BALLIOL for BEGINNERS

Your student guide to student life

Balliol JCR 2014
Welcome
Hello, and congratulations – you made it! Welcome to Balliol!

My name is Krista, and I’m the JCR Vice-President. My job is to represent the JCR alongside the president, but I also organise Freshers’ Week, which simply means making sure that the week provides you with all you need to LOVE Balliol. This isn’t too hard, as it’s an overall amazing place! Hopefully by the end of Freshers’ Week you’ll feel very welcome, have settled in and have met plenty of exciting new people.

This handbook is a basic introduction to all things Balliol, meant to give you an idea of what to expect when you arrive, and how to prepare. It has a lot of useful information, but doesn’t aim to cover everything; you can find out more about the JCR by having a look at www.ballioljcr.org, and the college in general at www.balliol.ox.ac.uk. These are updated often, so it’s worth checking them regularly.

If you have ANY questions about Freshers’ Week, Balliol, or Oxford, you can contact me by email (krista.halttunen@balliol.ox.ac.uk), or at facebook.com/krista.halttunen. Alternatively, you can always contact your general parents, your subject parents, or the other members of the JCR committee by email. Some useful email addresses are:

Drs WHO (Welfare and Housing Officers):
anna.hufton@balliol.ox.ac.uk;
joseph.mansour@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Disabled Students’ Officer:
elizabeth.tulloch@balliol.ox.ac.uk

LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans*, Queer/Questioning) Officers:
alastair.bassett@balliol.ox.ac.uk;
ian.mcfarlane@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Academic Affairs and Careers Officers:
caitlin.tickell@balliol.ox.ac.uk;
ross.cathcart@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Ethnic Minority and International Students’ Officers:
eniola.oyesanya@balliol.ox.ac.uk;
thomas.posa@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Women’s Officers:
claudia.freemantle@balliol.ox.ac.uk;
isabel.williams@balliol.ox.ac.uk

If you have any questions or worries at all, big or small, please feel free to drop any of us an email or a Facebook message at any time. We’d all love to hear from you! If you’re not sure who to contact first, get in touch with me and ask.

Enjoy the guide, and have a lovely summer! Can’t wait to meet you in October! 😊

Krista
Arrival

Unless you have informed college otherwise we will be expecting you to get here on Monday 6th October between 10am and 4pm, as there will be lots of useful stuff going on all day Tuesday and Wednesday. It will also give you a chance to settle in and start meeting people. If your parents really can’t drop you off on the Monday, it may be possible for you to come up on Sunday but please call Balliol (01865 277777) to tell them you’ll be coming early. I must stress that it is much easier for you and the college if you come up on the Monday.

The Arrival process

There are maps of how to get here on the next two pages. Aim for the back gate on St. Giles. The diagram above shows the circulation. You can enter the bus lane without being fined to access the college. You will probably have to pull in and wait.

When you get into Balliol someone will tell you where to park. You will get half an hour to unload your car: this may not seem long, but there will be plenty of people to help.

Once the car is parked, come to the Old Common Room (OCR) which you will find in the passage between the front and back quads (if you come on Sunday go to the Porter’s Lodge) and you can sign out your key. Once you have unpacked and settled in, come to the JCR. Cups of tea and coffee will be available for you and your parents, and this will be your first chance to meet fellow freshers and think of inventive new
ways to ask “What’s your name and what subject do you do?” There will also be little tours round college throughout the day.

Getting Here

Unfortunately traversing Oxford in a car is not easy, thanks to copious amounts of one-way systems. To get here by car, it is best to enter Oxford from the North (down the A4144). Even if you are coming from the South, it is still quicker to go round the ring-road or up the A34 and come in from the North. Otherwise it will take you hours to drive through the city. On a map it may look like there are ways through the city, but these will all turn out to be bus-only routes or car-free cycle routes.

The upside of all these car restrictions is that Oxford is one of the nicest cities to be a cyclist in – almost every crossroad and traffic light has been designed with you in mind.

Once you find your way down the A4144, stick on it all the way to the city centre. It eventually becomes St. Giles Street. Go down St. Giles until the road forks off to a bus lane to the left (opposite the Randolph Hotel). Only a few yards down this bus lane is Balliol’s back gate (see diagram on previous page). Unless you arrive very early there will probably be a queue. Pull in and wait behind the last car. Marshalls will instruct you from there. If you are not arriving on Monday 7th then ring the bell and talk to the lodge.
Things to Bring to Oxford

Firstly, if you forget to bring anything, it’s really not going to be the end of the world. There are loads of shops in Oxford. Boswells across the street sell everything from kettles to extension leads to bedding. Sainsbury’s and Tesco both have a shop right outside Balliol, so it’s a ridiculously short walk to the shops to get provisions.

Even so, here’s a list of things that you’ll probably need at some point:

**FOR SURVIVING IN A CLEAN FASHION**
- Duvet, pillows, sheets
- Towels
- Soap, shampoo, toothbrush
- Other personal hygiene stuff
- Washing powder
- Washing up liquid

**FOR CLOTHING YOURSELF**
- Clothes
- Coat-hangers
- White shirt/blouse
- Smart dark suit
- Black shoes
- Hilarious costumes

**FOR YOUR ROOM**
- Posters/wall-hangings*
- Cushions and other stuff to make your room nice...a potted plant perhaps?*
- Stuffed animals
- Extension leads/plug boards
- iPod/MP3 and speakers

*There is a plant and poster sale in the Oxford Union during Fresher’s Week so don’t worry if you don’t have enough room in the car!

**FOR EATING AND DRINKING**
- Kettle
- Mugs and glasses
- Coffee, tea, sugar, milk, biscuits (for your guests!)
- Cutlery and crockery
- Saucepan (don’t worry if you don’t have one, someone else will)

**FOR WORK**
- Stationery
- A4 Paper and Files
- Relevant A-level notes (they just might be useful)
- Computer/laptop if you have one

**MISCELLANEOUS**
- Camera
- Passport photos (for various ID cards and membership cards you get given)
- Documents (passport, driving license, NI Card, NHS registration card etc.)
- Bank details (a/c number, sort code etc)
JCR TIMETABLE FOR FRESHERS’ WEEK 2013

Items in bold are compulsory for all undergraduates

**Sunday**

14:00 – 18:00 JCR Committee meet and greet early arrivals, with tea in the JCR

18:00 – 22:00 Film and buffet in the JCR

**Monday**

10:00 – 11:00 Freshers arrive from 10am

11:00 – 18:00 Freshers collect keys and welcome pack from the OCR. Committee will be around College meeting freshers and showing them around.

