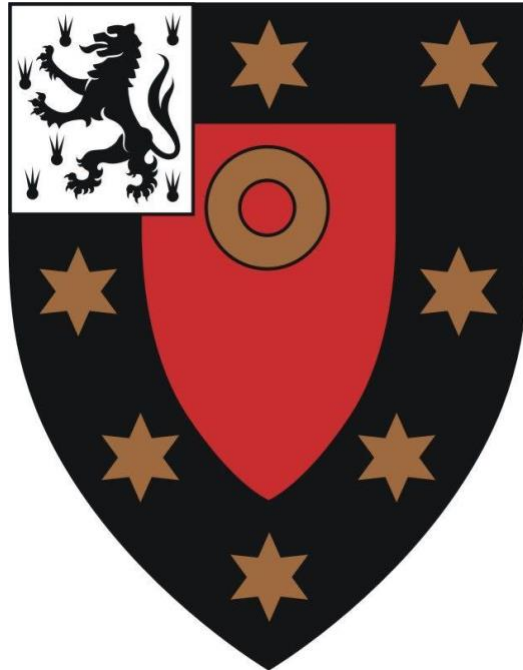


SJC MCR



FRESHERS' WEEK 2024

Welcome to Freshers' Week 2024!

Welcome to Oxford, and to St John's College!

The Middle Common Room (MCR) is the graduate student body of the College. The MCR is both a place, our two-story building near Garden Quad, and the community of graduate students who are studying postgraduate degrees at St John's. As an MCR member, you are always welcome to make use of the MCR Building and its facilities.

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 feels like home, regardless of how far you have travelled to get here!

We hope you are as excited as we are 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, formal nights, BOPs, international dinners in Hall and cultural celebrations, cozy book clubs, critical discussion, academic lectures, introductory dance classes, 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 any 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 2024 MCR Committee

¹The college inductions are mandatory, and strongly supported by the MCR.

Your 2024 MCR Committee

Your MCR Committee are individuals in the MCR who have volunteered and been elected to various roles meant to support and organize events for their fellow MCR members. Please feel free to get in touch with any of us if you have concerns, ideas, or questions. Additionally, if you are interested in one of the vacant committee positions, please contact the MCR president. You can find more detailed descriptions of us on the website, <https://mcr.sjc.ox.ac.uk/committee/>

President:

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

Vice-President:

- Rachel Hurwitz, mcr-vicepresident@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Treasurer:

- Yuanyuan Pu, mcr-treasurer@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Secretary:

- VACANT, mcr-secretary@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Social Secretaries:

- Martin Mosny and Genevieve Hayes, mcr-social@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Victuallers:

- Thomas Groves and Josh Werrett, mcr-victualler@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Welfare Officers:

- Gabriele Paone and Judit Molnar, mcr-welfare@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Culture Officers:

- Gerwin Kiessling, mcr-culture@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Women and Gender Minorities Officers:

- Shaked Baker and Silva Casacuberta Puig, mcr-women@sjc.ox.ac.uk

LGBTQ+ Officers:

- VACANT, mcr-lgbtq@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Black and Minority Ethnic Students' Officers:

- VACANT, mcr-bme@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Disabilities and Accessibilities Officers:

- Aishwarya Vedula and Katie Croft, mcr-dso@sjc.ox.ac.uk

International Students' Officers:

- Mingyu Zhu and Gretchen Greene, mcr-international@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Parents and Carers Officer:

- VACANT, mcr-parentscarers@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Environment and Ethics Officers:

- Brian Wee, mcr-environment@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Interfaith Officer:

- VACANT, mcr-interfaith@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Sports Officer:

- VACANT, mcr-sports@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Academic Affairs Officer:

- Henry Cerbone, mcr-academic@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Returning Officer:

