



SJC MCR

FRESHERS' WEEK 2022

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2022-st-johns-college-oxford-freshers-week-tickets-426912756547> - for all ticketed events, go here!

Welcome to 2022 Freshers' Week

Welcome to St John's!

The Middle Common Room (MCR) forms the graduate student body of the College. We have a two-storey building close to the College Gardens and Garden Quad, called the MCR Building or just the MCR, where you are welcome to make use of the facilities available.

We are a truly diverse and international community of students who are studying a broad range of subjects. As a community, we want to make sure that Oxford is a fun place to study at and St John's is a home away from home for you!

We hope you are as excited as us for the term ahead! We have a full calendar of events for this term ranging from exciting exchange dinners where you will get to go other Oxford Colleges for a formal and meet some of their students, fun formal nights, BOPs, International dinners in Hall and cultural celebrations, cozy book clubs, critical discussion, academic lectures, laidback movie nights and brunches galore! We hope there will be an event for every taste, so come along, meet new people, and make more friends!

If you have any questions regarding your new life at Oxford and, in college, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. As a committee we always welcome new members to get involved in the community. If you are keen to join in and help or implement any ideas that you have, please feel free to reach out to me or any other Committee member. Everyone is welcome and it is never too early to get involved!

One of the most common questions we get during Freshers' Week is *how many events should I go to?* There's no right answer. Some people try to go to as many as possible, some don't go to any. We've done our best to put on a diverse range of events, from tours to bar exchanges to punting. All events are voluntary¹, for your own enjoyment and to meet other grads, and we hope that there is something here for everyone.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you all in person soon!

The MCR Committee

Your MCR Committee

Below is some information about your MCR Committee. Please feel free to get in touch with any of us if you have concerns, ideas, or questions. There will be a welcome event during Freshers' Week (2 October) for you to meet all of us in person. You can find more detailed descriptions of us on the website, <https://mcr.sjc.ox.ac.uk/committee/>

President:

- Archana Ramesh, mcr-president@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Vice-President:

- Stanislas Lalanne, mcr-vicepresident@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Treasurer:

- Joseph Pollacco, mcr-treasurer@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Secretary:

- Imaan Wallace, mcr-secretary@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Social Secretaries:

- Camron Nourshargh and TianYi Wu, mcr-social@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Victuallers:

- David Heath and Thomas Grooves, mcr-victualler@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Welfare Officers:

- Mona Barkat and Fatemeh Salimi, mcr-welfare@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Culture Officers:

- Annabel Hancock and Claire Keene, mcr-culture@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Women's Officers:

- Lorika Shkreli and Yuzhen Dong, mcr-women@sjc.ox.ac.uk

LGBTQ Officers:

- Minying Huang and Bruno Marinic, mcr-lgbtq@sjc.ox.ac.uk

¹ *Except* the College Welcome, the fire safety talk, the anti-racism session and the consent workshop, which are highly supported by the MCR but organised by the College and are mandatory.

Black and Minority Ethnic Students' Officers:

- Sparshita Dey and Nishant Chauhan, mcr-bme@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Disabled Students' Officers:

- Alejandro De Los Angeles, mcr-dso@sjc.ox.ac.uk

International Students' Officers:

- Zepeng Cao and Filippos Sytilidis, mcr-international@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Parents and Carers Officer:

- Genevieve Hayes, mcr-parentscarers@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Environment and Ethics Officers:

- Simon Lichtinger and Kaya Axelsson, mcr-environment@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Sports Officer:

- Joshua Werret, mcr-sports@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Academic Affairs Officer:

- Charlotte Hand, mcr-academic@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Returning Officer:

- Bjorn Vahsen, mcr-returning@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Freshers' Week Timetable 2022

Please be aware that events may be subject to change up to the last minute. If an event time or location changes we will send out an email, and we will try to stick to one email a day during Freshers' Week.

All events with alcohol should have non-alcoholic alternatives, and events with food should include vegetarian and vegan options. We've tried to characterise events in the short timetable as clearly as possible, based on wheelchair accessibility or family-friendliness (ability to bring children). Please do ask about particular events if you need more information. And also don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Saturday 1st October 2022

8:45am – 10:00am Parkrun (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

Take part in the weekly University Parks Parkrun (alone, or with other St. John's students). If you want to receive a time you will need to register on the Parkrun [website](#), but you can also run without registering. Parkrun is designed to be fun and friendly, it is not a competitive event.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

12:00pm – 1:00pm International Freshers Welcome (MCR)

Your international officers will provide information about life at Oxford and in the UK. Free food will be provided, this is also an opportunity to meet other international freshers.

Not ticketed. Open to all (international students only).

1:00pm – 2:00pm Oxford Tour (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

A one hour walk through Oxford which will show you all the key locations, from transport to healthcare to shopping to sites of cultural interest.

