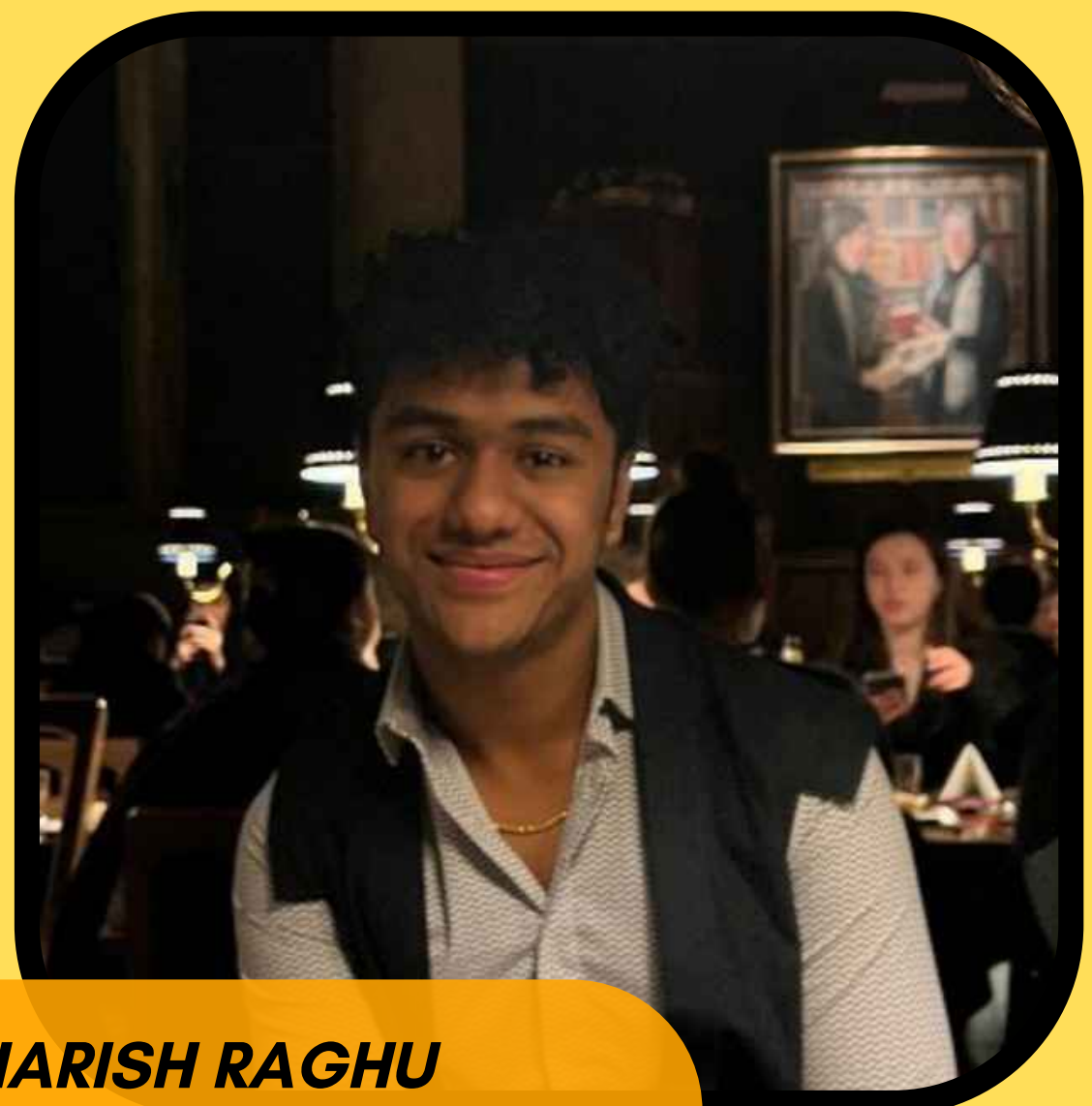
IONA BLAIR
SHE/HER

ARTS REP

I'm the Arts Rep, which means I'm in charge of all things Arts in college, including music, drama, visual arts, and more (and I organised last year's Arts Week). I'm a 3rd year Psychology and Linguistics student from Derbyshire! You can usually find me in one of Oxford's many theatres or browsing the shelves of Blackwells. Get in touch if you want to chat about the incredible range of artsy opportunities in and out of college!

SPORTS REP

I'm a Chelsea fan, a 2nd year maths & stats student, and i'm from Reading! My role involves organising sports dinner, sports day at cambridge and more generally celebrating the best of sport Brasenose has to offer.



HARISH RAGHU
HE/HIM

ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS REP

I'm from Bermuda! I used to work at a goat farm before the uni thing. I miss it. I want to promote green and sustainable living in college and to encourage engagement with the natural world. I'll continue on the Brasenose clothes swaps and hope to start up an ongoing food donation scheme. I also want more transparency about waste disposal in college and energy (particularly water) use, as well as arranging some more light-hearted events like David Attenborough film nights or Uni Parks walks.



