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Welcome to Benet’s!
Welcome

Congratulations on having been offered a place to study at St Benet’s for the next academic year! I hope you are enjoying your summer free from the stresses of exams and the tensions of results day. This letter, and the rest of this pack, aim to provide some information about the Hall and student life.

St Benet’s Hall was founded in 1897, and is owned by Benedictine monks from Ampleforth Abbey, North Yorkshire. Since 1918 it has been a Permanent Private Hall (PPH) of the University of Oxford, and is, today, governed by the St Benet’s Trust. From a student perspective, its status as a PPH has little obvious impact; St Benet’s students are fully matriculated members of the University and enjoy the world-class teaching and benefits of the tutorial system. The Hall is an integrated and active part of the University, admitting each year roughly 1-2 monastic students, alongside 16-20 undergraduates and about 15 graduates from all backgrounds - both religious and secular. College life is one of the University’s greatest assets, since a college community provides a familial and welcoming home for students who are, in some cases, living away from home for a significant duration for the first time. St Benet’s is justly and proudly the closest and friendliest institution in Oxford, preserving the best of ‘Old Oxford’ and blending it with a wonderful family atmosphere which simply cannot be experienced in many other, larger colleges.

Hospitality is an important aspect of life at St Benet’s, and we are renowned within the University for the welcoming and fun atmosphere at meals. The Hall hosts three formal meals each week: Tuesday and Thursday dinner and Sunday lunch, which include three-courses with wine, preceded or followed by drinks. At Tuesday formals we enjoy the company of a distinguished guest speaker who gives us a short ten minute speech on his or her life or work. Students are encouraged to invite guests to the formal meals, so there is frequently a unique mix of interesting people. It is a great way to show friends from across the University, friends from home, or even relatives, what St Benet’s is like at its best. At St Benet’s everyone sits at a common table. Unlike other Oxford colleges, where there is a High Table for the Master and Fellows, there is no such segregation at Benet’s. It is an important part of the Hall’s ethos and emphasis on equality that all, students and tutors alike, dine together.

We are fortunate at St Benet’s to have a “Joint Common Room” (JCR), meaning that the student body comprises both undergraduates and graduates, as well as student monks. You will find this a great experience, as you rub shoulders with a wide mix of people. The JCR hosts several social events throughout the year. There is a party for the entire Hall at the end of each term, teas, charity events, variety shows, garden plays, Pimm’s socials, and many more. Unlike other colleges, the JCR does not charge for the parties – it is a long-standing principle that students, fellows, staff, and guests enjoy them for free. These will likely be among the highlights of your time in Oxford.

I really think, and I hope you will too, that St Benet’s is a fantastic place in which to learn and to live. It has its idiosyncrasies, which transform the years of your degree into something unique. The Hall effects a closeness with tutors that is unparalleled, due, inter alia, to the one-on-one tutorial system and the absence of a high
table; friendships are wrought between students of any age or year-group, not limited to those only in your own year; St Benet's can be called a home more appropriately than many other colleges.

I am delighted that you will be joining us in October and I hope you will enjoy your time at St Benet's Hall. If, after reading through this pack, you still have any questions about St Benet’s or the transition to Oxford, please get in touch with me or another member of the Committee. I look forward to meeting you during Freshers’ Week.

Yours sincerely,
Sam Hodson
JCR President

The JCR Committee

President
Sam Hodson | samuel.hodson@stb.ox.ac.uk | Theology

Hey Freshers! I'm Sam, and I'm your JCR President. This means I organise the JCR Committee, who plan the end of term parties, and I represent the students to the Hall authorities and promote our interests at the University level. I'll be starting my second year studying Theology in October. Outside of the JCR I'm a rep for the Somerville-Benet's Christian Union which you should totally come and talk to me about if you're interested! I also play a bit of hockey and do some music too (prepare to encounter the renowned Benedict-o-phones).

I hope you’re excited about coming to Benet’s, but don’t worry if you have a few anxieties about the place, particularly if you didn't apply here (not uncommon). I know I was unsure this time last year about what my university experience would be like, but let me assure you of what a fantastic place Benet's really is. You'll soon discover the value of belonging to such a tight community, especially amongst the fast pace of Oxford life. You might think our small size means you'll miss out on everything university has to offer, but in fact the opposite is true. I've got myself involved in music, drama, sport and the JCR because it's so easy to put yourself forward. Everything that we don't offer ourselves, we have links to elsewhere, so there is no reason to worry.

I’m really excited about the coming year as we welcome female undergraduate students and make full use of the site at Norham Gardens. What I really want to make clear is that even during this year, when things might feel a bit new for everyone, please feel at ease to ask any questions or voice any concerns whatsoever, as silly as they might seem. The committee and I will be more than happy to help you out - I had so many questions that I thought were stupid that I wanted to ask last year!

Have great summers and don’t freak out too much, we’re all really looking forward to meeting you.
Howdy Freshers! I am Sam, a second year historian and your JCR Treasurer. As I am sure you are aware, this means that I am in charge of the JCR finances but it also gives me the awesome power of deciding just how much drink we can buy for our renowned end of term parties (a very important role I assure you...). I hope you are as excited about starting your adventure at Benet's and Oxford as we are about meeting you all. Despite its small size, St Benet's is certainly a vibrant community to belong to, providing the opportunity to make brilliant friendships across the years within college, as well as providing the perfect base to meet people from across the university.

Although work does take up a substantial part of time spent here, an Oxford term will certainly be far from exclusively that. Personally, I love music, singing in the university choir, going to concerts around the university (the Jazz society’s events make for a wonderful night) and occasionally frequenting an open mic night. I also like playing music around college, and will be that guy playing piano that little bit too late, or singing (with sometimes dubious tuning) that little bit too loudly: so sorry in advance. Other than that I do enjoy playing sport, filling a role in the college football and rugby (perhaps dangerously for a man of my size) teams. I also enjoy the History Society and seeing some of the many interesting speakers that visit the university, as well as going to (often alcohol fuelled) social events around the university.