Not ticketed. Open to freshers only.

3:00pm – 4:00pm CollegeTour (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

This tour will give you the opportunity to see College in more detail, and provides a great chance to ask any questions you have about the physical space or community.

Not ticketed. Open to freshers only.

Sunday 2nd October 2022

10:00am – 12:00pm Welfare Walk (Meet at Porter’s Lodge)

A walk around Port Meadow, which is particularly beautiful this time of the year! We will go at a slow pace in order to enjoy the colours of the trees, the river, and Godstow Abbey. We will finish in time for the picnic if you want to do both. *In case of rain this event will have to be cancelled.*

Not ticketed. Open to all.

12:00pm – 2:00pm Welcome Picnic (MCR Lawn)

Join us for a nice picnic on College grounds! In case of cold and/or rain, we will enjoy the picnic goodies in the MCR. No need to sign up, just come along.

Not ticketed. Open to freshers only.

3:00pm – 5:00pm Oxford Student’s English Dictionary (MCR)

Oxford has a language of its own, which can be daunting when you first arrive! Come learn 'Oxford English' so that you can talk like an Oxford student, while enjoying free tea and cake! Come along for a chilled afternoon and meet fellow freshers and your culture officers.

Not ticketed. Open to freshers only.

6:00pm – 7:30pm MCR Welcome Dinner (Hall then MCR)

Get to meet and interact with other freshers in your first College sponsored dinner in Hall! No dress code, this is not a formal. We get kicked out of Hall at 18.45 so make sure you turn up at 18.00 prompt. Free soft drinks and beer/cider will be provided once we are in the MCR.

Ticketed - sign up form circulated via College. Open to freshers only.

7:30pm – 10:00pm MCR Meet the Grads (Bar Marquee)

A chance to meet non-fresher grads, and take part in our annual MCR pub quiz as a college family (sign up beforehand to be allocated a College family!) The MCR bar serves both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Ticketed. Open to freshers, and any non-freshers signed up to be College parents

Monday 3rd October 2022

11:10am – 11:30am Disabilities Support/Welcome (Garden Quad Auditorium)

The College disability coordinator will provide information on support available to any students with a disability.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch in Hall (Meet outside Hall)

A chance to grab some lunch with your fellow graduates in Hall. See Q&A section for details on food and drink in college. At least one committee member will be present in case you have any questions. Meet at 12:00 outside Hall and we will go in together; we have a table booked.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

1:00pm – 2:00pm College Tour (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

This tour will give you the opportunity to see College in more detail, and provides a chance to ask any questions you have about the physical space or community.

Not ticketed. Open to freshers only.

4:00pm – 5:00pm Oxford Union Tour (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

The Oxford Union is Oxford's largest and oldest debating society. A guide from the Union will show you around the buildings, including the historic [Union Library](#), and answer any questions you might have about what membership involves.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

6:00pm – 7:00pm Consent Workshop (MCR) MANDATORY

This workshop is facilitated by OSARCC, the Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre. This includes explaining the legal definition of consent, and challenging common myths. Following an MCR policy motion from January 2014, freshers' week consent workshops are mandatory for new MCR students.

Not ticketed. Open to all, mandatory for freshers.

8:00pm – 10:00pm Wine and Cheese (MCR)

There will be wine, and there will be cheese - a tried and tested formula. We will also provide non-alcoholic alternatives, and vegan cheese. This is an informal evening to meet other freshers at the start of the week.

Ticketed. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers.

Tuesday 4th October 2022

10:00am – 12:00am Punting (Meet at Porter’s Lodge)

Punting is a traditional Oxford pastime – a long, narrow, and flat wooden boat, propelled by a person wielding a very long pole. It’s not the most efficient means of transport, but it’s a fun experience, and everyone should get the chance to punt for a bit if they want to. We will provide soft drinks and snacks. Meet at 10.00am to give us time to get to the Cherwell Boathouse. *In case of rain this event will have to be cancelled.*

Ticketed. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers.

12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch in Hall (Meet outside Hall)

Same event as on 3 October- but feel free to come to both if you can make it!

1:00pm – 3:00pm College Cake & Coffee (Bar Marquee)

Members of the College’s Domestic Tea are hosting a welcome, and will provide some free refreshments. Come at any point to the marquee.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

3:00pm – 5:00pm Collegiate Tour (Meet at Porter’s Lodge)

We have planned a joint event with New College and Merton College MCRs. In the event of good weather, this will include a tour of all three colleges, and joint drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. In the event of rain we will skip straight to the refreshments.

Ticketed. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers.

8:00pm – 10:30pm Movie Night (MCR)

Fancy a relaxed, alcohol-free evening? Come along to the MCR TV room (on the left of the main room) at 8pm for a movie screening. The MCR has a large DVD cupboard so that the group can pick a film for the evening. There will be copious snacks provided!