11:00 – 18:00 Tea and biscuits in the JCR

14:00 – 18:00 General Parents who have arrived back in Oxford find their children and show them around

18:30 – 19:00 Introduction to Master, JCR President, VP, Drs. WHO

19:00 – 19:30 Speed meeting

20:00 – 23:00 Evening Activities

**Tuesday**

09:30 – 10:30 Introduction to College Officers in Hall

10:45 – 11:00 Introduction to Committee in the JCR

11.00 – 12:00 Introduction to JCR Welfare

12:30 – 14:00 Subject Parents take children on tours of relevant faculty departments and libraries

13:00 – 16:00 Balliol Library Tours
15:30 – 18:00 Subject Family Tea Parties

19:00 – 20:00 Boat Club Drinks

19:00 – 23:00 Evening Activities

**Wednesday**

9:00-10:00 Fire Safety Talk

10:05 – 11:35 Welfare Roundabout/Oxford Orienteering 1


13:30 – 14:30 LGBTQ Lunch – MCR to be invited

14:45 – 15:15 Mandatory Medical Registration in Hall & Counselling Service

Introduction

16:00 – 17:00 Subject Parents take children to meet with subject tutors (selected subjects)

18:30 – 19:30 Drinks with Subject Tutors

19:30 – 21:00 Freshers’ Dinner in Hall

21:00 – 23:00 Evening Activities

**Thursday**

9:00 – 18:30 OUSU Freshers’ Fair (time TBC)

10:00 – 12:00 Academic Subject Meetings with Tutors (selected subjects)

12:00 – 18:00 Afternoon Activities

14:00 – 18:00 Individual Meetings with Tutors

19:00 – 20:00 Women’s Drinks

20:00 – 23:00 Evening Activities
**Friday**

09:00 – 18:30 Bodleian Library Tours

11:00 – 13:00 Balliol Freshers’ Fair in the JCR

13:00 – 14:30 International Students’ Lunch

13:30 – 18:00 Gym Inductions (mandatory for everyone wishing to use the gym)

14:00 - 18.00 Afternoon activities

17:00 – 18:00 Chapel Choir Event

19:00 – 21:30 Dinner with General Parents

20:30 - 23:00 Family Evening

**Saturday**

10:30 - 13:00 Walk and Pub Lunch

13:00 – 14:00 Consent Workshop

14:00 – 18:00 Afternoon Activities

18:30 – 20:00 Bop Costume Making in JCR

21:00 – 12:00 Freshers’ Bop

**Sunday**

13:00 – 18:00 Afternoon Activities (organised by Welfare Subcommittee, sports teams, and Subject Parents)

14:00 – 15:00 Peer Support Sunday Session

19:30 – 23:00 JCR General Meeting, followed by Film Night
**Introduction to the JCR**

**Balliol JCR** will play an important part in your undergraduate life. It will provide you with a “world-class” restaurant (Pantry), great Entertainment (Entz), a **bar** for you to drink, play pool and dance to the jukebox in, and a **laundry** to wash your sweaty clothes afterwards. There’s an office and Committee to provide services such as assistance with accommodation and represent you to College on issues like rents and academic affairs – in fact, anything that the student body is concerned with.

Balliol JCR is one of the most active JCRs in the university. It has by far the largest annual turnover, and is the only JCR to run its own bar and pantry, so you are likely to spend a lot of time there. JCR stands for Junior Common Room, and is used to refer to both the institution that represents undergraduate members, and the room where they hang out. We encourage people to spend a lot of time in the JCR; at other colleges where the JCRs are less active, the JCR and bar tend to be deserted, meaning less opportunity to meet people and less opportunity to have a great time. At Balliol, there’s always someone around to chat to (or distract you from work!).

The day to day running of the JCR is dealt with by the **Committee**, who are elected on the 6th Saturday of Michaelmas Term and serve for a year. That’s only 7 weeks after you arrive, but lots of freshers run for posts and get elected each year. If you’re interested in helping run the JCR, don’t feel intimidated – just get involved. If you have any questions about the JCR or want something changed then don’t hesitate to make a suggestion, or if you want to get involved in doing it yourself you could speak to somebody on the committee who can give you advice on how best to go about it. Anyone can come to committee meetings, on Wednesday at 1pm. Remember, it’s your JCR, and the committee members are elected to represent what you want!

**General Meetings** (GMs) are held about four times a term and all Balliol undergraduates are welcome to attend and speak at them. This is the decision-making body for the JCR and is a forum which allows everybody’s views and opinions to be taken into account. The meetings are often the focus of lively and impassioned debate – our decisions have real effects on the college, the university, and sometimes even the world (usually at the Charities GM at the end of every term). There will be a GM at **the end of freshers’ week** (and we will run a quick guide beforehand to show the procedure). Any JCR member can bring a motion, so if you want to change or suggest something then don’t hesitate in doing so – just ask the Secretary for a hand writing it if you’re not sure how to.
Your JCR Committee

The committee members are responsible for the running of the JCR and its services. We will be the ones running around in identifiable t-shirts. Come talk to any of us 😊

**President** – Dan Turner ([jcr.president@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jcr.president@balliol.ox.ac.uk))
As President, I’m responsible for the overall operation of the JCR. I represent student interests to the college, and help Committee members get the most out of their role. I also liaise with bodies outside the JCR, especially OUSU and Balliol’s MCR. If you have any concerns, queries or suggestions for what we could do better, please email me to let me know!

**Vice President** – Krista Halttunen ([jcr.vice.president@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jcr.vice.president@balliol.ox.ac.uk))
So much more than just a sidekick to the President, I help make sure that things run smoothly in the JCR. One of my main jobs is organising Freshers’ Week, so you’ll be seeing a lot of me! If you have any problems or questions related to the JCR, and especially Freshers’ Week, feel free to contact me anytime.

**Treasurer** – Max Dalton ([jcr.treasurer@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jcr.treasurer@balliol.ox.ac.uk))
I look after the JCR’s finances, presenting the accounts to college each term, and doing day-to-day bits of management. I also represent the JCR to college at various meetings (most crucially when we discuss rent changes). I’m also responsible for staffing, and organising punts and the June Jamboree in the summer. I’m the person to come to if you have any queries about finances.

**Secretary** – Georgina Wilson ([jcr.secretary@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jcr.secretary@balliol.ox.ac.uk))
I manage the administrative side of JCR – everything from keeping the office running to taking minutes of GMs and Committee Meetings. I also organise the annual Balliol Photo Day and the Teaching Excellence Awards committee. I’m a great person to talk to if you want to get the JCR to do something it doesn’t already do, or want to find out what the JCR already does. I’m also a good person for general enquiries – I attend almost every meeting!

**Lord Lindsay** – Alex Mullan ([jcr.bar.manager@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jcr.bar.manager@balliol.ox.ac.uk))
I manage the Lindsay Bar, the only student-run bar in Oxford. If you would like more information on any aspect of the bar including hosting events in it please feel free to contact me.
Drs. WHO – Anna Hufton and Joe Mansour (jcr.welfare@balliol.ox.ac.uk)
We are the welfare and housing officers! We’re here to listen and help with anything that might be on your mind. Please get in contact if there is anything at all worrying you or if you would like a chat. On the more practical side, we organise welfare events and provide free condoms—yay! We also organise the housing ballots and room choosing, so please also come to us with any accommodation queries.

Access and Admissions Officers – Sam Bumby and Chessy Whalen (jcr.admissions@balliol.ox.ac.uk)
We’re responsible for looking after interviewees during their interview process, helping people in College participate in various access schemes, running Open Days and organising the alternative prospectus.

Entz Officers – Alex Cheng and Kelly Brotherhood
(jcr.entz@balliol.ox.ac.uk)
The Entz officers are in charge of the massive amounts of fun had at Balliol! We organise events which aim to include everyone, from nights out on the town to film nights in the JCR. Most importantly, we organise bops (it’s a responsible job).

Academic Affairs & Careers Officers – Ross Cathcart and Caitlin Tickell (jcr.academic.affairs@balliol.ox.ac.uk)
We’re responsible for the academic welfare of members of the JCR, by offering advice and support on the disciplinary procedure, organising stress-relieving events and attending library committee. We keep the JCR informed about careers and the events run by the university Careers Office and organise in-Balliol career events.

Affiliations Officers – Nina Pflugfelder and Robert Walmsley (jcr.affiliations.officer@balliol.ox.ac.uk)
We represent Balliol JCR views to the student organisations NUS and OUSU and give feedback to the Balliol community of the issues raised at their meetings. We also promote links with Balliol’s graduate community, the Middle Common Room (MCR).