St. Benet’s Hall, and Oxford in general, are exciting places to live and study and I can’t wait to meet you all at the start of this experience. If you have any questions or worries about history, or Oxford or college life, I am more than happy to chat. All the best, and see you soon!

Secretary, House & Food Officer
Tim Baark | tim.baark@stb.ox.ac.uk | History

Hi Freshers! Congratulations on your offers and welcome to St. Benet’s. I’m your JCR secretary as well as house and food officer, which basically means if you have any complaints you come to me (hopefully you won’t have many- Benet’s really is great). I report problems about food to the kitchen and general maintenance problems to the administrators. As Secretary I take the JCR’s minutes and sit on committee- you can all look forward to the wonderful and ridiculous world that is St Benet’s student politics. Seriously, good luck escaping the pull of the heated JCR debates and never feel you can’t achieve life-changing political change (this year we secured free biscuits at weekends- that’s the dream).

I’m a second year historian. By birth I’m a German- Brazilian and I live in Singapore currently so if any of you are nervous or apprehensive about stepping into an unfamiliar environment I am happy to chat (as is the entire community for that matter). Don’t worry though Oxford’s really not as daunting as it seems. When not talking history I am an unashamed Disney and Tolkein fan but will also play most sports happily (the rest of the team tends to be less happy).

Enjoy your summers and I look forward to meeting you all in October.
Hello! I’m Ed, your Welfare and Education Officer. Whatever experience you’ve had before of living and working, Oxford is really unlike anywhere else. It is easy to feel a bit overwhelmed, confused, worried, nervous or anything in between, but as Welfare officer, it is my job to help you deal with that. I am always available for confidential chats and always happy to listen to any problems that you may be having: from work, to relationships, to family. If you want to seek further advice or support I can also put you in touch with the University support services outside of Benet’s.

Benet’s even manages to be unique within in the bizarre place that is Oxford, but that means that you will get to know everyone: fellow freshers, undergraduates, graduates, members of staff and monks within a matter of weeks. You’ll have settled in before you’ve failed to write your first essay.

Finally, a bit about myself: I’m a second year studying Theology, I do a little bit of drama and edit an online student paper. If any of those things might interest you, then let me know too.

Enjoy the long break!

Social Secretary
Matthew Haji-Michael | matthew.haji-michael@stb.ox.ac.uk | History

Why are you coming to Oxford, to university at all? To do a lot of work? Wrong. You’re here to have the time of your lives and as social secretary it’s my job to make that happen.

You undoubtedly will have heard that Oxford is entirely work driven, that people here hide away in the library and have no fun. However you’re going to find out its not all like that and that between the dreaming spires are plenty of brilliant pubs. Oxford, surprisingly enough, has enough dance floors for any of you keen clubbers, including particularly interesting 'cheese floors’ but we will get round to those in time. In Freshers’ week I’ll be in charge of introducing you all to these fine establishments if that takes your fancy. Besides this I’ll be updating you on all the social goings on in Oxford itself so you’ll never be without a party to go to, and though it is my intention to leave you thoroughly whelmed (not over- or under-) there is a lot to tell. I’ll also be helping to organise the termly 'ChariTea’, which basically involves eating sweet things and giving some money to a good cause. Lastly I’ll be helping to sort out the end of term parties, which are some of the best nights you’ll have in your lives.

Already looking forward to seeing you all in October, I know that it’s going to be great fun.
Hey y’all. I’m Alec, a fourth year Classicist and the LGBTQ Officer of the JCR. This basically means I act as a representative of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members of the Hall. Apart from my interest in Classics (and men), I’m into films, 90s-esque music, white wine, and trying (and failing) to go on a diet. I’ve also done a bit of singing at Oxford, so if you happen to be interested in singing and want to find out more about singing at the uni then drop me a line and I’ll be happy to help you out. I’ve also arranged regular Benet’s cinema trips, so if that’s your thing then let me know as well.

Benet’s is a really inclusive and friendly, close-knit community, so if any of you start to feel in any way marginalised (LGBTQ or otherwise) or are having problems with coming out, please let me know, and I’m happy to have a confidential chat with you. We want to make your time here as enjoyable as possible. Also, if you’re interested in finding out about LGBTQ events at Oxford then I’m here to give you any information you might need about that!

I’ll be around in Freshers’ week, helping out with events, so I look forward to meeting you all soon!

Welcome to St Benet’s Hall and the University of Oxford! I’m Thais and I represent the graduate members of Hall on the Joint Common Room (JCR) Committee. The graduates of Benet’s are well integrated into the Hall and due to our small size, the Hall has a Joint Common Room for all student members, rather than separate common rooms for undergraduates and graduates. Graduate members are encouraged to participate in all activities hosted by the Hall and the JCR, including sporting activities. If any incoming graduates have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email and I will be very glad to help in any way I can. Benet’s is a great place for graduates due to its strong sense of community, table fellowship, and the sincere interest the Hall has in supporting its graduate students. There is no place like it in Oxford.

I’m very much looking forward to meeting everyone and welcoming you all to our friendly community. With James Matarazzo I am the co-president of the St. Benet’s Graduate Society and I hope you all have as good a time in Benet’s as I have had! I come from Brazil, having spent most of my life in São Paulo, the second largest metropolis; but I’ve also experienced the northern and southern rural areas of the country. My family here includes my husband and 2 rescued cats, dear pets which have travelled from Brazil, and we are settled in Headington. Apart from my passion for Egyptology, I love Star Wars and Taekwondo.
Hello lovely Freshmen and Freshwomen,

I’m Marco, a second year studying History but, more importantly for you, also the Benet’s Boat Club Captain! I’m in charge of pretty much all things rowing related. I’m from London and have been rowing for six years now, but I frequently dabble in other (let’s face it, lesser) sports, like cycling and football. You’ll be able to find me usually at the Duke Humfrey’s library, having a game of chess in the calefactory, or at one of the other college’s formal halls, in my attempt to go to a formal at every single college by the time I graduate. Twelve done so far, a good twenty or so more to go.