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



SJC MCR Freshers' Week 2024



Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00-10:00		College Tour Main Lodge					Park Run* Main Lodge	
10:00-11:00				Mandatory College Inductions Garden Quad Auditorium		SJC Fresher's Fair Bar Marquee	Society Cafe Trip* Main Lodge	1st Hall Brunch* Hall
11:00-12:00	Welcome Brunch MCR Garden	Disability Support Session, Garden Quad	Punting Main Lodge		OU Fresher's Fair Main Lodge			
12:00-13:00		Lunch* Kendrew Café	Lunch* Hall	Sandwich lunch Garden Quad	Lunch* Kendrew Café	Gloucester Green Lunch* Main Lodge		
13:00-14:00	Oxford Tour Main Lodge			Mandatory College Inductions Garden Quad Auditorium			Afternoon Tea and Croquet St Giles House	
14:00-15:00		Tea, Coffee, and Questions MCR	Intercollegiate Tour with New & Merton Colleges Main Lodge					Junkyard Golf Main Lodge
15:00-16:00	College Tour Main Lodge				Tea, Coffee, and Questions MCR	Women's and Minority Gender Tea MCR		
16:00-17:00			Latin Dance Taster Kendrew Events Room					
17:00-18:00	Freshers' Free Dinner, Hall							
18:00-19:00								
19:00-20:00								
20:00-21:00	Wine and Cheese Night MCR	College Family Pub Quiz Bar Marquee	LBGTQ+ Pub Night Main Lodge	Oxford Pub Crawl Main Lodge	College Bar Exchange with Univ + Magdalen Main Lodge	Board Game Night* MCR Building	Cocktail Party MCR Building*	First Formal Pre- and Post- Drinks* MCR / Hall
21:00-22:00								

Key

College Event

MCR Event

* Event open to all SJC graduate students

Alcohol Served

Family friendly

Weather-dependent

Ticketed

Notes

- Please arrive 5-10 minutes before events meeting at the Main Lodge start, so we can leave on time!
- All events with alcohol will also have non-alcoholic drink options and snacks provided.
- All identity based events are open to any individual who self-identifies in that way (i.e. trans, nonbinary, or identifies wholly or partially as a gender minority is welcome at the Women's/Minority Gender Tea).
- The MCR is covering costs wherever possible. All events are free, however you will need to pay for lunches and drinks/snacks at cafe or pub trips.

General Information

Please be aware that events may be subject to change up to the last minute (particularly due to weather or other unexpected happenings). If an event time or location changes, we will send out an email via the mailing list, but we will try to stick to one email a day during Freshers' Week.

A few important notes:

- Please arrive **at least 5-10 minutes early** for events that will be departing from the Main Porter's Lodge. This is so we can leave promptly at the event's start time.
- All events with alcohol will have non-alcoholic alternatives, and there will be snacks provided.
- Food served by the MCR is vegan or vegetarian.
- All events are free to attend! However, you will need to pay for lunches in college, and similarly, you may need to pay for a drink or snacks at the café trip or various pub nights.

We've tried to characterise events in the short timetable as clearly as possible, based on whether there will be alcohol, weather-dependence, ticketing, and family-friendliness. However, please reach out to the MCR VP (mcr-vicepresident@sjc.ox.ac.uk) about any particular events if you need more information or if you have any questions or concerns.

Freshers' Week Timetable 2024

Sunday 6th October 2024

11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Welcome Brunch (MCR Lawn)

The Welcome Brunch will be a relaxed opportunity to meet fellow freshers while enjoying a free breakfast variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, vegan, and vegetarian breakfast foods (think croissants, hash browns, quiches, cheeses, eggs, and of course tea, coffee, and smoothies). In case of poor weather, this will be served inside the MCR building. No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to all freshers.

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, Oxford Tour (Meet at Porters Lodge)

A one-hour walking tour, led by a returning SJC postgrad, which will take you through central Oxford. This will show you all the key locations, from transport to healthcare to shopping to sites of cultural interest. No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to freshers only.

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm, College Tour (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

This one-hour walking 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. Led by a returning MCR member. No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to freshers only.

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm, Free Dinner (Hall)

Chat with other freshers' and enjoy a free meal provided by College! Partners are welcome, however you will need to pay for their meal.

Not ticketed. Open to freshers only. Bod card required.

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

There will be wine, and there will be cheese - a tried and tested formula. Wine and Cheese nights are a classic SJC MCR event, so this informal evening to meet other freshers at the start of the week. Non-alcoholic alternatives, as well as crackers and other nibbles will be available.

Not ticketed. Open to freshers only.

Monday 7th October 2024

9:00 am – 10:00 am, College Tour (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

This one-hour walking 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. Led by a returning MCR member. No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to freshers only.

11:15 am – 11:45 am, Disabilities Support Session (Garden Quad Auditorium)

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

Not ticketed. Open to all.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch (Kendrew Café)

A chance to grab some lunch with your fellow graduates in Kendrew Café. 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, and a sign will be on the table so you can find us! No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Tea, Coffee, and Questions (MCR building)

Come to the MCR for a relaxed afternoon with some tea, biscuits, and coffee. A few committee members or returning postgrads will be present to answer any questions you may have about Oxford life, SJC, or graduate school in general. No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

7:30 pm – 10:00 pm, College 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! Pizza and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. Sign up to be in a college family by Saturday here: <https://forms.office.com/e/mbzEWKN4K9>

Not ticketed. Open to freshers, and any non-freshers who signed up to be College parents.