Charities and RAG Officers – Aisha Simon and Henry Wisbey-Broom (jcr.charities@balliol.ox.ac.uk)
We raise money for various charities through events, competitions and sales. We also know about what goes on in Oxford charity-wise, so if you have ideas of something you want to organize, or want to get involved in some way but don’t know where to look, get in touch!
Foodies – Darryl Braier-Lorimer and Matthew Lynch
mr.foody@balliol.ox.ac.uk
We manage the Balliol JCR Pantry! Situated in the JCR itself, Pantry is the best student-run cafe in the university, providing a veritable cornucopia of food to the JCR. If you have any suggestions of new menu items, want to work shifts in pantry as a student or have any questions about what we do, please feel free to get in touch.

Design & Maintenance Officers – Colm Britchfield and James Kavanagh
jcr.design@balliol.ox.ac.uk
Our job is to maintain JCR property, and on occasion, apparently, design it as well. If it needs drilling or hammering, we're probably the best committee members to go to, in that we own both a drill and a hammer. If it doesn't need drilling or hammering, then we're generally not interested. Sorry.

LGBTQ Officers – Alastair Bassett and Ian McFarlane
jcr.lgbt.rep@balliol.ox.ac.uk
We represent Balliol's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans* and Queer/Questioning communities to make sure they always have a voice.

Ethnic Minorities and International Students' Officers – Eniola Oyesanya and Tom Posa
jcr.ethnic.minorities@balliol.ox.ac.uk
We're here to represent ethnic minorities and international students within the JCR, and to make sure their interests are protected. We provide welfare services to EMIS students having trouble with the College or with other JCR members, and we provide storage facilities for international students on vacation.

Women's Officers – Claudia Freemantle and Izzy Williams
jcr.women@balliol.ox.ac.uk
As Women's Officers, we work to make Balliol a safe and happy place for women. We provide welfare to all genders, although our specific roles tend to be providing free sanitary items and emergency contraception for women, along with specific advice for women's services. We also run events open to all genders, like inviting inspirational women to speak to the JCR, and work on projects in conjunction with OUSU and WomCam.
Disabled Students’ Officer – Beth Tulloch
jcr.disabilities.officer@balliol.ox.ac.uk
I'm responsible for ensuring that disabled students don't encounter any barriers to participating in College life. Whether you need a cup of tea and a biscuit, someone to talk to, help finding relevant resources or services, or assistance applying for additional support and special exam arrangements, feel free to drop me an email or catch me around college and I'll do my best to help you out. If you feel you have a disability or health condition that holds you back during time here in Oxford, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Environment and Ethical Investment Officers – Xavier Cohen and Rivka Micklethwaite
jcr.environment.officer@balliol.ox.ac.uk
It is often said that the Environment & Ethics Officers don't have many official responsibilities: sitting on the Gardens Committee and dealing with students' enquiries are often cited as being the only ones. In fact, the E&E officers actually have the enormous task of deciding what's right and wrong in the JCR. Their unofficial responsibility (saving the world) can also take up several hours a week. From lobbying college to invest more ethically and to cut our emissions, to encouraging the recycling of fancy dress through the 'bop swap', E&E is what the Officers make of it.

Johns de Balliol – Holly Marriott Webb and Harry Rimmer
john.de@balliol.ox.ac.uk
John de Balliol - telling truth to power since 1263. Follow us @BallioJCR.

Website and Computer Officer – Richard May
jcr.webmaster@balliol.ox.ac.uk
I maintain and update the JCR website, as well as managing our various mailing lists. I represent the JCR to College on IT-related matters, and I'm also responsible for general tech support within the JCR. If your internet isn't working or your laptop's died, I'm the person to ask!
College Officers

All College Officers are there to help you with any problems and difficulties. Here is a list of some of them.

The Master, Sir Drummond Bone: The head of College and in overall charge of the administration. He is the last port of call for any problems to do with college itself. You will meet him in Master’s Handshaking (see glossary).

The Vice-Master (Academic), David Wallace, helps the Master in the day-to-day running of the college.

The Vice-Master (Executive), James Forder, is the Chair of the College Executive, the body that makes many of the decisions regarding the running of the College.

The Dean, Rachel Quarrell, is responsible for discipline and welfare in College and will be the first recourse in case of a serious problem. She is the person who is best suited to help if you get into a pickle outside college (e.g. legal problems). You will all meet her in Freshers’ Week. You can drop in and see her or make an appointment via her secretary (catherine.willbery@balliol.ox.ac.uk).

The Junior Deans are graduate students and live on the main college site. They assist the Dean and are similarly available to help with any problems. Philip Seal is one of them; the other is yet to be confirmed.

The Senior Tutor and Academic Registrar, Nicola Trott, looks after your academic issues and problems. If you want to change your course, or have a complaint or any questions about academic issues, feel free to email her (nicola.trott@balliol.ox.ac.uk).

The Chaplain and Welfare Officer will live in staircase 21 when he joins us in November. Until then, Celeste Tisdelle will be there to welcome you and talk about anything, from course worries to homesickness, or just for a chat. Drop in to see her, or make an appointment via the Chaplain’s Secretary (catherine.willbery@balliol.ox.ac.uk).

The Acting Accommodation Manager, Murray Baker, is your contact for in-college problems about rooms, rents, and so on. He is happy to see students during normal office hours if he is available, and he can be easily contacted by email (accommodation.manager@balliol.ox.ac.uk).

Academic Administrator, Glynis Price is located in the Masters lodgings. She is the person to see if you lose/break your bod card or if you need help with administrative matters. She works in the College offices from 9.30am until around 5pm. (academic.administrator@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

The Bursary is located on staircase 7. You can go here to pay your Battels, pick up your grant cheques, and other stuff. It’s not the same as the Bursars.
Rachel Quarrell - The Dean

The Dean’s main concern is the well-being of the College community. Mostly this entails supporting those in some sort of difficulty; sometimes it entails imposing penalties on individuals. Externally, if you ever find yourself ‘in trouble’ – for example on a police matter, or regarding legal difficulties over your rental of a property – she is the officer to contact. Internally, dealing with inconsiderate neighbours, mediation between those who have fallen out, and discussion of emotional, academic, and social problems, all fall under the Dean’s welfare provision. If someone is unhappy at Balliol, for any reason, they can approach the Dean in a confidential capacity, and she will do whatever she can to help.

Appointments to see the Dean can be made through her secretary, Mrs Catherine Willbery (deans.secretary@balliol.ox.ac.uk), by email (dean@balliol.ox.ac.uk) or by phone during office hours (01862 (2)77733). She is available to help with urgent personal problems in confidence at any time.
Nicola Trott - Senior Tutor and Academic Registrar

Normally your first port of call if you are experiencing problems relating to your course of study would be your Personal Tutor (or College Adviser in the case of graduates). However, there may be issues which you feel uncomfortable discussing with your Tutor, and the Senior Tutor is the person to see in such cases. She may be able to help, for instance, if you are not getting on well with one of your tutors and feel that this is interfering with your work; or if you are finding it difficult to work effectively for some other reason, but prefer to discuss things with someone other than your Personal Tutor/College Adviser.

The Senior Tutor is also in overall charge of academic administration. She will need to be consulted if you are contemplating a change of subject, or are obliged to take a leave of absence from college on medical grounds. Funding bodies, e.g. LEAs, sometimes require the College to submit forms on behalf of individual students, and University procedures often require a signature from the College (for example when a graduate moves from one status to another): the Senior Tutor is usually the person who signs such forms. She is also charged with mediating between individual students and University bodies (such as the Proctor’s office) during the examination period, and should be the first point of contact should the need arise to ask permission for special arrangements for sitting examinations.