MILES OLEKSAK
THEY/THEM

CHARITIES REP

I'm the charities rep for the JCR, which is pretty much exactly what it sounds like! My role is to strengthen our relationship with charitable causes and (hopefully) have a lot of fun whilst doing it. I run various fundraisers throughout the term, raising money for all sorts of causes, local, national and international.



CHESS NIGHTINGALE
SHE/HER



BARNEY WAKEFIELD
HE/HIM

IT REP

I'm a third year geographer currently serving as your IT representative. I run the JCR section of the intranet and also the JCR website (which is being phased out).

ACCESS & ADMISSIONS REP

Hi, I'm Freya - the Access & Admissions Rep for Brasenose's JCR and I'm a third year PPEist from Yorkshire! I love walking my dog on the moor, an (occasional) wild swim and in Oxford, I'm part of BNC's boat club, having taken up rowing as a novice in 2nd year! If I'm not in the library, or taking a pret break as procrastination, I love going to talks, trying new coffee shops (for only their hot chocolate), taking photos of the RadCam and early morning runs in Uni Parks! My JCR role involves working closely with BNC's amazing Access staff on Offer-holder Day and Open Day events, organising student helpers for school tours around college, running the JCR social media pages, putting together College Families and representing the JCR at BNC's termly Admissions Committee!



FREYA WILLIAMS
SHE/HER

MEET YOUR FRESHERS REPS

It's probably about time we introduce ourselves a bit more too, as you'll be hearing a lot from us (as you probably already have!) about all things freshers week. After all, we are the people given the great honour of planning your first week to make sure you guys get the best possible start at the best college in Oxford!!



ANDREW ACHLER
HE/HIM



andrew.achler@bnc.ox.ac.uk



GABBY AUSTIN
SHE/HER



gabriela.austine@bnc.ox.ac.uk

Hi guys! We're Andrew and Gabby, and we're your fresher's reps for this year! We're second years doing Chemistry (Andrew) and English (Gabby), from London and Kent respectively.

We're so excited to be organising your fresher's week with such an incredible JCR committee, and giving you guys the best start to your time here! Our goal is to make you feel as comfortable and excited to be at Brasenose as possible, so you can fully appreciate all Oxford life has to offer. You can usually find Andrew either in the chem labs, or rowing at Brasenose boathouse (DTBH :), and Gabby hanging around New Quad or cycling to Hinksey lake. Wherever we are, we're always available to chat about anything; so please feel free to talk to us about anything you want, either dm us on the freshers instagram or shoot us an email! See you all in October!!

And now that you've met all of the current JCR committee, let's get to introducing the basics of life at Brasenose, starting with the biggest thing here, the academics.



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 varies between subjects, and it can be useful speaking to your tutors or college parents if you are unsure or want any further information!



*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 (3 people), 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 usually a day before the tutorial, but your tutors will give you exact information on what to do.

LECTURES

One of the main differences between arts/humanities courses and STEM courses is that STEM tends 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. However, regardless of course, lectures are an invaluable source of learning and shouldn't be avoided. Tutors will let you know which lectures you should be attending.

**GOOD
VIBES**

COLLECTIONS

At the beginning of every term (except your first term, and any term where you will have sat official exams in 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 main University exams, 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 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.

LABS (USUALLY STEM COURSES ONLY)

If you're doing a STEM course, then you're likely to also come across labs. These are practical-based, often compulsory classes that's run by your department. As everyone has come from such different backgrounds, all courses assume only very basic knowledge of how to complete a lab, and you will be guided through everything, so don't stress about them! Usually, you would expect to have 1 or 2 labs a week, and they sometimes require work to be handed in before or after the lab, but your department or college parents will be able to provide more information.

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 is only 1 (small) kitchen in college available (bottom of staircase 16), so eating in hall is a popular and cheap option! Most staircases will have a little kitchenette with a fridge, microwave, kettle and toaster, so you will be able to prepare simple food nonetheless.

Breakfast	Monday-Friday 8:00-9:30	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 17:30-18:15 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 18:00- 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 Hall” is a served three course dinner, available to all students at a cost of about £10.

Wine/other drinks aren't 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 to come along! 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 formal ticket selling if you want to try other college formals!

In terms of formality, gowns are usually worn (more on this later), but aside from this, the dress code isn't too strict, and most people 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 for various events such as International Women's Day, Chinese New Year, or Diwali. In your first week, there will also be a Freshers' formal, 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, wine, soft drinks, snacks, and our special College drink, the V cubed (ask your parents if curious!) We also have music, a TV, table football, darts, and a variety of boardgames 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



The Brasenose library

BRASENOSE LIBRARY

During your first week here, you'll be shown around your faculty library, and also the Brasenose libraries. You'll also 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 our lovely librarians and they'll be happy to help! The main College Library requires your fob to enter, and is open 24/7. Most books can be taken out for a term (some larger textbooks may only allow for a week at a time) by scanning the barcode on your Bod Card, and the barcode in the book. There are also 2 printers located in the library, and you'll be shown how to use them in the library induction.