Benet’s in itself is unique, as I’m sure you have all already been told a number of times, in terms of its size in the university and so naturally the Hall fosters a very tight-knit ethos, something that is invaluable when it comes to a team sport like rowing. Part of the reason we are able to hold are own against the boats of much larger colleges is because crewmates know each other well, regardless of differing years or subjects.

Arriving in a completely new environment can be a very exciting but also scary experience; I know I felt both those things quite a lot in first term. There is really nothing to be anxious about coming to Benet’s though. The Hall boasts the highest student satisfaction in Oxford and for good reason. I know all my preconceptions about Benet’s were gone within the first two days of arriving as I settled into this incredible community.

I look forward to meeting you all and seeing as many of you as possible giving rowing a go during our taster session in Freshers’ week!

Have a great summer!

BME Representative
Tammy Shamoli | thanjima.ahmedshamoli@stb.ox.ac.uk | Islamic studies and History

Welcome new Benetians! My name is Tammy and I am your BME (Black and Minority Ethnicity) representative. The unique thing about St. Benet’s is just how close-knit the community is. From the common table to the social events, everyone is made to feel included. It is my job to hear any concerns that BME students have to ensure this proves equally true for all students.

I myself am a second year MPhil student in Islamic Studies and History. Having a joint common room means that there are no divisions here; graduates and undergraduates alike are equally involved – so expect to see me around... a lot. There are many social events organised by the committee for you throughout the year which, being part of a small community, are always memorable and feel particularly personal. There are also of course always many other things to participate in in Oxford outside of Benet’s but you should always feel as though you have a home and a family in the Hall to see you through your time here.
Hi, Freshers! Welcome to Oxford and, especially, to St. Benet’s Hall! I’m Kelly, the Women’s Representative of the JCR. This is a historic year for St. Benet’s, as female undergraduates are joining the Hall for the first time! St. Benet’s is a very inclusive and supportive community. By sitting around our common table at mealtime and through everyday life in the Hall, you will come to know everyone—undergraduates, graduates, monks, fellows, and staff! There are usually a few people hanging around the Calefactory keen for a good conversation, croquet games in the garden during spring, and impromptu piano duets after dinner. We are all very excited for you to be part of it.

As for me, I am a graduate student reading for an MPhil in Buddhist Studies. I research medieval Chinese Buddhist monks who got into all kinds of mischief as political advisors, martial warriors, and spies. I grew up in Florida, so you will see me bundled in winter gear almost year-round and studying in the Hall’s garden whenever the sun is shining. Apart from the sun, I also love to run and to waste my time in quirky coffee shops, so don’t hesitate to ask if you are interested in jogging routes or are looking for a great cup of coffee. If you have any questions or concerns, or would simply like to chat, feel free to email me or find me in the Hall come October. Have a great summer, and see you soon!

Sport is fun. Work might not always be described as ‘fun’. Exercise, whether that be physical, mental or croquet, is proven to help alleviate the stress that work can produce and improve one’s performance. I tend to engage my sporty side perhaps a little too extensively and arguably at the cost of my work, which is perhaps why I have been given such a role. My job is to offer and facilitate you with any sporting desires you may have, and I mean ANY. Sport takes on a wide range of (often bizarre) interpretations at Oxford, and such diverse opportunities can prove bewildering. But luckily this means that if there is something you are interested in, the likelihood is that it exists at Oxford. If you want to make it splash on the basketball court or during Canoe Polo, discover new muscles whilst rowing, or you simply just want a chat, I will always be available. Hopefully I am an approachable person and easy to identify as I am perpetually walking around in some sort of sporting stash to make myself feel special.
The JCR is the student body at St Benet’s, made up of monastic students, undergraduates and graduates, with elected or appointed officials. About twice a term, we meet collectively to discuss issues which affect you – ranging from biscuits to decor last year! As mentioned, the JCR hosts several social events. There is a party at the end of each term: Michaelmas sees the renowned Black Tie Christmas Party; the party at the end of Hilary term has had a masquerade theme (Benetian Venetian), and more recently, a Mardi Gras theme; the Summer Garden Party is one of the high-points of the year with Pimm’s and plenty of food and cheer. At the end of Trinity Term there is also the JCR Picnic on Port Meadow, from seven in the evening until seven in the morning. We are proud of the fact that students, fellows, staff, and guests enjoy them without charge. To give you an idea of the sort of events we organise, here are the highlights from last term:

To finish the year in style, Benet’s played host to a Alice in Wonderland themed party. With the entire Hall decorated wonderland-style, a magical atmosphere contributed to a great summer’s evening.

The Benet’s top secret Pimm’s recipe went down a storm at our garden events, and provided the perfect accompaniment for a game of croquet!

The Garden Play (Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense) wowed a sell-out audience with a cast of tutors and students.

We screened films such as ‘Casablanca’ outside. The atmosphere of watching a film in the setting of our garden in the company of fellows and students is something quite special. Students in the building next door look out from their windows at us very enviously!

Towards the end of term, the JCR also held the picnic on Port Meadow. Our social secretary, Matthew, presided over a delicious barbecue, while for drink we had an entire keg of ale. Testimony to its success is that the bravest among us stayed out until the early hours.
For all the excitement, expectation and anxiety, most people at the very least want to know about the basics, so here they are...

**Handbook** | You will receive a hard copy of the *Handbook* when you arrive, and it will be explained to you by the Junior Dean at an induction for new students. It contains information about how the Hall operates and sets out the rules you agree to follow by joining the Hall – so be sure to read it! You can download the current version from the Hall website by logging in to the intranet (when you receive your log in details). [http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/login](http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/login)

**Norham Gardens** | Since 1922 St Benet’s Hall has been located in a single building at 38 St Giles (formerly at Woodstock Road and later, Beaumont Street), but from October 2015 St Benet’s expanded to a second building at Norham Gardens.

**Accommodation** | Accommodation for all first year undergraduates, is provided at 11 Norham Gardens. Others live either in 38 St Giles, or live out in private or University rented accommodation.