The Senior Tutor administers a number of college trust funds for the award of project and travel grants, and you may make an application to her for help with certain expenses during your course of study (e.g. attendance at conferences, binding costs for theses).

Although we hope very much that you will not want to complain about the tuition that you receive at Balliol, it is of course your right to do so, should you feel that the teaching you are getting is inadequate. The Senior Tutor is the person you should contact in the first instance, in order to make any kind of academic complaint. She urges you to respond to the College’s termly and anonymous online teaching questionnaires. And she will also want to hear if you can think of way in which College administration might be improved. All such matters will of course be treated in the strictest confidence.

You can contact Nicola at nicola.trott@balliol.ox.ac.uk
Alison Nicholls, College Sister

I’m Alison the College Sister. I’m qualified in general nursing. I see my role in College as being divided into three areas: the obvious one is the physical health – looking after students (or staff) which they are ill or have had an accident; the second is mental health, helping you cope when a relationship is causing problems, or the normal anxieties over studies/exams are taking over your life; and thirdly, the “signpost” part of the job, if you don’t know who you need to talk to I can point you in the right direction, for example if you need a dentist or chiropractor. I am here to sort help with a very wide range of health matters and concerns. Repeat prescriptions, doctor’s appointments (usually same day), and emergency contraception are also available. All consultations are confidential.

Come and see me in my room on staircase 22, room 1. I am available to see students between 9.30 and 11.15am each weekday except Wednesday when my hours are 1.30pm – 3.30pm. If you are unable to come to me, because you are too ill, leave a telephone message or a note at the Lodge and I’ll come and see you in your college room or house. My telephone phone number is 01865 277737, you can leave a message on my voice mailbox; or email alison.nicolls@balliol.ox.ac.uk; or I can usually be contacted on 07881 836803.

College Doctors, 19 Beaumont Street

The doctor’s surgery that Balliol is affiliated with is literally across the road and is less than a 3 minute walk. It’s almost (but not quite) as convenient as popping to Tesco!

A doctor or nurse is available during opening times (8am - 6.00pm) but the telephone lines are open from 8am - 6.30pm.

📞 General Enquiries: 01865 240501

📞 Out of hours / Emergencies: 01865 240501

(Out of hours you will be redirected to a doctors’ answering service).

College Dentist, 3 George St.

Again, they are just down the road.

📞 Telephone: 01865 244304
JCR Facilities

The JCR (The Norway Room) Hand-built by Olaf V, King of Norway in the 1960s as a penance for a crime he did not commit, this is the main student common room. Everything happens here: JCR meetings debate weighty issues, romances blossom, breakfasts are eaten, crosswords filled in... it’s our home.

The JCR Pantry One of the JCR’s most popular services (and unique in Oxford), Pantry provides students with breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks every day of the week. Food ranges from quality chilli and stir-fry nights to the traditionally student-friendly greasy options, ideal for curing a hangover or helping you through an essay crisis. Prices are quite cheap, and you can set up an unlimited tab on your bod card, which goes on to your Battels for the next term. Also, look out for Late Night Pantry on Tuesdays, and Formal Pantry twice a year: the most exclusive dining experience in the whole of Oxford, once attended by HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

The Lindsay Bar The only student run bar left in Oxford (so all the profits end up going back to you). The JCR elects an officer, Lord/Lady Lindsay, to run the bar, and an assistant, Jack/Vera Duckworth, to help them. It’s staffed totally by students, which means a friendly atmosphere and variable service. Beer is cheap, the jukebox is packed with some TUNES, and the table football, pool table, and games machine will eat your loan. Open every night until 11pm, with late openings on Fridays and Saturdays, and 75p shots on Crazy Tuesday.

The TV Room Though not the most cosy of lounges, it does contain a TV to watch ‘Game of Thrones’, ‘Made in Chelsea’ etc. There is also a DVD player available, and a Playstation 3. There are lockers here for the use of second-year students living out.

The Internet Café In the corner of the JCR nearest the Pantry hatch. There are computers to check your emails and catch up on the latest Facebook posts (since leaving your room which is a mere 20 metres away).

The Lindsay Room A gym. Although it has the same name as the bar, this room aims to get rid of an emerging beer belly, not encourage it. You have to pay a members’ fee and be inducted during Freshers’ Week. Once inducted, you can sign the key out from the Lodge at any time before 10.30pm.
The JCR Office This can be used to send faxes, photocopy notes and collect bar and pantry wages: the Office doubles as the JCR headquarters. You can find Denise (the JCR Office Manager and resident badass) in here 9am to 2pm most days.

Recycling There are recycling bins in the JCR for paper, empty bottles, cardboard and cans, one in every college room for paper, and one in the Post Room to throw all your junk mail into.

Washing Machines The JCR provides washing machines, tumble driers and irons in the basement of staircase 21. You can book up to two washing slots per day through the JCR website (http://www.ballioljcr.org/laundry).

Storage Rooms Two rooms at the bottom of Staircase 12, primarily for overseas students to leave stuff over the holidays, but where you can put all your empty suitcases during term time.

Newspapers A broad selection of high-quality and low-quality newspapers are put out daily in the JCR for to read and vandalise.

JCR Banner Battle standard at all occasions, our very own red flag is kept flying wherever the forces of darkness gather to sell us their avarice-tainted lies.

Roary the Lion Our JCR mascot who can be found cheering us on at rugby matches, regattas, and dance-offs.

Punt An Oxford must. The JCR rents a punt for Trinity Term for people who have an inclination to drink Pimms and fall in rivers. There is possibly nothing nicer to do during the summer. Sign up in the lodge.

... and lots more!
Pantry

One of the things that makes Balliol unique is Pantry, an institution the like of which cannot be seen in any other college in Oxford. It is our own little café, serving up hearty sustenance to the people of Balliol. Standing proudly in the JCR it acts as a focal point for the college, providing a meeting and moaning point for those doomed to 9am lectures; a refuelling stop for damp and exhausted rowers; and a suitably sympathetic recovery environment for those who truly did themselves proud the night before.

It is staffed by both permanent staff and also students, so it’s always really friendly. Responsibility for its wellbeing lies in the hands of the noble Foody Siblings. It offers unlimited tabs and occasionally puts on extravagant formal dinners.

The Lindsay Bar

The Lindsay Bar is located in the heart of Balliol. A unique, historic throwback to a bygone age when all Oxford college bars were owned and operate by students, the Lindsay is run by annually elected members of Balliol JCR. We think this works. At a time when many college bars are unused, we are proud to be thriving.

Although you’d be quite right to expect cheap beer from us, we offer a lot more than that; we stock a shockingly well priced range of premium spirits too. Our Open Mic nights attract talent from throughout Balliol and beyond and on Tuesdays we host quite possibly the cheapest shot night in the country swings by: Crazy Tuesdays, when a shot costs 75p.

The Bar is run by Lord/Lady Lindsay with help from their able assistant Jack/Vera Duckworth. If you’re interested in working on the Bar or want to suggest something to be sold down there get in touch with them.
Computing Facilities

JCR Website:

It’s a hive of information with (some of) the latest news. It’s the place to go to find out more details about the JCR, and to see the latest version of the JCR’s much revered constitution and minutes from JCR meetings gone by.