The college library can get busy around the exam seasons, so it sometimes can be difficult to get a seat. However, you are also able to use your faculty library and any other libraries around Oxford through your Bod Card. There are 77 libraries dotted around Oxford (excluding other college's libraries), so why not give them all a look while your here?

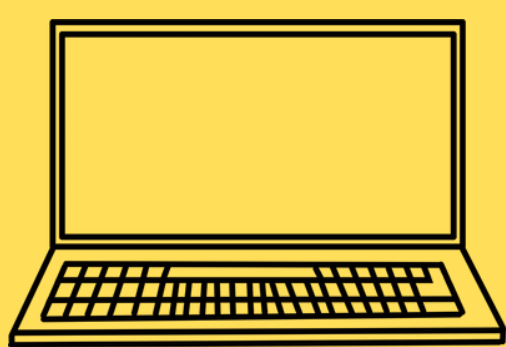
FACILITIES

IT AT BRASENOSE

You will receive your own personal email address in the form ***firstname.surname@bnc.ox.ac.uk***. Email is the main form of communication with the College, your tutors, and often clubs and societies, so be sure to check it regularly a few times a day, or get the emails on push notifications. I highly recommend either setting up your college email on your phone's inbuilt email app, or alternatively, downloading the Outlook app. The IT guide will give you much more information on this, and you will also be led through this by the IT Team in college in your inductions and through webinars pre-arrival.

OUR LOVELY PORTERS

At Brasenose, we're really lucky to have the most amazing Porters – they always provide a friendly face and big welcome. Andy Talbot, our head porter, and his team in the Porter's Lodge ('plodge') 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 24/7, so it is a great go-to if you're confused or need something and you're not sure where to find it! There's 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" – notes for parcels too big to go in your pidge – which you hand to a porter to get your parcel.



LAUNDRY FACILITIES

The Laundry room in college is at the bottom of Staircase 13 (to the left of the archway in New Quad, towards the High Street gate), and there are 4 washing machines and dryers. Both machines accept contactless with a wash costing about £2.40 and a dry costing £1.40.



Andy Talbot - Head Porter



Pidges on Valentine's Day

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:

- The rent charged for your room (including a ‘fixed facility’ charge for electricity and heating).
- College and University fees (if you are self-funded).
- 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 offer some of the best student finance support in the UK. These include the Crankstart Scholarship, or the Oxford Bursary, and there are also a huge range of hardship funding and bursaries available. You might be contacted about a bursary or scholarship from the university before you arrive if you are eligible. Brasenose also offers additional student support funding – keep an eye out for the relevant emails sent by the college during your first few weeks.

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 in addition to the ones listed above – 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.

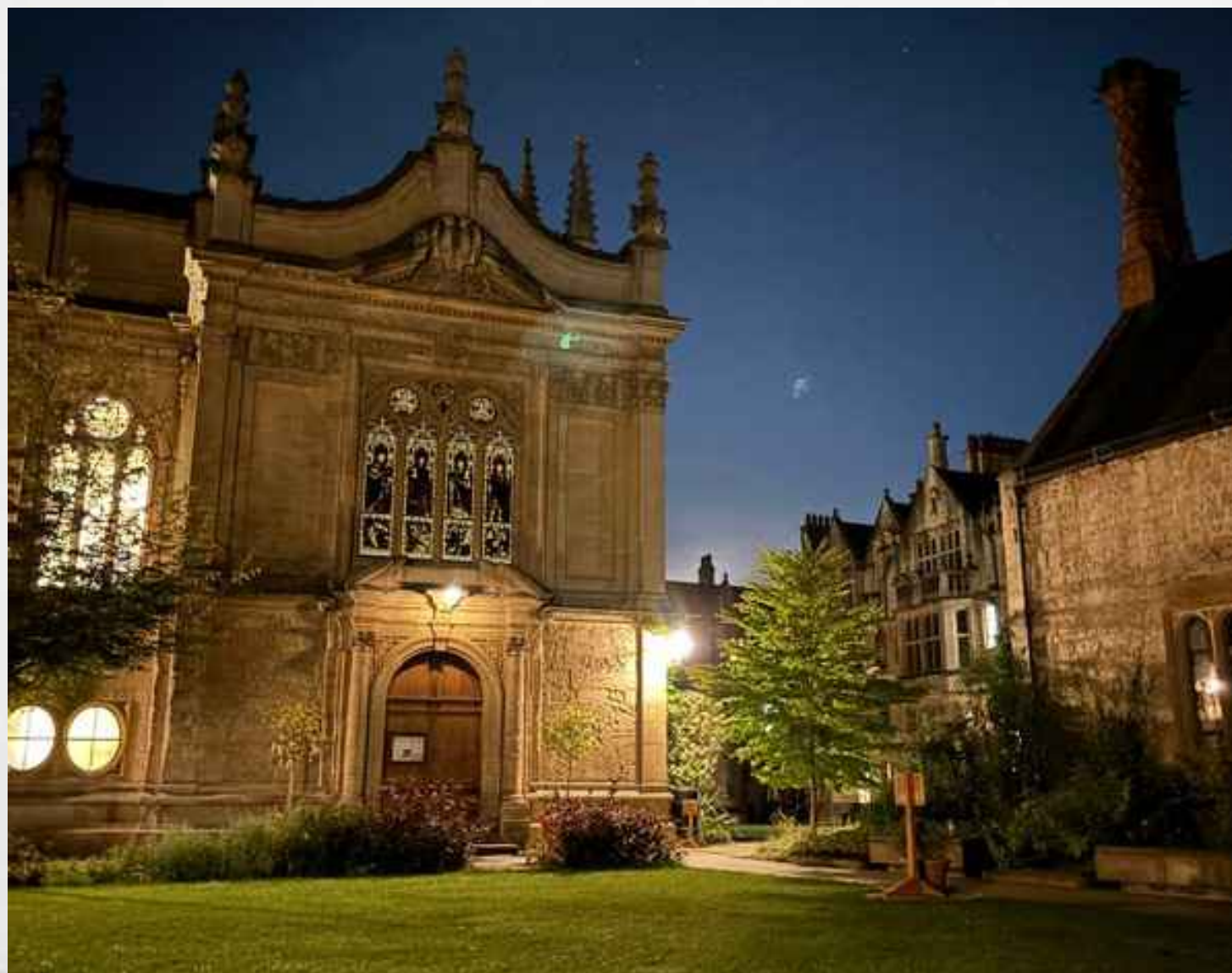
It is also worth noting that Oxford as a city is expensive, but college life is not. Rent is considerably lower than that what you’d have to pay if you were to privately rent, and Hall food and the bar are heavily subsidised. You are also able to work for the university – University Ambassador/Outreach roles are often paid, and there is also the opportunity to undertake paid internships, or roles such as running the Telethon (fundraising from alumni)/working the Open Days outside of term time to make up some money. Furthermore, you can work for the student-run bar, and earn some money during term time 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 (such as 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 at night