For students living at Norham Gardens or 38 St Giles’, the Hall provides all bedding – a pillow, a duvet, and a mattress with covers for all of them. Amazingly, these get washed for you once a fortnight! If you have a favourite Little Mermaid duvet cover from when you were six, you can of course bring it instead. Most rooms only come with one pillow, so bring an extra if you like. Each room contains at least:

- Bed with bedding
- Wardrobe, bookcase, desk & chair
- Chest of drawers
- Lamp
- Pin Board (please do not bring Blu-tack!)

**Graduate Accommodation** is at 38 St Giles’ or at Walton Street which is a 4 minute walk from St Benet’s. You can find all the details here: [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/graduateaccommodation/lookingforaccommodation/properties/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/graduateaccommodation/lookingforaccommodation/properties/)

**Meals** | All meals are in the Refectory at 38 St Giles’. All new undergraduate members of the Hall are expected to attend lunch and dinner in Freshers’ Week. New graduates are very welcome and strongly
encouraged to attend. After Noughth Week, students must book meals online themselves using the meal app on the Hall's homepage, which will be explained in Freshers’ Week. You do not have to sign in for breakfast or afternoon tea. In particular, afternoon tea provides a welcome break from study and there are usually a few like-minded students to chat to and relax with. There is also coffee and tea served after lunch and dinner in the Calefactory or garden.

It is a tradition of the Hall that new members take it in turn to help the staff serving at dinner and Sunday lunch. The JCR draws up the rota for this and for the short reading from the Rule of St Benedict which follows the Grace. Although this is customary, it is not obligatory. www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/our-common-table

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<td>8:00 am – 9:30 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<td>12:30 pm – 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch (Self-service)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 pm – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:15 pm</td>
<td>Dinner (Served)</td>
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<td>(7 pm Tuesdays, guest speaker)</td>
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<td>8:00 am – 9:30 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am – 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Brunch (Self-service, Saturday only)</td>
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<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch (Served, Sunday only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Dinner (Self-service)</td>
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**Formal meals** (‘Formal Hall’ in Oxford speak) are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday at lunchtime, and are preceded or followed by drinks in the garden or Calefactory at 38 St Giles’, depending on the weather. Dress for formal meals is jacket and tie for men and commensurate formality for women. Students are encouraged to invite guests to these, who may be signed in, at a guest charge, through the meal app. Gowns are not worn.

You can find details of meal, and other, charges here: [http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/table-of-charges](http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/table-of-charges)

Note that there is a wastage charge if you book a meal and then don’t turn up!

If you have any special dietary requirements, you can enter them on the handy ‘preferences’ tab on the meal app. If you want to bookmark the app now, you’ll find it here: [http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/www/index.html#/login](http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/www/index.html#/login)
Library | The Hall Libraries are open 24 hours a day during term time, and are cozy and comfortable places to work. There is one library at the St Giles site, and another at Norham Gardens. The Librarian is Fr Gabriel. Most of the core books for all the undergraduate subjects are available. Don’t forget to sign books in and out with your Bod Card (the Oxford University library card which you will receive upon arrival). [http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/library-regulations-borrowing](http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/library-regulations-borrowing)

IT | There are four computers in the basement of 38 St Giles, which all have printing facilities, but bringing a laptop is extremely useful. Every bedroom at 11 Norham Gardens has an ethernet point and picks up the WiFi. WiFi is available at 38 St Giles too. New students must attend an IT induction in Freshers’ Week where individual WiFi passwords will be issued. There is a generous, termly printing allowance, after which a small charge applies. [http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/it-support-info](http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/it-support-info)

Calefactory and Solar | The Calefactory in 38 St Giles’ and the Solar in 11 Norham Gardens are the Hall Common Rooms. They are the social hubs of St Benet’s and unrivalled in any other college as a space where students, monks and staff can read the papers, sip coffee, or chat. It is a formal room: laptops and sweeties aren’t allowed, so if you’d rather kick back – that’s where the JCR comes in!

JCR | The Joint Common Room, as well as being the body of all students at St Benet’s, is also the room in 38 St Giles’ in the basement with sofas, TV, fridge, and tea and coffee facilities. Someone usually brings a games console and leaves it there for others to use. Feel free to bring DVDs too. It’s a good place for chilling, without the formality of the Calefactory and Solar, but leave it clean and tidy or you’ll incur the Junior Dean’s wrath!
Welfare | Ed is the JCR’s Welfare rep, but as soon as you get here, you’ll realise that in practice everyone is everyone’s welfare rep, and there’s a really friendly atmosphere. For anything more personal, more delicate or more private, there are various ports of call, all confidential. Ed is always happy to help, but you can also approach our Junior Deans: Francesco De Magistris, who chairs the Hall’s Welfare Committee, and is located in St Giles, and Gemma Robson, who is located in Norham Gardens.

The senior monks, Fr Oswald (Prior and Chaplain) and Fr Gabriel (Librarian) are also available. Dr Nicholas Waghorn and Dr Susan Doran are the senior Welfare Officers and Harassment Advisers; Dr Doran is also the Equality Officer. The Senior Tutor (who is also the Disability Officer) and Directors of Studies are there to make sure your academic career is on track, so you can talk to them too.

Undergraduates often find that the easiest thing is to ask someone reading their subject if they have a question, but if it’s a bit more sensitive, there are subject mentors who’ll be happy to listen. If you would prefer to talk to someone who knows St Benet’s but is not part of it, a senior member of Green Templeton College is available as an ‘outside ear’.

St Benet’s also has an arrangement with St John’s for welfare and peer support for the Hall’s female students.

For graduate members, the Hall assigns an academic member of staff to be your College Advisor who is there to complement the role of your academic supervisor, but above all to look after your overall welfare. There is a list of contacts at the end of this pack which will be useful for most welfare issues. You will also receive the Hall Welfare Guide at the beginning of term which contains more detailed information about welfare provision across the University. The welfare noticeboard in the basement is also filled with lots of helpful information. [http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/welfare](http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/welfare)

Health | New members of the Hall are required to register with the Hall doctor (you’ll receive the relevant information separately). Details of healthcare in Oxford, dentistry, and what to do in an emergency, can be found in the Hall’s Welfare Guide (see above).