Email

Everyone in Oxford has an email address in exactly the same format. It goes firstname.surname@collegenameorweirdandconfusingabbreviation.ox.ac.uk. If you know their name and college you can email them. This works for tutors, students, etc. Your address will look like this too, although your email won’t be activated until the middle of Freshers’ Week. If you’re not sure of their full name then www.ox.ac.uk/contact is a very useful site. Email is really important – this is how tutors send most of their messages, the JCR informs you of up and coming events, and the various societies which seduced you at Freshers’ Fair will get in touch. Most people in Oxford will check their email a few times a day.

Computers Everything technological is kept underground in Balliol, to prevent it contaminating the Oxford image. So if you wander into Staircase III (in the front quad), you’ll find a room packed with computers at the bottom, as well as scanners, CD-writers, and internet/email facilities. It’s all completely free and dead easy to use – if you have any problems we have JCR Computer Officers who usually have a wealth of knowledge on technical matters.

Wireless There is wireless Internet across all of Balliol, which will is a huge convenience. There are also university-wide Wi-Fi services, the most important of which is Eduroam.

Ethernet Points There is one of these in every bedroom in college, providing a slightly better internet connection than the Wi-Fi. You need to fill out a form to get the point enlivened. Then go and buy yourself a cable if you have not already got one (about £5 at the University Computing Services Shop, 13 Banbury Road) and you can connect yourself 24/7 to email, the web, and each other.
College Facilities

Hall
Lunch and Dinner are provided in Hall seven days a week during term. Daily there is a selection of meat and vegetarian dishes, salads, cold and hot sweets, as well as chocolates and drinks. There are a number of ways to purchase the meal: in cash, by putting money on your Bod Card, or alternatively the college operates a pre-payment deal which entitles you to an evening meal every night during term. Menus are displayed in the JCR, Buttery, outside Hall and even on the JCR website. There is no dress code, and no formal hall. (We do have informal, formal hall, on a Tuesday – basically dress up smart with table service, but no need for gowns.)

The Library
The Library is renowned for its beauty, but also the number of books it contains: it’s the best place to take those lengthy reading lists. It is open 24/7 during term time and can be accessed simply by swiping your bodcard!

The Lodge
Where the porters are stored at the front entrance. They are a really lovely bunch of people who are in charge of your keys, and can furnish you with a spare should you (or your scout!) lock yourself out of your room. They chase away tourists. They believe that we spend half of our time in bed and the other half bothering them with silly questions. They are friendly and helpful, but expect you to be nice and polite too. A friendly wave each morning doesn’t go amiss. You can ring the lodge from the internal phone if anything goes wrong, day or night.

The Chapel
The Chapel is unmistakeable and accessible from the front quad. The main service is on Sundays in term at 5.30pm. Anybody can go to Chapel, either for the services or at any other time, and it is open to people of all faiths and none.

Post Room
Accessible from the Lodge, this is where you receive your bank statements, bills, reading lists, and junk mail. It will come all neatly stacked in a pigeonhole which has your name above it.
Pigeon Post
This is the intercollegiate postal service. Up to five letters can be sent free of charge to any other college or department in Oxford per go, then it’s 2p per letter. Give them to the porters.

Scouts
Not the boys in short trousers, but the college housekeepers. They will wake you up. They will empty your bin every morning and clean your room once a week. They will politely ignore bed partners. As long as you’re nice, they’ll be nice. Leave your bin outside your door if you don’t want them to come in the morning.

Function Rooms
You can book a variety of rooms in College for private functions. See the Bursars’ Secretary (Staircase V) for details. If you can get enough people together, then you can commandeer Hall or the OCR and order lots of expensive and tasty food from the Head Chef. Academic rooms (e.g. Lecture Room 23) can also be booked through the lodge.

Croquet Lawn
During Trinity Term you can sign out the keys to the croquet cupboard and play croquet on one of the lawns in the back quad. If you’ve never tried it before, give it a go next summer – it’s a lot more fun than you think it will be.

Master’s Field
Walk down Jowett Walk, go past the Jowett flats, and you will find a sports field, containing a football pitch, a cricket pitch and nets, some tennis courts and a basketball court. See the sports pages later in this book for more details.

Societies at Balliol
Life at Balliol is hectic, and just in case there wasn’t enough going on, there are a load of subject and non-subject related societies to get involved in. You can find a list of society contacts through the JCR website at ballioljcr.org.

SUBJECT SOCIETIES

BACCHUS 1. Get lots of chemists, biologists and biochemists; 2. Increase temperature and pressure. Wait for a) tutors playing the piano and singing; b) descent to the Bar; and finally c) meltdown.
**Balliol Medical Society** open to all from medical (ish) degrees, have a number of events per year including slap-up meals and guest speakers.

**Beers** Balliol Engineers Society. Heated discussion on the finer points of bridge design reverberate through Hall at the annual dinner, although the odd chink of glass and bottle has also been recorded!

**BUMS** Balliol Undergraduate Maths Society. With their annual introductory drinks, meal-cum-speaker evening, and numerous instances of revelry, it could be argued that Balliol’s mathematicians have only one thing on their minds.

**BURPS** is the social and hence rather small wing of Balliol physics: they organise events for physicists and physics & philosophers, including the orgy of over-indulgence known as the annual dinner.

**Cerberus** is Balliol’s PPE Society. Its three undergraduate heads strive tirelessly to organise speaker meetings, hosting distinguished members of the intelligentsia; they wine and dine – and even learn some stuff – as much as the budget will allow. Membership is free and open to all Balliol undergraduates.

**Dervorguilla** is a society for Balliol’s vast group of historians. Dervorguilla has recently been revived and is rapidly becoming a decent subject society. There are speaker meetings and social events which provide opportunity for the great hordes of historians to congratulate themselves.

**Younger Society** comprises all Balliol students, past and present, who have read Law or gone into the legal profession. It has the usual drinks parties and a wildly exciting annual dinner with important legal folk – not that there’s networking or anything...

If your subject’s not represented here, don’t worry. You’ll still have various drinks and dinners with your tutors.

**OTHER SOCIETIES**

**Aikenshaw Society**, also known as the Balliol Poetry Society, meets every two weeks or so for port, wine, chocolate, fruit, cheese, biscuits and poetry. It’s free, everyone is welcome and extensive knowledge of literary criticism is definitely not required (though English students tend to enjoy the chance to show off).
Arnold & Brackenbury: Formed many years ago when the sporting of black ties and the drinking of copious amounts of port were considered prerequisites of a sound argument, the A&B Society dines and debates. Guest speakers and past members join forces with undergraduates to recount funny anecdotes and announce as yet unknown gossip. Membership is based on the quality of a post-debate floor speech.

Balliol Left Caucus: provides an informal forum for discussion. Despite Balliol’s reputation as a socialist stronghold, Left Caucus sympathisers range from those excited by a mildly radical revolution to the theories of a continuous revolution.

Musical Society: Picture a darkened Hall with rows of gowned Fellows and a throng of students scattered casually between the glowering portraits. This is the scene for the fortnightly Balliol Concerts which feature a wide variety of often world-renowned musicians. Admission is free, but paying a small subscription entitles students to use the College Music Room.

Balliol Dramatic Society: No matter how much in/experience you have somewhere here there’s a show for you in Oxford, and it’s not just actors, but directors, producers, marketing team, lights, sound, the lot! Balliol has its own studio theatre ‘The Pilch’ which seats up to 50. Cuppers is a Drama Competition for 1st years with the emphasis on fun – a good way to get involved.

Scrawl: Scrawl is Balliol’s own creative writing magazine, run by the Comrades Shakespeare and home to aspiring poets, writers and artists. It is not always wholly serious.