Not ticketed. Open to all.

8:00pm – 10:30pm Pub Crawl (Meet at Porter’s Lodge)

Join us for a pub crawl around the city centre’s finest drinking establishments! This will be a great chance to socialise with other freshers, while getting the chance to explore the city a bit more. This will be split into two groups of 20, and an optional game of pub golf is sure to make things particularly interesting... (one of the groups will not have pub golf so you can choose which you prefer)

Ticketed. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers.

Wednesday 5th October 2022

9:30am – 10:30am Anti-Racism Session 1 (Kendrew Events Room) MANDATORY

A session run by [Bilal Harry Khan](#), an experienced facilitator, to raise awareness on key issues. Refreshments are provided after.

Not ticketed. Mandatory for freshers.

11:30am – 12:00pm Fire Safety Talk (Garden Quad Auditorium) MANDATORY

This mandatory induction is organised by St John's and introduces fire safety and procedures within College.

Not ticketed, you will receive information about this from College.

12:00pm – 1:15pm Lunch in Gloucester Green Market (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

A chance to grab some lunch with your fellow graduates. Gloucester Green outdoor street market features dozens of food stalls to choose from, and is under five minutes walk away from St John's. We will meet at the Porter's Lodge and go together - the plan is to eat outdoors, e.g. in Wellington Square. In the event of poor weather we will go to Hall instead.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

2:00pm – 3:30pm College Welcome (Garden Quad Auditorium)

The main official welcome event from College, containing some key information about life at St John's. The final half an hour cake and tea will be provided.

Not ticketed, you will receive an invite from College.

3:30pm – 4:30pm Anti-Racism Session 2 (Garden Quad Reception Room)

A repeat of the earlier session for those allocated to the afternoon slot. Please try to stick to your allocated slot as much as possible to keep numbers well distributed.

Not ticketed. Mandatory for freshers.

6:30pm – 9:00pm LGBTQ+ Karaoke (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

Meet fellow students who identify as LGBTQ+ in a relaxed setting. Sing/dance the night away or sit and judge us silently - either way, it will be a good time.

The MCR will cover the cost of room rental. Food and drinks are available for purchase..

Ticketed. Open to all who identify as LGBTQ. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers

Thursday 6th October 2022

11:00am – 12:00pm Oxford SU Freshers' Fair (University Parks, Meet at Lodge)

Come along to the St John's slot at the Freshers' fair organised by the Oxford University Students' Union, bringing together hundreds of club and society stalls, each offering memberships, external companies advertising their services, and commercial outlets giving away freebies. The Oxford SU representatives will also be there to explain the services they offer.

If you would like to go there with other St John's MCR members, a group will set off from the Porters' Lodge at 11. If you are unable to make it you can go at an [alternative time](#).

Not ticketed. Open to all. Requires a bod card.

12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch in Kendrew (Meet in Kendrew Cafe)

A chance to grab some lunch with your fellow graduates in Kendrew Cafe, a St John's alternative to Hall. See Q&A section for details on food and drink in college. At least one committee member will be present in case you have any questions. Meet at 12:00 in Kendrew Cafe.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

1:00pm – 2:00pm LGBTQ+ 101 Workshop (MCR)

Aimed at everyone, the workshop tries to bring all students up to the same level of knowledge about the LGBTQ+ community, to help make any LGBTQ+ students feel more at home, and to help set standards of behaviour for the wider student community.

Not ticketed. Open to all, not just those who identify as LGBTQ+.

4.00pm – 6:00pm Women's* Tea & Cake (MCR)

Join the MCR Women's* Officers for a relaxed afternoon tea event- there will be tea and cake, unsurprisingly, among other things. There will also be an introduction to the Women's Leadership Program. *Open to those who wholly or partly identify as a woman.

Ticketed. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers.

7:30pm – 10:30pm - Cèilidh (Meet at Porter's Lodge)***

A traditional Scottish and Irish dance. No prior knowledge is expected (and is very rare!), we have a facilitator and band from the Oxford University Ceilidh Club who will explain everything. Bringing water and comfortable clothes is strongly advised. Will take place in New College's Long Barn, a 13th century building! You do not need to bring a dance partner (most people won't and will keep switching)

Ticketed. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers.

Friday 7th October 2022

11:00am – 12:00pm Yoga (Daisy Lawn)

If the weather is good we will have yoga on the Daisy Lawn (part of the College gardens), if not we will use the MCR. Mats provided, though if you have your own one that helps!

Ticketed. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers

12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch in Kendrew (Meet in Kendrew Cafe)

Same event as on 7 October- but feel free to come to both if you can make it!

Not ticketed. Open to all.