Calendar | The weeks of term are numbered 0-8, and just to confuse you, they begin on a Sunday. You can sync term dates to your device calendar here: [http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/dates-of-term](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/dates-of-term). Blackwell’s bookshop (on Broad Street) sell the official University pocket diaries, which usefully number all the weeks for you (they cost about £10).

Mrs Betty Jeanrond, the Master’s wife, will be present at the Library in 11 Norham Gardens every day during Freshers’ week between 10 AM and 3 PM. She looks forward to meeting the new students and assisting them as they are trying to find their way in their new environment.
What to Bring

This is not an all-encompassing list, just a bit of advice. Also remember if you forget anything you can probably buy it in Oxford or borrow it from someone else!

**Bedding** | It’s a good idea to bring extra pillows and your own duvet cover if you want. See the Accommodation section above.

**Clothes** | A dark skirt/trousers for women, or suit for men, is pretty much essential for Oxford – you’ll need it for Matriculation (see Glossary) and Exams when you come to do them. Plain dark and black shoes are best. Non-essential, but useful, is Black Tie attire for men and equivalent formal attire for women – Oxford being what it is, you’ll find that there are a few Black Tie events in the year, including the Benet’s Christmas Party. Less essential and less useful, but more fun, is fancy dress. There will be at least one, if not 10 fancy dress parties happening somewhere in Oxford every week. There are fancy dress shops in the city, and it’s not too hard to be creative, but if you have one or two items that you think will make you sparkle at the Bop then don’t be afraid to bring them down.

*Please do not purchase an academic gown, cap and white bow tie (men) or ribbon (women) prior to coming up; part of the Freshers’ Week programme includes a trip to one of the University outfitters.*

**Laundry** | Benet’s has washing machines and two dryers, which can be used daily between 3pm and midnight. The cost is included in the battels facilities charge (termly living costs) so do not worry about bringing lots of 20ps for the machine, nor detergent – it is all provided, though bringing a laundry bag for your room isn’t a bad idea. If you’re really lazy, there are plenty of dry cleaners who offer delivery! The machines are very easy to use and instructions are displayed on the wall. Ironing facilities are also available.

**Passport sized photos** | If you join clubs and societies they may ask for a photo so it’s useful to have a few.

**Towels** | These are useful for drying oneself.

**Electricals** | Kettles, if already PAT tested, are allowed in Hall bedrooms, though there is a kettle and microwave in the JCR – accessible 24/7. No other electrical appliances are allowed in Hall bedrooms (e.g. fridges) without the explicit written permission of the Bursar.

**Sports/Musical Equipment** | Avid guitarists or tennis players, make sure you bring a racquet or a guitar.

**Crockery** | Mugs, glasses, cutlery are useful for a raucous cup of tea or for a quiet drink.

**Books and stationery** | These are vital so that you can read and write. Although, hopefully these are skills you will have learnt before you arrive at Oxford. (Books and pens are especially useful for undergraduate theologians who begin N.T. Greek early in Freshers’ Week.)

**Funding and loans paperwork** | The Hall will need student loan details and Battels payment very early on in term, so make sure you have the documents, including your formal SLC letter, with you.

**Bicycle** | Even though the Hall is superbly located in the centre of Oxford, some students do prefer to use a bicycle to get around quicker. It is possible to buy one in Oxford or bring your own. Two things are important
regarding bicycles: they must display a Hall tag (provided during Freshers’ Week) to confirm that you can park it on the Hall’s premises. Secondly, you must use a D-lock; no other locks are secure enough.

**Don’t forget:** Bank details/cards, chequebook, NHS and National Insurance cards, medical details!

### Extra-Curricular

Students at St Benet’s are involved in many clubs, societies and activities around the University. If you are interested in any of the following, speak to the relevant person (see the table) who will be very happy to help you get started. For anything else, ask a member of the JCR Committee, who will help you find out more.

**Sport** | In previous years, Benetians often decide to play for other colleges in an assortment of sports. We have connections with Rugby at Keble, Hockey at Hilda’s, Cricket at Somerville and many more. However, as Benet’s grows this is the right time to start thinking more about producing teams of our own and encouraging a more consistent and enjoyable sporting scene within Benet’s itself. Of course, that does not mean you have to play sports for Benet’s, but that we hope to be providing you with more and more sporting opportunities from Benet’s itself as time goes on. Everyone is encouraged to try out for the Blues’ teams; if you are keen to play any sport at any level, just let our Sports Secretary know, he’ll set you up.

Benet’s football can only be described as an institution, albeit a recent one. Last year the feisty Benet’s XI entered their inaugural Cuppers competition and did remarkably well. This year we will be going a step further and playing in the Oxford Colleges League, meaning regular fixtures. Henri Du Perier last year was playing football in the university teams’ set-up. Beyond football, Will Frost is President of the University Rowing Club and our Boat Club President, we have rugby player James Calderwood training at a high level, and Andy Fanthorpe representing the Hockey Blues for the last two years, and much more.

For those keen on keeping fit, we have arrangements with our local gym and reduced membership, and there are also many commercial gyms in Oxford with excellent student deals.

For any sporting inquiries, please contact Andy Fanthorpe ([andrew.fanthorpe@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.fanthorpe@stb.ox.ac.uk))

**Music** | There are many opportunities to hone, or flaunt, your musical talents at Oxford, from orchestras, to jazz bands, choirs, a cappella... you name it! In the last couple of years, two Benet’s students have found international fame as members of the hit singing group ‘Out of the Blue’. There have also been opportunities for Benet’s’ own musical ensemble, the ‘Benedict-o-phones’, to perform some sing-along classics at guest night dinners!

**OU Orchestra**

Gus Streeting

[augustus.streeting@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:augustus.streeting@stb.ox.ac.uk)

**Out Of The Blue/In The Pink**

Alec Badenoch

[alistair.badenoch@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alistair.badenoch@stb.ox.ac.uk)

**And for everything else…** | At Freshers’ Fair in Freshers’ Week you will be introduced to all kinds of sports and societies you may want to join. There is quite literally a society for everyone here in Oxford. A list of what’s on offer can be found at: [http://ousu.org/freshersfair/](http://ousu.org/freshersfair/).
Welcome to Benet's and well done on achieving your offer! Here at the Hall, we're firm believers that size doesn't matter, it's what you do with it that counts. This is true most of all for any of those who 'dream of one day playing the Dane', for at Benet’s we traditionally have a thriving drama scene.