CLUBS, SOCIETIES, AND EVENTS

Both the college and University will have their own Freshers' Fairs, and attending these will give you the opportunity to discover the wide range of clubs and societies available to you for all abilities. 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 eating bread to every sport imaginable 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, plus a little on the Varsity Trip, an annual ski trip run jointly with Cambridge University.

SPORTS

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



 @bncnetball



 @bncbc

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.



 @bncfchqhd



Brasenose has the world's oldest boat club (Brasenose College Boat Club), which enters at least two women's and men's crews into multiple external competitions throughout the year, as well as the big inter-college rowing events, something you'll hear more about if you decide to try it out. It has both lots of high quality coaching and loads 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, and most of the current rowers haven't rowed before!


Please get in touch with Luke Hayward or Daga Nogal, the current boat club presidents, with any questions you may have, or check out the boat club's instagram, @bncbc!

As well as inter-college leagues, there are also "cuppers" tournaments. These are tournaments played against other college teams and happen once a year - a great excuse to go and watch your fellow students have a chance at winning some silverware! There are also often cuppers for sports not often played at college, such as volleyball and croquet, so definitely have a go when they come around!



Brasenose has a long tradition of winning various cuppers tournaments, with the most recent big victory being in the 22/23 college football cuppers tournament. 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!



 @bnc.swingers

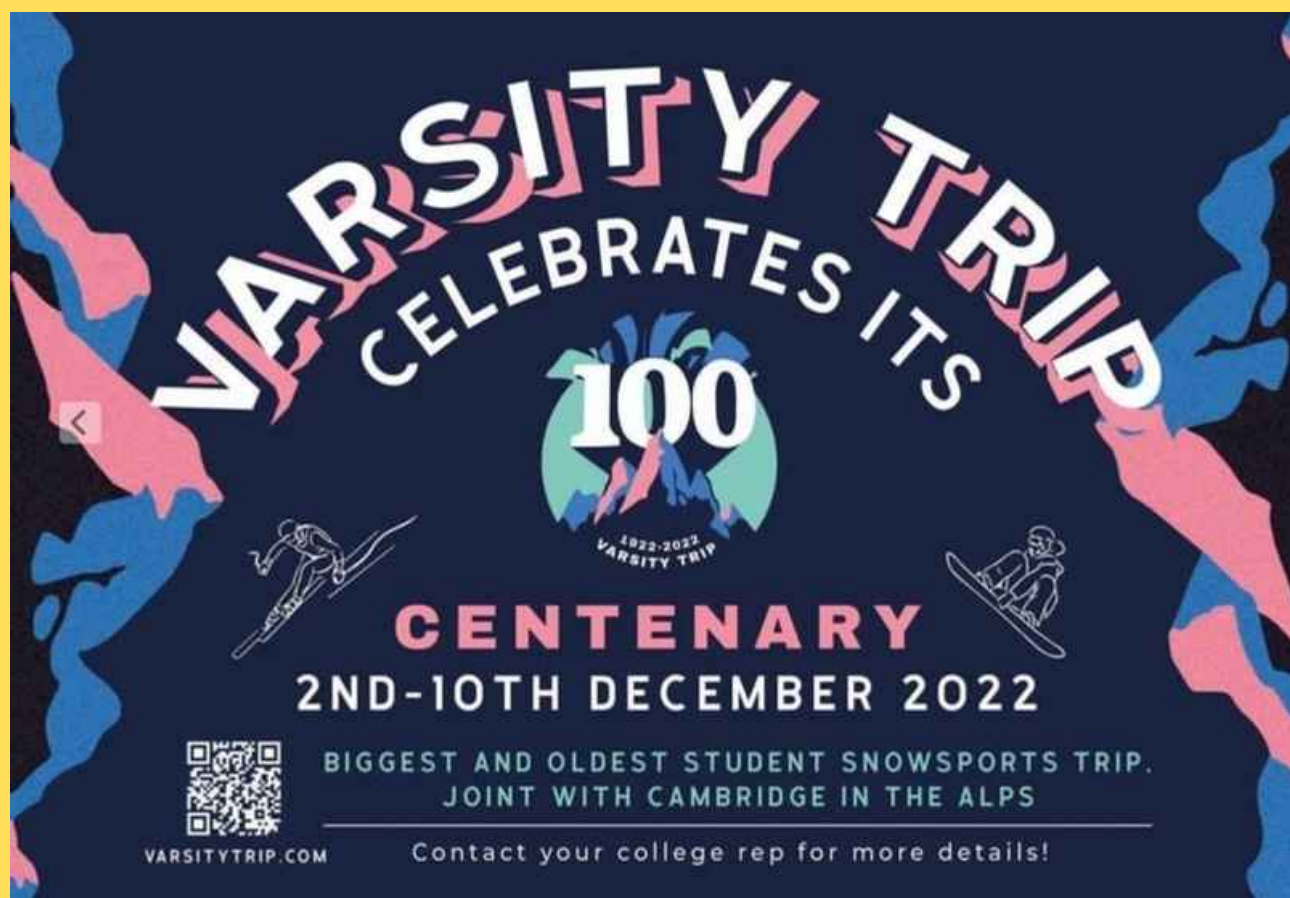


THE VARSITY TRIP

The Varsity Trip is an annual skiing trip open to anyone who's a student of Oxford or Cambridge, and happens straight after the end of Michaelmas term (your first term).

It's a week-long trip with everything planned for by other students, such as accommodation and skiing lessons/rentals, and it's a great way to either try out skiing for the first time with friends or test out your skills if you're more experienced in a special Cuppers tournament for skiing/snowboarding, along with the entire trip being packed full of additional activities to keep you busy, day and night. The most recent Varsity Trip in 2023 was held in Tignes, France, and the next one will be held in the Nevis Range, Scotland.

Of course, this trip is completely optional, and some people opt to not go on the trip in their first year, but if you have experience with skiing/snowboarding, then why not give it a look? More information will be shared by the college rep, Lara Wragg, soon, and you can also check out their instagram/email Lara for additional information:





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.

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 are 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, Iona, 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 – the Brasenose College Arts Week, which happens every year in Trinity term (summer term), which are all organised by the Arts Rep.

Last year, arts week had some super fun action featuring a play, still life and life drawing, pottery painting, tote bag designing, bracelet making, karaoke, & 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 (included in the ticket and discounted for Brasenose students) also made for a great library break during exam season.

 [@brasenosearts](#)

We also have a fantastic student-run magazine, NoseDive, which is open to submissions by everyone. A theme is announced each term, and its completely up to you what you decide to do, it could be an artwork or a poem or anything! It's then sent and printed every term for free for any student who wants it (and is on their mailing list!), so it's definitely worth a look!

 [@brasenosedive](#)



ACCESS AND OUTREACH

Lots of students also get involved in access work across college and the university to promote more students from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply to Oxford. In College, anyone is able to volunteer for weekly access events, where you may do tours of college, virtual Q&A sessions, and also interview workshops.

Anyone can be involved in access work, no matter your subject or what type of school you went to. You can also get involved in the University access roles, where you can get the chance to get involved in schemes such as UNIQ, and societies often have their own outreach.

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, Freya, with links to all of these opportunities.

Helping at the Offer Holder Day and/or the Open Days are more brilliant way to give back to Brasenose, and these opportunities are also paid ones – keep doing tours to have a higher chance of being able to work for these!

For more information about the open days/offer holder days specifically, speak to our wonderful Access and Admissions Rep, Freya, or the Head of Access, Joe Organ!



jcr-admission@bnc.ox.ac.uk



joe.organ@bnc.ox.ac.uk



WELFARE

Our lovely Welfare reps Imogen, Esme, and Rory, are more than happy to help wherever and whenever possible with anything regarding welfare. Please make sure that you read the welfare guide carefully, as it describes their roles in more detail, as well as the college's welfare provision and includes details of our peer supporters.



jcr-welfare@bnc.ox.ac.uk



@bnc_welfare

In summary, the welfare team put on loads of events throughout the year, such as free food in welfare teas (twice a week), welfare week (5th week), a whole week dedicated to welfare, often including a visit from welfare animals such as alpacas (shown above!), and many more things.