Sport at Balliol

A huge variety of sports are played at Balliol: beyond sports such as rowing, football, cricket, and rugby, for which there are both men’s and women’s teams. You can also play netball, hockey, cricket, squash, tennis, badminton, croquet, bridge, table football, darts and pool, and probably more than that. Intercollegiate competitions known as Cuppers are held for all of these.

Facilities Balliol is very lucky to have such central sports facilities – Jowett Walk is less than five minutes’ walk from college and has a football pitch, two squash courts, cricket nets and a cricket pitch. University Parks, where you can find rugby, lacrosse, and hockey pitches are just up the road, the University Sports Complex on Iffley Road.
is fifteen minutes’ walk or a five minute cycle ride. We also have a gym (conveniently situated next to the bar).

**Rowing** This is Oxford’s most famous sport and anyone can have a go! Both the men’s and the women’s teams for Balliol are very highly ranked and have been extremely successful in recent years. Most of our rowers start rowing at Balliol so you don’t have to have any experience – just turn up, try it out, and see what you think. (You might enjoy it more than you predicted.) The lower boats can be less serious but are known for working hard and playing hard: we have the most sociable crews on the river so do get involved! Check the timetable to find out about Boat club drinks during Freshers’ Week (this is open to all so go even if it is for the free stuff)!

**Football** There are two men’s teams in football, and one women’s team. Both have done extremely well recently, with the men's first team having just won promotion to the promised land of the JCR Premiership. There is plenty of opportunity to get involved for both the talented and the less serious players. Football trials will take place during Freshers’ Week – and are open to everyone who is remotely interested in playing football here, whether you're hoping for a first XI spot, or just fancy a kickabout. Check the timetable for details.

**Rugby** Balliol has always boasted a great reputation as one of the stronger men’s first XV's in the university. There is also a mixed touch rugby team – no previous experience is necessary and all standards are welcome. There will be an introductory mixed touch session on during Freshers’ Week – check the timetable for details.

**Cricket** Balliol’s first XI are very good at cricket, having won a great deal in the past couple of years, and there is no better way to pass an afternoon in the summer term. Along with cricket dinner, cricket drinks, cricket in general.

**Netball** This is primarily a women’s sport, although token males are welcome if over 6ft. Tickets for Netball Dinner are like gold dust.

**Basketball** Balliol have a very successful basketball team which regularly competes in cuppers – the inter-college competition held in Trinity term. The team comprises of all standards from blues to novices with a mixture of JCR and MCR members.

**Hockey** Balliol has a mixed team which is fairly successful and definitely a good place to have a laugh. If you were brilliant at school, or even if you haven’t played before,
come and give it a go. Hockey’s always a lot more fun when there are no officious games teachers around...

Squash This is an extremely popular sport at Balliol, which probably has something to do with our brilliant facilities at the Master’s Sports Ground in Jowett Walk. Balliol has two squash courts here which are frequently used both for training by women’s and men’s teams, and by social players.

Croquet Balliol take croquet “seriously” because it has a serious croquet pitch, within seconds of the Buttery and beneath the shade of some rather ancient and very lovely tree. Pimms and lemonade and the thrill of an intense, fast-paced competition...all you need is the rain to stop.

Lacrosse A recent addition to the Balliol sporting repertoire, the mixed lacrosse team has become a well-oiled athletic machine. Commitment is unquestionable and, whilst many are unaware of the finer points of the game, fun is had by all.

Bar Sports These are very big at Balliol. Each night, Balliol’s finest (female and male) congregate in the Lindsay bar for intensive training in sports that are rapidly becoming the most competitive in Oxford. Inter-college darts matches often spark off disputes that are only resolved on the pool table or table football pitch. League and Cuppers events can be organised for all three sports, so there is plenty of chance for retribution.
Student Unions in Oxford

OUSU (Oxford University Student Union)

Most British universities have a single student union which takes care of welfare, organises events, and generally represents students. But Oxford has 39 separate colleges, each with its own student unions: the JCRs and MCRs. This makes life a little complicated. The common rooms generally play a role in most of the above areas, but there are some things that concern all the University’s students, or which common rooms do not have the resources to deal with, and that is what OUSU exists for. OUSU doesn’t have the large building with bars and meeting places present in other universities – but since Balliol still has a student run bar, plus a student café and common room, we more than make up for this!

OUSU is administrated by a team of six sabbatical officers: the President and five Vice Presidents with specific portfolios. OUSU council meets every fortnight and is the Student Union’s decision-making body. Balliol JCR has three votes in council which are held by the JCR President and Affiliations Officers; for matters where it’s not clear what our votes should be, they’ll ask at a GM and we can discuss and debate the issue to work out the views of the JCR and how to best represent them. Beyond this, any student can attend and speak at council. There are also several committees which are set up to address specific areas. These are also open to all, and all you have to do to get involved is contact a committee co-chair and turn up to the meeting. It’s definitely worth investigating getting involved with OUSU.

OUSU also organises welfare on a university level and operates a free legal advice scheme, and provides information booklets with information and advice about things like finding a house out of College, and issues affecting women. It operates the Student Advice Service, who can provide help and support if you get into academic, personal or legal trouble. OUSU is also the largest student publishing house in Europe producing the weekly newspaper The Oxford Student, the annual student handbook, and the Freshers’ Guide. OUSU also runs the university Freshers’ Fair.

The Oxford Union

Entirely separate to OUSU, this is just for those who pay to join, and is primarily about debating, social events, and speaker events. It costs a lot to join, and it must be said that you have to concentrate to make sure you get your money’s worth. This is not necessarily the fault of the Union, which usually lays on great speakers and interesting debates, and owns the Purple Turtle (a late bar/club really close to
Balliol). It is probably worth waiting until you arrive and having a look around before paying the money to join – talk to members and see what they say.

**Other Oxford Studenty Stuff**

You don’t need to just do your degree. The University provides **art tuition** at the Ruskin for those who are interested (and whose portfolio is good enough). **Language courses**, from beginner to very advanced are also available for those taking non-language degrees.

You can write for either of the two established **student papers**, the *Cherwell* and the *Oxford Student*, simply by turning up. The *Isis* is a respected termly journal with articles and poetry you can submit to, and the *Oxymoron* is a national award-winning satirical magazine with very close links to Balliol.

**Plays and musicals** are going on all the time, with plenty of opportunities to act, direct, write, work backstage, for the absolute beginner or pro looking for an agent. There is also a large number of **orchestras, bands, jazz groups and music classes**, several successful **a capella groups** to keep any musician happy. Check out Balliol’s music room on staircase 23 – sign out the key from the lodge.

There are also hundreds of other societies for pretty much every interest under the sun – from the political societies, to the Chinese society, the Tolkien Society, the scuba-diving society, juggling, and knitting societies – and that’s just scraping the surface.

**OUSU Freshers’ Fair**

This is where all those clubs and societies and sports and magazines and everything of Oxford get crammed together into Exam Schools, and all the freshers get crammed in with them, and market forces happen. No-one is allowed to take money off you on the day but all of them will take your email addresses and within a couple of days you’ll receive a barrage of stuff.

**Make sure** you go to this. It has a huge amount to offer that other places don’t, and you’ll kick yourself if you miss out.
Out and About in Oxford

FOOD
There are lots of places in Oxford that sell food. Some sell nice food and some sell not so nice food. Below are some of the nice ones:

Lunch/Sandwich places: Obviously your first port of call should be the JCR Pantry. Mortons, Café Crème, and the Alternative Tuck Shop are good nearby bets, and Olives and the Missing Bean cater for slightly more upmarket tastes. They’re worth it, though. The Vaults & Garden, Alphabar, and Will’s Deli are even fancier for lunch.