As freshers, your first opportunity to tread the boards will come with 'Drama Cuppers', a competition in the first term which involves putting on your own (short) play in the Burton-Taylor Studio. This is always a huge amount of fun, and because of the supportive nature of Benet’s you are guaranteed a full house for your performance.

Within the Hall, we have a number of events each year. At the end of Michaelmas Term last year we staged a Pantomime and hope to do the same this year! There is also a Smoker, a traditional variety show. We usually get a few external acts, but it’s always great to have lots of Benet’s students performing.

Finally, we have our pièce de résistance, the Garden Play, which takes place in Trinity term. This is always a highlight of the calendar, and last year we performed *Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense* to three sell-out audiences. There was many laughs, a surprise cameo from the Hall’s favourite dog, Boffin and plenty of free Pimms.

Whether you see yourself as the next Olivier or Mirren, or you fancy yourself as a playwright, or even just in a supporting role backstage, there are plenty of opportunities at Benet’s, and I strongly encourage you to take part!

Outside the Hall, there is ample opportunity for anyone wishing to get into the Oxford theatre scene too. Come and have a chat and make sure to sign up to the OUDS (Oxford University Drama Society) newsletter at the Fresher’s Fair, and don’t be afraid to get out there and audition!

Ed McGovern
[edward.mcgovern@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:edward.mcgovern@stb.ox.ac.uk)
Rowing

Rowing at Oxford is a necessity. Well... almost! It is at least a longstanding tradition at St Benet’s. We have had a boat on the river since the 1920s. This year we are particularly excited at the prospect of launching a mixed crew, or women’s crew to complement the men’s, for the very first time!

Whether you seek a leisurely paddle down the Isis’ gentle meanders, or fancy your hand at the annual selection trials for the Great Britain squads, Benet’s has the expertise to set you on the right path. Will Frost is our President, Madeline Briggs our Coach, and I, Marco Hughes, am the Captain.

Unlike larger colleges, the Boat Club is fully integrated with Hall life, as most of the Hall has had the opportunity to row in an all-powerful Benet’s eight at some point in their university career. Breakfast will traditionally open to the hungry throngs of Benet’s rowers post-outing, and in the early mornings you will always find a friend or two at the front door waiting to head down to the river together. The camaraderie will extend into lunch, where you will all complain about having already been awake for six hours, while exchanging plans for the evening’s Boat Club event. Boat Club crewdates are weekly and are a great way to socialise with each other and meet new people from other colleges. Every term begins and ends with a Boat Club dinner, which a large proportion of the Hall attend, and at which prizes are awarded, speeches are shared, and memories are made.

There are three races each year, one per term: Christ Church, Torpids, and Eights. As well as fielding strong crews in each event, we also regularly achieve Oxford’s (un)officially largest supporting crowd. If the sight of dozens of your friends running down the river bank screaming your name doesn’t get the blood pumping, then the appearance of Benet’s monks, habits flowing, shouting at you to crush Regent’s, surely will. Christ Church Regatta is towards the end of first term, and will be your first race, open only to novices. It’s side by side, less than three minutes long, and, if you win, you get to watch your opponent as you shatter their dreams – they will finish their race to the sound of your victory cheers! Last year we were narrowly edged out of the quarter-finals – we cannot let this happen again! All you need to know about the other races now is that: 1) they attract crowds of over ten thousand people and 2) last year’s celebration mural is currently on display in the garden.

Please do email me (marco.hughes@stb.ox.ac.uk) with any questions you may have about rowing at Oxford. We have something for everyone at Benet’s, so even if you’re just curious, or are coming from many years’ experience, do get in touch (maybe just for some free kit...).

You can enjoy the latest Boat Club newsletter here: http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/~St-Benets-Hall-Boat-Club-Newsletter.
I look forward to meeting you all very soon,

Marco Hughes  (St Benet's Hall Boat Club Captain)

Homeless Projects

Oxford Companions of the Order of Malta

Oxford is a fantastic city, with astounding architecture, education and surroundings. However, it won't take you long to see that it is not all a dream and that not everyone in the city shares in its apparent prosperity. You might be surprised at the number of homeless and marginalised you will encounter in this historic place; this, hopefully, is where the Oxford Companions of the Order of Malta come in.

The Oxford Companions is a student-run organisation, under the umbrella of the Order of Malta, which reaches out to some of the most marginalised in Oxford. We take soup (which is very generously provided by the Hall), sandwiches, tea and coffee four times a week from St Benet’s to give to the homeless encountered on the streets. On Saturdays, from 11.30am to about 2.15pm, we run a shower project for the homeless at St Giles’ parish hall; tea/coffee and bacon sandwiches are also served.

In addition to our work with the homeless, we also have projects with the elderly and with children with special educational needs (SEN). Do get in touch for more details.

This work can be a very moving experience; it allows one to help one’s neighbour in a small way. We hope that this action will not only help to feed the physical need for sustenance but will also offer an opportunity for human interaction, and will acknowledge the implicit dignity and value in the one served.

We rely on the help of volunteers from across the University, but especially on that of Benetians. The Hall has a strong link to the work of the Companions. It is the starting point of our soup runs and also the place where our food stuffs are made and supplies stored. Many current and former students are involved with us, volunteering to make sandwiches, setting up supplies for the run, or going along on the activities themselves. Indeed, Fra’ John Eidinow (Classics Tutor at St Benet’s) is our senior member.

This is a marvellous way to give back to some of our fellow inhabitants of the city and I warmly invite you to get involved. Even if you can only manage a small contribution, every effort is appreciated. You might well surprise yourself with what you can learn.