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. He 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!

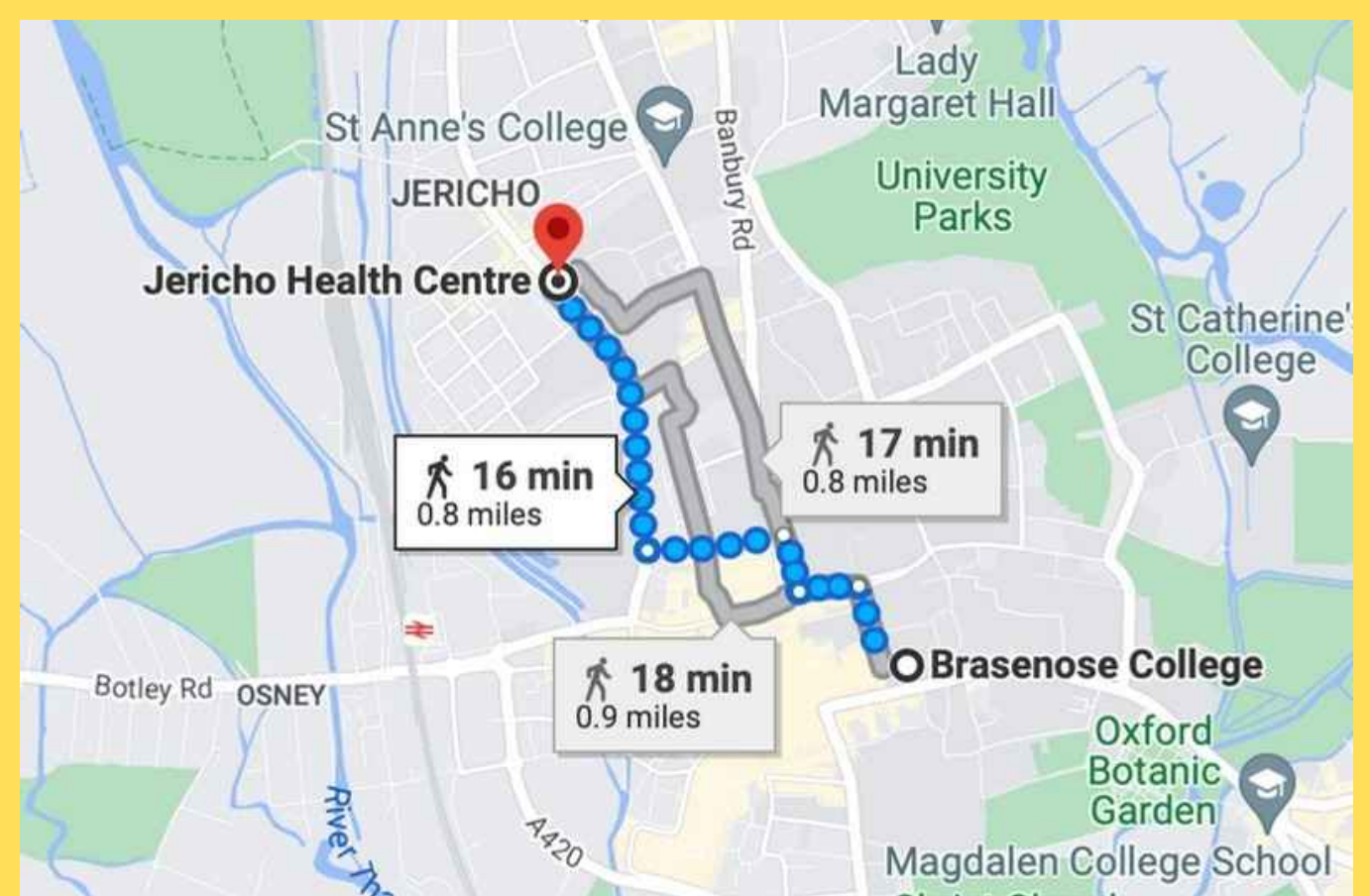
The doctors can be found at **Jericho Health Centre, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6NW (tel 01865 311324)** If you are need of dental advice you should seek advice in the first instance from the college nurse. Where appropriate she will arrange an appointment with the College Dentist in Headington – **6a 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. Speak to the college nurse for further details.

Remember to register with a doctor in Oxford – from now on, Oxford should be considered as your temporary home as you are going to spend almost half the year here!

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 be given the lodge phone number during Freshers week, 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.



DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

Our amazing JCR Diversities and Equalities Rep, Taona, 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!



jcr-diversity@bnc.ox.ac.uk



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.