Cheapish meals out: Oxford has most of the standard chain restaurants, with lots of pizza places like ASK, Pizza Express, and Zizzi’s. Other good places are Noodle Nation, Nando’s, Giraffe, and GBK. The Cowley Road and Jericho are two areas with plenty of good, cheap, restaurants, but do ask for advice.

Next level up: Nice food that’s quite expensive but worth it if you can afford it. In town, head to Quod for an old-school establishment atmosphere (if you like that kind of thing), or Jamie’s Italian for celebrity chef stuff. In Jericho, Pierre Victoire does good French food, especially good if you take advantage of the cheap lunchtime or group party prices, and Branca on Walton Street is equally lovely. Out in Cowley there are oodles of little places the best of which is probably Door 74.

Up once again: Ideal if someone else is paying. At the top end of the scale you have Gee’s and its big brother, the slightly stuffier Old Parsonage. The food is amazing. By the Folly Bridge Aquavitae is the perfect setting for a balmy evening, complete with lush cocktails and classic Italian dishes, and if high tea takes your fancy then the Grand Café is a must. To escape from the city, go for a walk in Port Meadow to the Trout for riverside dining, or the Perch for quirky surroundings and wonderful desserts.

Other fun places: After a heavy night out, or a depressing night in, Hassan’s is the kebab van outside college, and just happens to be one of the best in Oxford. For a slightly more upmarket van-dining experience, the Organic Burger Van near the Ashmolean is worth a try. The title for best bring-your-own-booze curry house is fiercely contested by Arzoo and Bombay. More upmarket are the Bangladeshi restaurant Aziz on Cowley Road, and Cafe Zouk in town. For sushi, try Edamame on a Thursday night, for thai At Thai is always a good shout and for a thoroughly Jamaican atmosphere Hi-Lo serves food and drink well into the night.
FILM & PLAYS

Oxford is well-endowed with cinemas – from the two Odeon cinemas offering the latest blockbusters, to the Ultimate Picture Palace off Cowley Road and Phoenix Picture House in Jericho, which cater to more independent tastes.

Oxford is home to many a thesp and many a theatre. There are usually three or four to choose from every week, mainly student productions, so you can really go crazy for culture. At the Playhouse, you can’t usually go too wrong. The Burton Taylor has most of the more experimental drama and Balliol itself has the smaller Pilch theatre, which is great for little production companies finding their feet.

PUBS/BARS/CLUBS

Less well known than its facilities for scholars, and much more fun, are Oxford’s facilities for drinkers; whilst it might not be quite as hectic as London (which is only an hour and a half away on the bus, which runs 24/7) there are still plenty of places to go out.

The first pubs that you should get to know are the King’s Arms (“K.A.”) and the Turf, just wander out of Balliol and turn left. On a sunny day make your way to the Head of the River and for a more old-manny experience try the Lamb & Flag or the Eagle & Child (where lots of famous people wrote famous books). Prices aren’t generally too student-friendly – so most tend to stick to Balliol’s own Lindsay Bar.

Oxford has an increasing number of trendy bars, stuffed with the more affluent students or those who prefer spending their loans on decent cocktails rather than on paper and pens. The Duke of Cambridge, House and Raoul’s are three classic (and good) cocktail bars. Baby Love Bar just off the High Street is also quite popular, and puts on some good clubnights. Kazbar on Cowley Road is worth checking out, offering Moroccan tapas along with your drinks.

Clubbing in Oxford can be pretty hit and miss. The fledgling club Junction is a great recent favourite with Balliolites, despite its seeming lack of redeeming features; Wednesdays at Park End usually attract many with three dancefloors. The Cellar puts on quite a wide variety of nights – keep your eyes peeled for their special events. If the clubbing norm is exactly what you are after, then try the Bridge, and Camera. Some people, for some reason, enjoy Wahoo. The O2 Academy is situated on Cowley Road and attracts a lot of bands and DJs. Itchy Feet, a twice-termly retro music night, is very popular and well worth going to, but get tickets well in advance.
Finance

Outgoings
Each term you will receive your bill from college, which is called Battels. You will need to pay it by Friday of 1st Week. You can do this very easily online, or if you prefer, go to the Bursary on staircase 7. The charges include your rent, JCR levies and tickets for various things rolled over from the previous term.

Incomings
Student loans are the main source of income for most students now. You can apply for these through your LEA. The college Chaplain, can help you find out about the procedure and also apply for them.

Financial Aid
Both the College and the University have lots of money to help those in financial need. No one should have to leave college due to financial difficulty. You will receive a Money Matters booklet, which tells you what funds and grants are available and how to apply for them. Please read it! Remember, if you don’t ask then you don’t get. Both the chaplain and the Drs. WHO are happy to be approached. In an emergency, there is a crisis fund administrated by the chaplain. There is no need for you to starve, and there is no need for you to have a miserable time on the poverty line. So even if you don’t qualify for any of the bursaries that are available, if you are struggling to make ends meet make an appointment with the chaplain and go and discuss your situation, as he may be able to help out with a grant or a loan. It must be stressed that if you having financial difficulties the college would rather hear about it than not hear about it, don’t be shy! You’d be surprised at the number of people who have at some point received financial aid.
Peer Support

What is Peer Support?
Peer supporters are trained by the University counselling service to listen and support other students. We are not here to solve your problems, but to help you work through whatever is on your mind, however big or small. We can also point you towards other sources of help. We offer a confidential, informal service and are happy to help with anything that is on your mind. We can listen and talk, and we won’t moralise, criticise or pass judgement on you in any way.

Contacting a peer supporter:
The current JCR peer supporters are:

Anna Hufton  anna.hufton@balliol.ox.ac.uk
Yifan Zhang yifan.zhang@balliol.ox.ac.uk
Krista Halttunen krista.halttunen@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Feel free to contact any of us before you arrive. During term time you are welcome to email anyone on the peer support team who will try to get back to you within 24 hours to arrange a time and place to meet up. We are always happy to be contacted whatever you want to talk about, big or small. We aren’t here to tell you what to do, or to judge you, but we are always available if you want to talk to someone in confidence, or get some information on the other support services available.
Map of Balliol College
Oxford, OX1 3BJ

We regret that some parts of this ancient site present access difficulties to people with mobility impairment.
Map of Oxford

This map just has a few of the places all Balliolites should know about, but the list is by no means exhaustive!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Balliol College</td>
<td>Home! The main Balliol College building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Jowett Walk</td>
<td>More College-owned accommodation, as well as the College sports pitches and the Pilch Studio Theatre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Holywell Manor</td>
<td>Balliol's graduate building and accommodation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D 19 Beaumont St</td>
<td>This is the GP for Balliol – the local doctor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E OUSU</td>
<td>OUSU Buildings, including the Student Advice Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Examination Schools</td>
<td>Lectures and exams for many subjects are held here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Radcliffe Camera</td>
<td>The ‘Rad Cam’: massive, beautiful library building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Ashmolean Museum</td>
<td>The first museum in Britain - it's brilliant: definitely look round.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Carfax Tower</td>
<td>City centre; where four big streets in Oxford meet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Oxford Union</td>
<td>Controversial members-only debating and speaking society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Towards Jericho</td>
<td>A few students live here in the years when they live out. It's a bit more expensive than other areas, but has some really good places.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Towards Abingdon Road</td>
<td>Again, popular for ‘living out’. It's mainly residential, but has a nice outdoor swimming pool, as well as a lovely lake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Towards The Cowley Road</td>
<td>Lots of students live here in the years when they live out. Also home to many nice coffee, book and record shops, as well as some nice restaurants and quirky/pretentious clothing shops.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bikes

Oxford may be famous for bikes, but do you need one? Well...