If you would like any further information about any of the above, then please contact thomas.carrott@stb.ox.ac.uk.
OxDev

Oxford Students in International Development

OxDev (Oxford Students in International Development), an initiative of St Benet’s Hall, offers summer internships to students with locations in Sierra Leone, Madagascar, and Uganda. OxDev was begun as OxSLI (Oxford Sierra Leone Initiative). OxSLI was launched in the summer of 2013 to provide students with a least developed country experience in Sierra Leone, West Africa, working chiefly on projects with religious leaders and faith communities on the prevention, care, treatment and support of persons affected by HIV, TB and malaria. OxSLI partnered with Christian Aid, INERELA+, and several local NGOs (non-governmental organizations) as well as governmental agencies. Due to the Ebola virus epidemic in Sierra Leone and neighbouring countries that began in spring 2014, OxSLI was suspended in July 2014 and the student interns were accommodated in alternate locations in Madagascar and Uganda. This caused the transformation of OxSLI into OxDev. However, OxDev plans to return to Sierra Leone in the summer of 2016 provided that by that time the country is deemed free and clear of Ebola.

In addition to the Sierra Leone internship, OxDev offers two additional sites: Antananarivo, Madagascar and Gulu, Uganda. In Madagascar’s capital city, students work with the local NGO known as “SAVE Madagascar” which, like the initiative in Sierra Leone, works with faith-based organisations on HIV prevention, care, treatment and support. In Uganda, the internship partners with NGOs based in Gulu, the main city in northern Uganda. Northern Uganda was ravaged by the militia known as the LRA (Lord’s Resistance Army) as well as pro-government militias until the LRA was expelled in 2010 by the armed forces of Uganda. OxDev partners with local NGOs that provide psychosocial support to the people of this region (who are largely of the Achole ethnic group) that were brutalised by the LRA and other factions. Various projects include sports, arts, community empowerment, and interventions that respond to HIV, TB and malaria.

All interns design their own internship in accord with their own interests dividing their time between their own projects and working with the NGO assigned. OxDev is open to all students at Oxford, but St Benet’s students are prioritised whenever possible. OxDev is part of the Oxford University Internship Programme and students may apply for University funds through a competitive process to cover the entire cost of their participation. Students may also self-fund or seek other external funding.

For more information, visit: http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/OxDev.

Recent Benet’s alumnus, Chris Bridgwood, on the OxDev Programme, with colleagues
Monastic Life at St Benet’s

In mediaeval Oxford, most of the Colleges were founded as religious houses, places of both study and prayer. This strong tradition survived the Reformation, and the chapels of the Colleges and their choirs are one of the most distinctive features of Oxford University today.

While students at St Benet’s practise any religion and none, the Hall is a home for Benedictine monks and priests, so this page gives some information about its Monastic life. More information can be found on the website here: [http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/monastic-community](http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/monastic-community).

The Monastic Community

St Benet’s Hall is more than a Permanent Private Hall of the University; it is also a house of studies for Benedictine monks, and, uniquely in Oxford, a residence for both lay and monastic students. In addition to the Prior and Chaplain (Fr Oswald) and Librarian (Fr Gabriel), there is currently one student monk in residence (Br Max). Most of the monks belong to monasteries in the English Benedictine Congregation (EBC), which was established in AD 1216 and re-founded in AD 1607. Throughout its long history, the EBC has always been dedicated to the Christian instruction of the English people, either in education or missionary work. St Benet’s Hall is therefore part of a long and continuing tradition of Benedictine scholarship and education in England.

Monastic Life in the Hall

The monks at St Benet's Hall live according to the Rule of St Benedict, who founded the abbey of Monte Cassino in AD 529. Their daily life is structured around the Mass and the Divine Office, which is a cycle of daily prayers said by priests and religious throughout the world. They also set aside at least an hour each day for private prayer and for Lectio Divina, the prayerful reading of the Scriptures and other spiritual texts. They spend the rest of the day in labour, common meals, and recreation. The goal of this communal life of prayer and work is to grow in holiness in order to reach the desired end of union with God. As members of the Hall, you are welcome to participate in the spiritual life of the monastic community, should you wish to.

![Image of the Monastic Community](image1.jpg)

The motto of St Benet's, the opening words of the Rule of St Benedict: 'Listen, o child, to the precepts of the master!' You'll find it stamped in all the library books.
Chapel Service Times

The Divine Office is said daily in the Chapel during Full Term. All services are open to every member of the Hall. The Chapel also remains unlocked to enable quiet contemplation and prayer outside of the service times. Daily mass is said in English, with Latin plainsong. Sunday Mass is said in English with Latin plainsong, a homily, and English hymns. The Sacrament of Confession is always available from the Chaplain upon request.

7.00 a.m. Matins and Lauds (*Monday to Saturday; recited in English*)
7.30 a.m. Mass (*Monday to Saturday*)
10.00 a.m. Sunday Mass (*Sunday*)
6.30 p.m. Vespers (English) (*Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday*)
6.30 p.m. Sung Plainsong Vespers (Latin) (*Tuesday, Thursday, & Sunday*)
9.00 p.m. Sung Compline (English)

Useful information can be found on the following websites:

St Benet’s website: [www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/chapel](http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/chapel)
Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy: [www.catholic-chaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.catholic-chaplaincy.org.uk)
Oxford University Chaplaincy pages (covering all religions represented in the city): [http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/chaplaincy](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/chaplaincy)

Icon of St Benedict painted for St Benet’s by recent alumnus Fr Alex Echeandia.
It hangs on the main staircase at 38 St Giles. St Benedict is holding the Rule in his left hand.
You will find a similar image at the bottom of the St Benet’s homepage – refresh the page a few times and St Benedict may surprise you...!
## Contacts