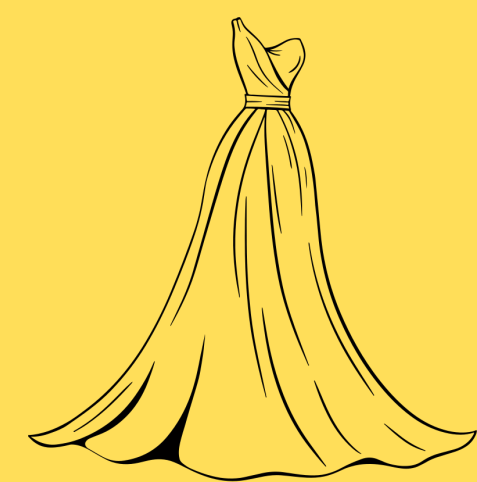
These have been designed by their corresponding Oxford SU Campaigns and officers – WomCam (Women's Campaign), CRAE and LGBTQ+ Campaigns respectively – to facilitate productive conversations at a university, college and JCR level. In Brasenose, we believe in creating an environment which prioritises equality 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 us (jcr-freshers@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 (“Dark” = black or dark grey/blue)
- 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 if you do well in exams!)



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)



But I don’t own a commoner’s gown!

No, neither did we when we got here! Most people buy their subfusc after they arrive, usually during freshers’ week, as matriculation is at the end of 1st week. Shepherd and Woodward (on High Street) and Walters (Turl Street) have a fresher’s deal for a gown, bow tie/ribbon and mortarboard for £40, and the rest is fairly standard to get.

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 and not as a suggestion.

Do I wear my gown much?

Your gown is the most used element of subfusc! As well as for matriculation, you'll 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 (but often aren't) worn for principal's collections (like parents' evening, but without parents) and, if you've misbehaved, have to be warned for decanal summons (hopefully not something you'll have to go to!)



Gowns worn at a formal



Black tie at the Brasenose Ball

BLACK TIE

Black tie is an address code developed by the Edwardians, invented as a less formal alternative to white-tie (see later). The dress code isn't as strict as subfusc. This will often be asked for balls and some other formal events you may go to, such as a subject dinner with your tutors.

The "official" historical black tie dress code for men includes:

- A jacket with silk facings (usually satin) with a peaked/notched lapel (a tuxedo).
- Trousers with a single silk or satin braid covering the outer seams.
- A white dress shirt with a foldover (standard) or winged standing collar.
- A black silk bow tie matching the lapel facings.
- Shirt studs (dress shirts come with these) and cufflinks.
- Black socks and black shoes.
- (Optional) Cummerbund or waistcoat.
- White pocket square.

Historically for women, the dress code is much simpler, and just involves wearing a long (to the floor) dress, with the colour less strict than for men – it may be dark or not.

Most of the time, you don't need the complete set to ace the look – only the tuxedo, trousers, and black bow-tie are mandatory. Dresses are often much more flexible in what you can wear.

However, if you're unsure, ask your friends what they're going to wear or ask your college parents/us if you need more advice, and you'll feel more comfortable about what to wear as you start to go to more black tie events!

When should I wear black tie?

Normally, you'll be told if an event is black tie when the invite is sent. Events such as most college balls, the Christmas party, the 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 that strict, so you can wear what you feel comfortable in! I'd recommend buying a few trusty "black tie" outfits – if you're going to wear a suit, picking up black tie formal wear will be useful as you'll 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.

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 (Big Organised Parties) are college fancy dress parties and they are loads of fun! 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 the 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 our 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 which 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 aunties, uncles, grandparents and cousins!

Your parents are there to give advice and to help you settle in as they've already completed first year and can help you with anything you might need. Don't be scared to talk to them – they'll remember how daunting their first few weeks were! College parents are also 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'll make contact with you before you arrive in the form of a parent's letter, and you will hopefully meet you in person 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 be fine!



The Sheldonian Theatre where you matriculate



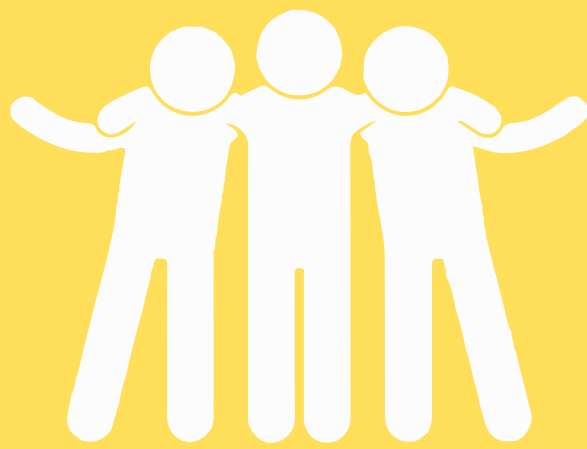
Just before Matriculation at Brasenose

YOUR FIRST DAY



When you arrive:

- There will be parking space available outside Brasenose, in Radcliffe Square, and the surrounding area. A porter will direct you as to where you can park.
- 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 tours of Oxford and events later on!

IN THE EVENING:

In the evening, there will be a mini Freshers' reception in college serving cocktails and soft drinks (all made by your Freshers' Committee!), where you can start to get to know each other. On the Sunday, it will mostly be a chill night planned, but also feel free to explore the city/do something else planned with others if you also wish!