Scientists will have all their lectures and labs in the university Science Area, which is about a 10 minute walk from Balliol, which would make it a 2 minute cycle. Which means 8 more minutes in bed each morning... It’s harder to say about the artists – a lot will have lectures at Exam Schools – again about a 10 minute walk, but some lectures are at faculties etc.

Everyone can definitely get by without a bike. However, if you’re a bit disorganised it might help. If you were planning to do lots of sport, you might well find yourself cycling round Oxford to various pitches and training session = again, a bike would be useful. If you live out in 2nd year, it is definitely worth having a bike.

If you have a bike, I’d advise you to bring it – if there’s room in the car. If you don’t have one, you can easily buy one in Oxford, new or 2nd hand. It might be a bit more expensive here in Oxford, because demand is high, but it saves you transporting it.

If you do decide to keep a bike, there are racks in Broad Street, but far safer are the College bike racks, which are underground in the Front Quad. If you want to keep your bike there, you have to take it to the lodge where the porters will register it, and give you a tag and a security code thing for the princely sum of 60p.
Glossary

**Battels:** College rent bill. Disputes used to be settled by means of a duel between the Bursar and the best JCR shot.

**Blackwell’s:** A really big (and good) bookshop just down the road from Balliol.

**Bod:** Short for the Bodleian (library). The biggest library in Oxford and one of the only three copyright libraries in the country, meaning that it gets a copy of EVERY book published in Britain.

**Bod Card:** Your university card. Gets you into the Bod but also serves as your general ID card to get you into other colleges, faculties, nightclubs etc.

**Bop:** The JCR gets turned into a big party, with great cocktails (albeit in plastic glasses) and lots of intense music to boogie the night away to with all your friends.

**Coming up/Going down:** Not what it might at first seem but the act of arriving at/leaving Oxford.

**Collections:** Little tests set by your tutors and administered in Hall. They’re supposed to check you worked over the holidays/remembered something from the term before. Depending on your tutor, these are normally fairly informal – though obviously the JCR would never condone sneaking your notes in!

**Cuppers:** University wide inter-collegiate competitions, for everything from cricket and footy to drama and tiddlywinks.

**Entz:** Oxford-speak for Entertainments. Usually in the form of Bops, but includes big-screen weekends, karaoke, bands, and lots more.

**Freshers’ Fair:** This is a university wide event in Freshers’ week where people frantically try to get you to sign up for many a sport and society that you never knew existed. Put your name down for anything you think you might be interested in, you can always take your name off mailing lists later.

**Handshaking:** Your tutors talk to you about your work at the end of term. Not as scary as it sounds. And you don’t shake their hands, unless you really want to.

**Matriculation:** Sometime near the beginning of term you dress in Sub Fusc (penguin gear) and get barked at in Latin very early in the morning as part of your official enrolment as a member of the University.

**Mods/Prelims:** First year examinations where you are expected to dress up for the second time in sub fusc, but this time you have to do exams. You have to pass these to carry on (pass mark is 40-50%) but there is opportunity for re-sits if it all goes pear shaped.

**Noughth Week:** The week before term officially starts. You are expected to come back for meetings with tutors, etc. And to see all your friends again. But you don’t have any tutorials.

**Rad Cam:** Part of the Bod, it’s big and round and beautiful, and houses History and English books.

**SCR:** Senior Common Room. All the present fellows (senior members of teaching staff) of Balliol, and the room they sit about in.

**Sub Fusc:** Penguin gear you have to wear for exams and matriculation. White shirt or blouse, black socks and shoes. A choice of white bow tie or black ribbon, and dark suit or black skirt (or trousers). Plus cap and gown. You can pick one of these up when you arrive, so don’t worry too much yet.

**Tute:** Short for tutorial, you and one or two others sit down for an hour with a tutor and talk about something more or less interesting.
Useful Telephone Numbers

There is a list of numbers in the OUSU Freshers’ Handbook, and you can find a directory of all university numbers (colleges, departments, tutors, etc.) by the phone outside the post room. The following is a shortlist of the most useful ones for Balliol students:

**COLLEGE NUMBERS**

Porters’ Lodge (any problems, day or night, contact) 01865 277777
Dean 01865 277778
Chaplain 01865 277716
Nurse 01865 277737
JCR Office 01865 277744
JCR Fax 01865 240152

**DOCTORS, ETC.**

College Doctors, 19 Beaumont Street 01865 240501
College Dentist, 3 George Street 01865 244304
10 O’clock Chemist, 59 Woodstock Road

**WELFARE NUMBERS**

Nightline (anonymous, confidential student listening service 8pm – 8am, 16 Wellington Square, takes calls and visits) 01865 270270
Samaritans 01865 722122
University Counselling Service 01865 270300
Eating Disorders Association 0845 6341414
FRANK (Drugs Helpline) Text: 82111 0800 776600
GUM clinic (STDs) Harrison Dept, Radcliffe Infirmary 01865 246036
Family Planning Clinic, Cowley Road 01865 456666
OxAIDS 0800 393999
Alcoholics Anonymous 01865 242373
Drinkline (9am-11pm Mon-Fri, 6pm-11pm Sat-Sun) 0800 917 8282
Disability Advisory Service 01865 280459

**AND FINALLY**

ABC Taxis 01865 770077
001 Taxis 01865 240000
Odeon Cinemas 0845 750 5007
Hey Freshers!

I hope you’re really looking forward to starting your first term at Oxford, but there’s something just as exciting coming in the final term of this year; Balliol Ball 2015! It’s taking place within Balliol on Saturday of 2nd Week of Trinity (or the 9th of May, for those of you still working on normal, non-Oxford dates), and with 500 tickets available, will be a huge night.

Balls are a big part of Oxford life, and they’re really great fun, especially with loads of your friends. They sound very old-fashioned but don’t worry, this won’t be a scene out of Pride and Prejudice; there will be live music, silent discos, fireworks, and unlimited food and drink until the early hours of the morning. They’re usually black tie for men, and a smart dress and heels for ladies. I somehow ended up at four balls in my first year, and had such an incredible time at all of them that I applied for Ball President.

So, what will Balliol Ball be like? We’re not entirely sure as of yet; we want to get the JCR involved as much as possible, so in the first few weeks of Michaelmas term I’m going to send a questionnaire round to the JCR regarding a variety of important decisions like the theme and option of a meal beforehand. Please look out for it and reply, we really value your opinions. However, although we’re still in the early stages of organising the Ball, I can promise fireworks, live music, food and drink and on the whole, a night to remember.

Trinity term, (or summer term) may seem like ages away now, and it is, but the Ball Committee really want to make sure that everyone who wants to come can. Balls are a bit costly. Balliol ball will be around £70-80, and, which is relatively cheap for an Oxford ball. If you need
to, we suggest that you start budgeting early – however, you should also know that the college and the JCR will be able to offer financial support where needed! The cost will be batted (put on the bill which you pay at the beginning of each term when your loan comes through) so you won’t pay it until the beginning of Trinity term, but it’s still definitely something to consider.

However, if balls really aren’t your thing, then don’t worry, there is absolutely no obligation to come. You can stay in your rooms for the evening (though it will be noisy, sorry!).

Hopefully that’s got you excited! If you have any questions, queries or even suggestions for the ball then we’re all ears, just grab me or another committee member in the JCR, or email me on Eleanor.Fox@balliol.ox.ac.uk

See you in October!

Ellie Fox
Ball President