



SJC MCR

FRESHERS' WEEK 2023

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2023-st-johns-college-oxford-mcr-freshers-week-tickets-725592826677?aff=oddtcreator> - for all ticketed events, go here!

Welcome to 2023 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, cosy 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 (1 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:

- Bomikazi Lupindo, mcr-president@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Vice-President:

- Sebastian Steffen, mcr-vicepresident@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Treasurer:

- Zepeng Cao, mcr-treasurer@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Social Secretaries:

- Annabel Hancock, Isaac Ellmen, Martin Mosny mcr-social@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Victuallers:

- Maya Burhanpurkar, Sakina Amin and Cédric Pilatte, mcr-victualler@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Welfare Officers:

- Kavya Reddy Dudipala and Gabriele Paone, mcr-welfare@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Culture Officers:

- Aida Sayedsalehi and Miriam Dixon-Zegeye, mcr-culture@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Disabled Students' Officers:

- Tahlia Smith, mcr-dso@sjc.ox.ac.uk

International Students' Officers:

- Gabriel Flath, mcr-international@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Interfaith Officer:

- Gustavo Fernandes Pedroso, mcr-interfaith@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.

Parents and Carers Officer:

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

Sports Officer:

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

Academic Affairs Officer:

- Talav Bhimnathwala, mcr-academic@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Freshers' Week Timetable 2023

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 THAT REQUIRE A MEETUP AT THE LODGE WILL BE LEAVING PROMPTLY AT THE TIME ANNOUNCED. PLEASE AIM TO BE THERE 5-10 MINUTES EARLY

All events with alcohol should have non-alcoholic alternatives, and events with food should include vegetarian and vegan options. All events, with the possible exception of the Scavenger Hunt are wheelchair accessible

Saturday 30th September 2023

10:00am – 12:00pm Oxford Tour (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

A 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.

2:00pm – 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 1st October 2023

10:00am – 12:00pm Welcome Brunch (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.

8:00pm – 11:00pm Wine and Cheese

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.

Limited to MCR Building Capacity, Priority given to freshers

Monday 2nd October 2022

8:00am – 9:00am New Grads Complimentary Breakfast (Meet in Hall)

Complimentary breakfast in hall for all freshers. Enjoy a selection of breakfast options in the grand setting of the main hall.

Free for freshers only (anyone else has to pay for their own breakfast)

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 Kendrew (Meet in Kendrew Cafe)

A chance to grab some lunch with your fellow graduates. 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 the cafe and we will go in together.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

2.30pm – 5:00pm Women's* Tour and Tea (Meet at Porter's Lodge for tour, New Seminar Room for tea)

This event will begin with the [hidden histories tour](#) of Oxford (~1.5 hours). This will be followed by tea and cake, and an introduction to the Women's Leadership Programme back in College.

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

6:00pm – 7:00pm Anti-Racism Session (Kendrew Events Room) MANDATORY

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

Not ticketed. Mandatory for freshers.

8:00pm – 10:00pm MCR Meet the Grads - Family Pub Quiz (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.

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

Tuesday 3rd October 2022

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!

2:00pm – 4:00pm Intercollegiate 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.

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. We will hold this event together with St Anne's College MCR.

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

Wednesday 4th October 2022

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 – 5:00pm College Welcome (Garden Quad Auditorium)

The main official welcome event from College, containing some key information about life at St John's. There will be tea and cake at the end, as well as an opportunity to chat to the people from the College's GP, the 19 Beaumont Street GP Surgery.

Not ticketed, you will receive an invite from College.

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.

Freshers only, a few spots for non-freshers to help guide the groups

Thursday 5th October 2022

11:00am – 12:00pm Oxford SU Freshers' Fair (Examination Schools, 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.

2:00pm – 4:00pm Personal Stories - 5 things I wish Oxford knew about my culture (Garden/MCR)

Aimed at everyone, this is an informal space for people to share stories and information about their background. The idea of this is to help make it easier for our members to understand one another, and be aware of each other's cultural sensitivities. There will be snacks and hopefully some fresh air and sunshine!

Not ticketed. Open to all.

7:00pm – 10:30pm Bar Exchange (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

This is an Exchange event with Magdalen College and University College 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.

Friday 6th October 2022

11:00am – 12:30am Parents And Carers' Tea (MCR/Garden)

A relaxed event for parents and carers to get to know each other. We will have a selection of Tea, Coffee, beverages and snacks (including child-friendly options). Partners welcome!

Not ticketed. Open to all.

12:30pm – 1:30pm Lunch in Kendrew (Meet in Kendrew Cafe)

Not ticketed. Open to all.

8:00pm – 11:30pm Board Games Night (MCR)

A quieter night in for those who enjoy a good board game, or perhaps need a break from going out! We will have a selection of board games, snacks and pizza

Not ticketed. Open to all.

Saturday 8th 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.

10.00am – 12:00pm Brunch (MCR Lawn)

A Saturday morning brunch. 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.

2:00pm – 4:00pm Afternoon Tea & Croquet with Christ Church (St Giles House/Lawn)

Join us for a very stereotypically 'Oxford' event of croquet and afternoon tea! We will be joined by Christ Church College, and will play 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).

Freshers only..

3:45pm – 7:00pm Scavenger Hunt (Meet at lodge)

An event bringing together a number of Colleges: New, LMH, HMC, Reuben. We will split up into mixed-college teams to hunt around for clues to a set of question. The team with the most questions will win a prize! VERY LIMITED SPACES! SIGN UP QUICK!

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

8:00pm – 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

10:00am – 11:00am 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

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, 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 will include 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.

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.

Open to all.

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/>). Formal dinners must be booked by 5pm on the day before.

Lunches are usually taken at either Hall or Kendrew cafe, and are charged per item, costing roughly £3.00-4.00. 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).