The main events of the week will start on Monday where you will be officially enrolled, and start some of the various mandatory and social events that we've got lined up for you! In the evening, we'll have Freshers Cocktails, where you can enjoy cocktails and soft drinks made by your Freshers' Committee, alongside a dress-up theme (which we'll announce closer to the time!)

When this is over, there will be a few 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 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's 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, Lara Bonnier, will be around throughout the week, and feel free to reach out to her or us, your freshers reps, if you have any additional questions. Look out for events for international students during the week too, as these are deliberately put on to help you settle in, and these will start a week earlier to make it easier for you to plan your arrival to the UK.

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 subfusc. Gowns are also worn and students must carry their mortarboards. You'll receive more details of matriculation from college, including details of what to wear and when, in due course.

And following this, there will be a Matriculation Ball held on the evening of your matriculation, and again, more details will be released nearer the date.

If you have any questions about Matriculation or the entertainment, feel free to contact us (jcr-freshersrep@bnc.ox.ac.uk) or the entz team (jcr-entzrep@bnc.ox.ac.uk).



PACKING CHECKLIST

For your room



- 
- A large graphic of a clipboard with a grey clip at the top, holding a white sheet of paper with the checklist.
- ☒ Bedding – including duvet, blankets, sheets and pillow cases
 - ☒ Clothes 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 if you like drinking hot drinks
 - ☒ Some cutlery and crockery, bottle opener, tin opener if you end up eating your own foods a lot
 - ☒ Tea towel, dish cloth, sponges, washing-up liquid
 - ☒ Multivitamins/medicine – as you'll end up mixing with a lot of people and may end up being ill
 - ☒ Posters and decorations



PACKING CHECKLIST

Academics & Admin

- ✓ Passport photos for membership cards to clubs/societies
- ✓ Paper, Pens, Folders, etc.
- ✓ Laptop – basically essential
- ✓ Tablet – may be useful for STEM courses (not essential)
- ✓ Passport/Driving License/NHS card – essential proof of ID
- ✓ Chargers for electrical items and power bank
- ✓ Bicycle, helmet, and bike lock if bringing a bike
- ✓ Musical instruments and/or sports kit
- ✓ Umbrella and coat
- ✓ Formal dresses and suits, including suitable shoes
- ✓ Sliders



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 – neither did we! However, soon enough, you'll be saying this stuff without even thinking about it.

Term Names

Michaelmas – The first (autumn) term, October to December

Hilary – The second (winter) term, January to March

Trinity – The third (spring) 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 November.” 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. Other colleges may refer to this as the MCR instead, which stands for Middle Common Room.

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 also 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 Bod Card 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, alongside Upay.

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

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.

Collections: 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.

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, 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. Some special formals may also be High Table, such as a subject formal, or some Brasenose Boat Club formals.

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 subfusc 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. You must wear subfusc for this.

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!

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 are optional and many don’t wear them.

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. Punting is also traditionally done after you Matriculate. There are two main locations to punt from – Magdalen Boathouse (next to Magdalen Bridge) and Cherwell Boathouse (near Wolfson College).



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, leave your bin outside your door. Be friendly toward your scouts – they will be looking after you for the whole year, and can often answer any questions you may have about college life and how it works.

The Oxford Union (“The Union”): The Union is a debating society which provides speaker meetings, parties, balls, and lots of other entertainment, and are based adjacent to our Frewin annexe on St. Michael’s Street. Members have access to the Union building, which has a popular bar and restaurant, a library, and many other faculties. Not to be confused with the Student Union (the SU, see below).

The Oxford University Student Union (“The SU”): The Student Union is different from the Oxford Union in that it represents every student at the university, hence student union. The SU will carry out an introduction during Freshers Week, and they will also send you regular emails during your time here, and they aim to support students and make the university a fair and diverse place to study at.

Tute: Short for tutorials, an hour long class with your tutor, often done either solo or with one to two other people. You may have to go to other colleges for some tutes.

Vac: short for vacation, i.e., the break between terms: Christmas vac, Easter vac, and Summer (or long) vac (as its the longest break – 3 months!!)



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 us, your Freshers' Reps, the JCR President, one of the welfare reps, or your college parents if you have any questions at all, big or small.

Don't forget to join the JCR Facebook group, and you can also keep up to date with us on social media! Brasenose is very 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 some of our socials:

 JCR instagram page (**@brasenosejcr**)


 JCR twitter (**@brasenosejcr**)

Official news twitter account run by our Schools' Officer, Joe

 Organ (**@BrasenoseNews**)!


 Official college instagram (**@brasenosecollege**)

 JCR entz (entertainment) (**@brasenosentz**)

 JCR Welfare (**@bnc_welfare**)

 JCR D&E (**@bncdiversity**)

 JCR Arts (**@brasenosearts**)

 JCR FemSoc (**@bnc_femsoc**)

 BNC Sport (**@brasenose_sport**)

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

Big BNC love,

Andrew and Gabby xxx

 **@bncfreshers24**

