

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.



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.



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.



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, two squash courts, and rugby, football, hockey and cricket pitches. The Pavilion is equipped with toilets and changing rooms.





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!

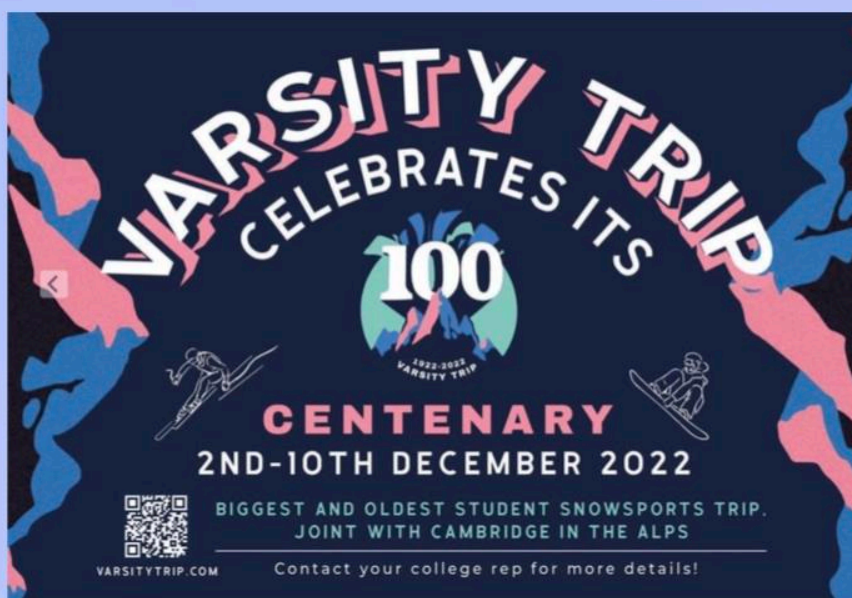
We would definitely recommend giving rowing a try during freshers week, as the boat club put on lots of daily sessions to encourage everyone to get involved! Please get in touch with Ella Shalom, the boat club president with any questions you may have!

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!

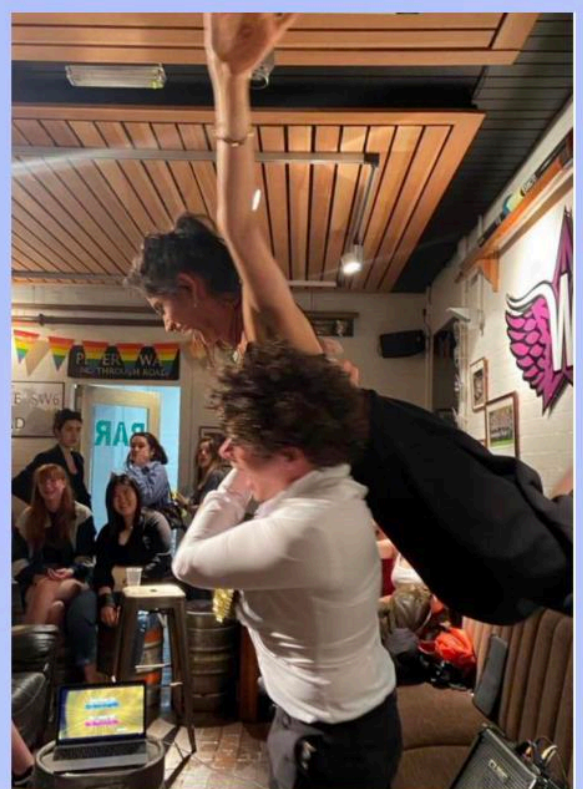




Drama is very active at Brasenose. For newcomers (both on the stage and behind the scenes) there is usually Drama Cuppers in Michaelmas. This is an inter-collegiate competition for first years to produce a short drama, which is then performed at a studio. Our Arts Rep, Liv, will be happy to help those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