Tuesday 8th October 2024

11:00 am – 12:00 pm, Punting (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

Punting is a traditional Oxford past time – a long, narrow, and flat wooden boat, propelled by a person wielding a very long pole. It may not be 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. Meet at 11:00 am so we have time to walk to the Cherwell Boathouse. *In case of rain, or poor river conditions this event will have to be cancelled.*

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

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, Lunch (Hall)

A chance to grab 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, and a sign will be on the table so you can find us! No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Intercollegiate Tour (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

A social and tour of three Oxford Colleges, Merton, New, and John's. You will get to meet postgraduate freshers' from Merton and John's and be shown around their colleges as well. 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 the tour and go straight to the refreshments. No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Ticketed. Open to freshers only.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Latin Dance Taster Session (Kendrew Events Room)

A team member from the Oxford University Dancesport club will be coming to for an introductory Latin dance class. every Sunday in the Kendrew Events Room. You do not need to bring a partner or wear special shoes and no experience is needed!



Not ticketed. Open to all.

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm, LGBTQ+ Pub Night (Meet at Porter’s Lodge)

Meet fellow students who identify as LGBTQ+ in a relaxed setting at the Jolly Farmer, which prides itself on being Oxford’s oldest and oddest LGBTQ+ venue! Snacks and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic 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 9th October 2024

9:30 am – 1:15 pm, College Welcome, Welfare Introduction, and Introduction to St. John’s (Garden Quad Auditorium)

Put on by college, these inductions are mandatory for freshers and strongly supported by the MCR.

Not ticketed. Mandatory for freshers.

1:15 pm – 2:00 pm, Sandwich lunch (Garden Quad Reception Room)

2:00 pm – 5:30 pm, Health and Safety Presentation, Consent Workshop, and Challenging Racism and Racial Bias Session (Garden Quad Auditorium)

Put on by college, these inductions are mandatory for freshers and strongly supported by the MCR.

Not ticketed. Mandatory for freshers.

8:00 pm – 10:30 pm Oxford 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. We will split into groups and returners will bring groups ~15 of freshers to some of their favourite pubs.

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

Thursday 10th October 2024

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Oxford SU Freshers’ Fair (Examination Schools, Meet at Porter’s 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 with other St John's MCR members, a group will set off from the Porters' Lodge at 11:00 am. If you are unable to make it, feel free to head over at another time, as the fair runs from 9:00 am – 5:00 on 9th October and 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on 10th October. More information can be found at: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/freshers/>.

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

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch (Kendrew Café)

A chance to grab some lunch with your fellow graduates in Kendrew Café. 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, and a sign will be on the table so you can find us! No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Tea, Coffee, and Questions (MCR building)

Come to the MCR for a relaxed afternoon with some tea, biscuits, and coffee. A few committee members or returning postgrads will be present to answer any questions you may have about Oxford life, SJC, or graduate school in general. No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

8:00 pm – 10:30 pm, College Bar Exchange (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

This is an Exchange event with University and Magdalen Colleges. Attendees will be divided into three groups, each containing students from all three colleges, and we will go round the various college bars. It will be a great chance to also meet students from other colleges, and explore their bars!

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

Friday 11th October 2024

10:00 am – 11:00 am, SJC Fresher's Fair (Bar Marquee)

St John's offers a whole host of different sports and clubs for its staff and student body, from rugby to a fibre arts society. Come along to the to meet some of the leaders of these groups and register your interest.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, Gloucester Green Market Lunch (Meet at Porter’s Lodge)

Gloucester Green is an outdoor street market which features dozens of incredible food stalls to choose from, so you are sure to find something that will suit your fancy! It’s less than five minutes away from St John’s and it’s a tradition to go weekly for many MCR members. We will meet at the Porter’s Lodge, walk over together, then plan to eat outdoors in the market or a nearby park. In the event of poor weather, we will head to Hall instead. No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Women’s and Minority Gender Tea & Cake (MCR)

Join the MCR Women’s and Minority Gender Officers for a relaxed afternoon tea. Cakes from Barefoot Bakery and various teas will be provided. This is a safe space and transphobia or any other form of discrimination is absolutely not tolerated. No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to any fresher who self-identifies wholly or partially as a women or minority gender (i.e. trans, nonbinary, agender, etc.)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm, Board Game Night (MCR)

Board games, snacks, and new friends, what could be better? This will be a laid back hangout where freshers and returners are welcome. The MCR has a variety of board games, but feel free to bring your favourite along as well! No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

Saturday 12th October 2024

9:00 am – 10:00 am, Park Run (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. No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

10:00 am – 11:00 am, Society Café Trip (Meet at Porter’s Lodge)

Join a group of MCR members as we head to the Society café for a relaxing morning beverage. A group from the park run will join the group at the café. No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Afternoon Tea & Croquet (St Giles' House/Lawn)

Join us for a very stereotypically 'Oxford' event of croquet and afternoon tea! Come play (or learn) croquet while having a cuppa and enjoying some pastries. This will take place on St Giles' House Lawn (or inside the house if the weather is not on our side).