5:30pm – 7:00pm Uncomfortable Oxford Tour (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

Uncomfortable Oxford is an academic-led organisation dedicated to raising awareness about the 'uncomfortable' aspects of history, mostly run by history DPhils. We have a trained tour guide who will provide the [introductory tour](#).

Ticketed. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers.

7:30pm – 10:30pm Bar Exchange (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

This is an Exchange event with Merton College and St. Edmund's Hall MCRs. Participants will be divided into three groups, each containing students from all three colleges, and we will go round the various college bars. A great chance to also meet people from other Colleges, and get to see their bars!

Ticketed. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers.

Saturday 8th October 2022

11.00am – 1:00pm Environment & Ethics Brunch (MCR Lawn)

A Saturday morning brunch, organised by your Environment and Ethics Officers. Everyone welcome for good chat and healthy food! Ideally it will take place outdoors on the MCR Lawn, but this may need to be moved to the MCR in case of rain.

Ticketed. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers.

3:00pm – 5:00pm Afternoon Tea & Croquet with Jesus MCR (St Giles House/Lawn)

Join us for a very stereotypically 'Oxford' event of croquet and afternoon tea! This event will be split with Jesus College, and will involve some fun rounds of croquet, split up with a lovely afternoon tea picnic on the St Giles' House Lawn (or inside the house if the weather is bad).

Ticketed. Initially open to freshers only, surplus tickets will be opened up to non-freshers.

7:30pm – 11:30pm Cocktail Night (MCR)

One of our traditional largest freshers' week events! MCR volunteers will mix a number of cocktails and non-alcoholic mocktails, all free of charge. Open from the start to both freshers and non-freshers.

Ticketed. Open to all.

Sunday 9th October 2022

11:00am – 1:00pm MCR Sports Sign-Up (MCR)

St John's offers a whole host of different sports for its MCR student body, from rugby and netball, to squash and ultimate frisbee. Come along to the MCR to meet some of the team captains and register your interest.

NB: you can absolutely sign up for sports after this event, but it's a great opportunity to meet the captains and a few players.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

2:00pm – 4:00pm Dancesport (Kendrew Events Room)

Free Ballroom and Latin Dance classes run every Sunday in the Kendrew Events Room. These classes are taught by the University team's head coach and cater to everyone from complete beginners to those with some experience. You do not need to bring a partner or wear special shoes.

Ticketed. Open to all.

6.00pm – 8:30pm Pre-drinks and formal (MCR then Hall)

The first formal of term. This can only be booked via the College meal booking system, <https://hall.sjc.ox.ac.uk/m4meals/default.aspx>, and spots usually go quickly so make sure you have set up your booking system before! (catering sends out a guide). Gowns are required, usual dress is smart.

The pre-drinks in the MCR have cava and non-alcoholic alternatives, and are open to anyone coming to the dinner (if you managed to book via College). The dinner starts 7.15 prompt in Hall.

Ticketed. Open to all.

8.30pm – 10:00pm First formal party (MCR)

Open to everyone, including those who didn't get a space at dinner. Our victuallers are preparing a great event, with plenty of free drinks.

Ticketed. Open to all.

Future Important Dates

These are some events which are not organized by us, so we have provided the most recent information we are aware of:

- New Graduates Dinner 13 October, 7pm (freshers only)- College will give you information
- Matriculation 15 October (freshers only)- the historic welcome ceremony where you become a member of the university

Meal guide

What is a BOD card?

Your University student card is called a Bodleian or BOD card. It doubles as your access card to your department(s), to the Bodleian Libraries and to pay for food and drink in Hall and Kendrew Café. Bod cards are issued by the University Card Office via the College Office, and they will provide details of how to do this.

When and where can I get breakfast, lunch and dinner in college?

Usually, meals are served in Hall every day in term. Payment is made using your BOD card as a debit card (in Kendrew cafe you can pay with card, but it is more expensive). The card must have a positive balance, and can be topped up online via the meal booking website.

Meal times are currently as follows:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| Breakfast | 08:00-09:00 | Monday to Saturdays |
| | 10:00-12:30 | Sundays (Brunch) |
| Lunch | 12:00-13.30 | Monday to Saturdays |
| Dinner | 18:00-18.30 | Informal, every day |
| | 19.15+ | Formal, we don't know days yet but usually 4 or 5 days a week |

Menus are released for Hall and Kendrew each week under the catering section of the College intranet (<https://intranet.sjc.ox.ac.uk/>). As of September 2022, dinners need to be booked through the website. Bookings close at 2pm each day.

Lunches do not need to be booked. They usually be taken at either Hall or Kendrew cafe, and are charged per item, costing roughly £3.00. Informal dinner has similar prices, while formal is a fixed price of around £4.50 (Formal dinner is a three-course dinner served by the Catering team. Gowns are required for St John's members).