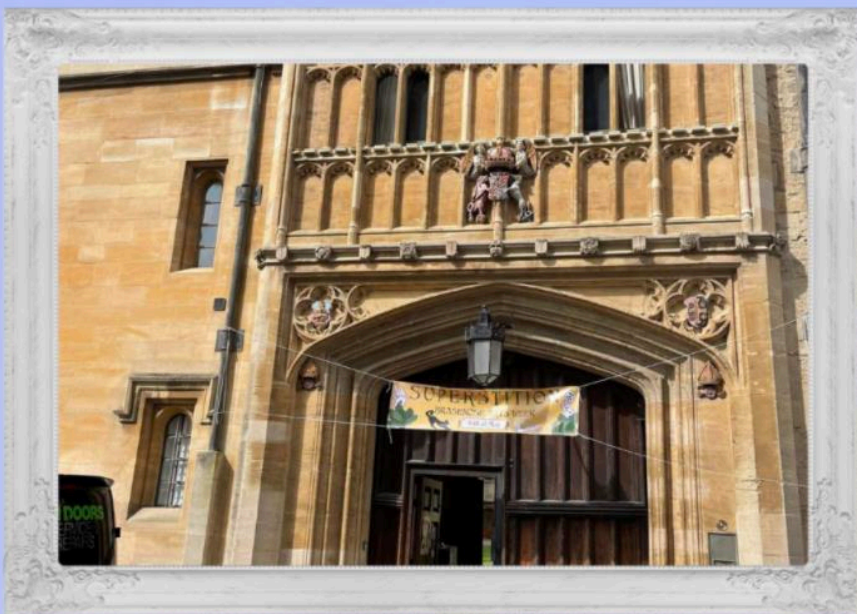
Brasenose is home to one of the largest arts festivals in Oxford. This year the week was organised by our arts rep Liv.



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.

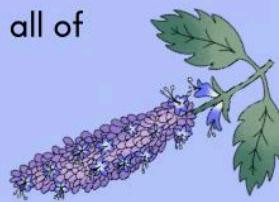





ACCESS

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, Maya, with links to all of these opportunities.



WELFARE

Our lovely Welfare reps Billie and Freddie 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 Ish.



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.

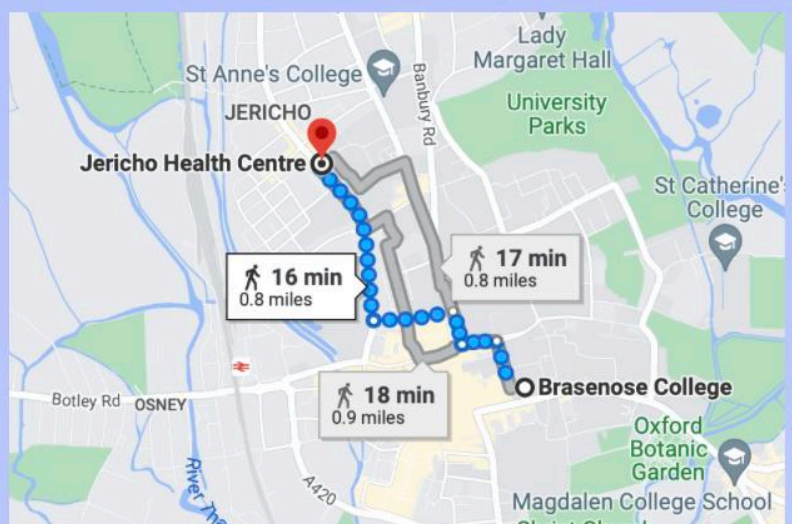
The treatment is for the relief of pain and stabilisation of the condition. You should arrange further treatment with your regular dentist. If you do not have a regular dentist and wish to find one in Oxford, you should find local surgeries taking on NHS Patients. A good port of call is Studental, in 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, Ish (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.

Kadiza heads a brand new elected D&E committee, whose details are on the Welfare guide enclosed in this pack. 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 aunties, 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 fine!



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 (**@bncdiversity**)
- 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,

Niamh and Erin xxxx