Not ticketed. Open to freshers only.

8:00 pm – 10:30 pm, Cocktail Night (MCR)

One of our traditional largest freshers' week events! MCR volunteers will mix a number of cocktails and non-alcoholic mocktails, as well as various snacks, all free of charge. Open from the start to both freshers and non-freshers. Socialize with your new friends, freshers and returners alike.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

Sunday 13th October 2024

10:00 pm – 12:00 pm, Brunch (Hall)

Who doesn't love brunch? Come to enjoy a college's take on a traditional English Breakfast with your fellow grads. At least one committee member will be present in case you have any questions, and a sign will be on the table so you can find us! No sign up is needed, and families/partners are welcome.

Not ticketed. Open to all.

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Junkyard Golf (Meet at Porter's Lodge)

Come play 9 holes of mini golf on one of three quirky courses on the MCR's dime! [Junkyard Golf](#) also has a bunch and cocktails and mocktails which are available to purchase and sip on while you play or enjoy afterwards.

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

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://intranet.sjc.ox.ac.uk/>, and spots usually go quickly so make sure you have set up your booking system before. Catering typically sends out a guide. Gowns are recommended but not required, usual dress code 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 for Formal! Desserts and drinks will be provided, and this will be a great way to finish out freshers' week surrounded by your fellow MCR members!

Ticketed. Open to all.

Future Important Dates

These are some events which are not organized by the MCR, but are part of college's welcome for new graduate students. These are the most recent information to our knowledge:

- **New Graduates Welcome Drinks** – 5:30 to 7:00 pm, Monday 14th October, St Giles' House
- **Matriculation** - 10:30 am, Saturday 19th October, Sheldonian Theatre. Matriculation is the historic welcome ceremony where you officially become a member of the university. This is required for new students, but if you have previously matriculated (i.e. did an undergraduate or other postgraduate degree at Oxford) you don't need to attend. College expects you meet in the Dining Hall at 9:15 am and return to Front Quad for a photo immediately after the ceremony, around 11:30 am.
- **New Graduates Welcome Dinner** – 7:00 pm, Wednesday 16th October, President's Lodgings and Hall

Q&A

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 café 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:

Dining Hall

Term Time (Weeks 1-8)

Breakfast: Monday-Saturday 8am-9.30am

Brunch: Sunday 10am-12pm

Lunch: Monday-Saturday 12pm-1.30pm
Informal Hall Dinner: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5.30pm-7pm (*No booking needed*)
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 5.30pm-6.30pm (*No booking needed*)
Formal Hall: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday 7pm (*Online bookings only*)

Out of Term

Breakfast: Monday-Sunday 8am-9am

Lunch: Monday-Sunday 12pm - 1.30pm
Informal Hall Dinner: Monday-Sunday 5.30pm - 7pm (*No booking needed*)

Kendrew Café

Pastries and coffee from 9am

Hot lunch 11.30am-1.30pm

Takeaway pizzas 2pm-6pm (Term Time weeks 1-8 only)

Term time (weeks 1-8): Monday 9am-3pm
Tuesday-Friday 9am-6pm
Saturday 10am-3pm (Brunch from 10am - 1pm)
Sunday Closed

Out of term: Monday-Friday 9am-3pm

Menus are released for Hall and Kendrew each week under the catering section of the College intranet (<https://intranet.sjc.ox.ac.uk/>).

Lunches are available at either Hall or Kendrew café, and are charged per item, costing roughly £4.00. Informal dinners have similar prices, while formal is a fixed price of around £5.

Formal dinner is a three-course dinner served by the Catering team. Formals typically occur on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays during term time, however other formals sometimes are added for special events. You must book a spot for formal dinners via the College intranet. Bookings typically open at 5:00 pm one week before the formal and close at 2:00 pm the day before the Formal.

Gowns are required for St John's members and guest spots can also be booked, though they are more expensive than the member price. Formals are one of the unique aspects of studying at Oxford, so you should definitely try to attend when you can!