### Useful Websites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Benet’s Hall</td>
<td><a href="http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk">www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ox.ac.uk">www.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOLO (library search and loans)</td>
<td><a href="http://solo.ouls.ox.ac.uk">http://solo.ouls.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nexus (email)</td>
<td><a href="https://nexus.ox.ac.uk">https://nexus.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford University Student Union</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ousu.org">www.ousu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weblearn (subject resources)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.weblearn.ox.ac.uk">www.weblearn.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Choices</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Health &amp; Welfare</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw">www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Tour of Oxford</td>
<td><a href="http://www.chem.ox.ac.uk/oxfordtour">www.chem.ox.ac.uk/oxfordtour</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proctors’ Information</td>
<td><a href="http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/info">www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/info</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford contact search</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ox.ac.uk/gsearch/">http://www.ox.ac.uk/gsearch/</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Welfare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The University Counselling Service</td>
<td>11, Wellington Square 01865 270300 <a href="mailto:reception@counserv.ox.ac.uk">reception@counserv.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Leaver, Hall Doctor</td>
<td>Jericho Health Centre 8.30am - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Samaritans</td>
<td>01865 722122 or 08457 909090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Drugs Helpline</td>
<td>0800 776600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQ Switchboard</td>
<td>020 7837 7324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUSU Student Advice</td>
<td>01865 288461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thames Valley (Oxford) Police</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OU Security (emergency)</td>
<td>01865 289999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OU security (all other calls)</td>
<td>01865 272944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Direct</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Benet’s Hall Office</td>
<td>01865 280556</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hall Email Addresses

All Hall (except monastic) email addresses take the format firstname.lastname@stb.ox.ac.uk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor Werner G Jeanrond – Master</td>
<td><a href="mailto:werner.jeanrond@stb.ox.ac.uk">werner.jeanrond@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Stephen Rumford – Bursar</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephen.rumford@stb.ox.ac.uk">stephen.rumford@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fr Oswald McBride OSB – Prior &amp; Chaplain</td>
<td><a href="mailto:santha.bhattacharji@stb.ox.ac.uk">santha.bhattacharji@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Martina Stancheva – Administrator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martina.stancheva@stb.ox.ac.uk">martina.stancheva@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Katy Griffiths – Development Officer &amp; PA to the Master</td>
<td><a href="mailto:katy.griffiths@stb.ox.ac.uk">katy.griffiths@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Krisztian Muka – Maintenance &amp; Housekeeping Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:krisztian.muka@stb.ox.ac.uk">krisztian.muka@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Mark Sheehan - Dean</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mark.sheehan@stb.ox.ac.uk">mark.sheehan@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Tommaso Mari – Junior Dean</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tommaso.mari@stb.ox.ac.uk">tommaso.mari@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fr Gabriel Everitt OSB – Librarian</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ege@ampleforth.org.uk">ege@ampleforth.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Frances Reynolds – Presiding Fellow &amp; DoS Oriental Studies</td>
<td><a href="mailto:frances.reynolds@stb.ox.ac.uk">frances.reynolds@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Yvonne Cornish – DoS History</td>
<td><a href="mailto:yvonne.cornish@stb.ox.ac.uk">yvonne.cornish@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fra John Eidinow – DoS Classics</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.eidinow@stb.ox.ac.uk">john.eidinow@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Mary Marshall – DoS Theology</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mary.marshall@stb.ox.ac.uk">mary.marshall@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Nicholas Waghorn – DoS Philosophy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nicholas.waghorn@stb.ox.ac.uk">nicholas.waghorn@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr George Bitsakakis – DoS Economics</td>
<td><a href="mailto:george.bitsakakis@stb.ox.ac.uk">george.bitsakakis@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Alex Barker – DoS Politics</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alexander.barker@stb.ox.ac.uk">alexander.barker@stb.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Glossary**

**Oxford Language** can be rather confusing to the uninitiated, with people happily using terms without ever realising how ridiculous they sound to everyone else. So that you can converse successfully in Oxford, we're pleased to present a dictionary of the most common terminology. Once you've grasped this part of the language we will try to teach you 'Boatie', otherwise you won't be able to understand what rowers are saying...

**The Oxford-Benet's Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALUMNUS</strong></td>
<td>A former student of the Hall/University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BALL</strong></td>
<td>Like school leavers' ball, but three times more expensive. Plenty of food, drink and music, though.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BATTLE/BATELLS</strong></td>
<td>College bills. Paid at the beginning of each term. Include your rent and such like.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BENETIAN</strong></td>
<td>A member of St Benet's, student or staff (for LIFE).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLUE</strong></td>
<td>Oxford's sports teams/the award for participating in one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOATIE</strong></td>
<td>Rower.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOD</strong></td>
<td>abbr., Bodleian Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOD CARD</strong></td>
<td>Much more than just a library card. It has a photo on it which is supposed to look like you, and it lets you into libraries and other buildings. It also gets you student discounts in many local shops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOPS</strong></td>
<td>What happens when you have a bunch of students with nothing to do on a Saturday night, all the pubs have kicked you out and you have a basement available with a few disco lights and a sound system? That's right. Expect sweatiness, cheap cocktails and fancy dress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BR</strong></td>
<td>abbr., Brother. A monk who has not (yet) been ordained a priest (Father, Fr.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CALEFACTORY</strong></td>
<td>What legendary Benetians call the Calefactory (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CALEFACTORY</strong></td>
<td>This is the formal sitting room shared by senior and junior members of the Hall. If you want a boring explanation of why it's called the calefactory, please do ask.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLLECTIONS</strong></td>
<td>1. Exams held at the beginning of term to test you on work from the last term. Don't worry, none of these until January at the earliest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MICHAELMAS TERM</strong></td>
<td>Autumn term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MODS</strong></td>
<td>abbr. Moderations. Some subjects have these in the first year. Others, like Classics, in the second. Others don't have them at all. They're exams. You should try to pass them.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MST/MPHIL</strong></td>
<td>Graduate degrees. Master of Studies/Master of Philosophy.</td>
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<td><strong>NORHAM GARDENS</strong></td>
<td>The location of the Hall's second building.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NOUGHTH WEEK</strong></td>
<td>The first week of term. Term weeks are numbered 0-8, and begin on Sundays.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OSB</strong></td>
<td>It's written after monks' names and means 'Order of St Benedict'.</td>
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<td><strong>OUSU</strong></td>
<td>abbr. Oxford University Student Union.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OXFORD UNION</strong></td>
<td>Not the same as OUSU. The Oxford Union is a members only club with a bar, library etc. World famous for its debates and speakers. Also home to the Purple Turtle nightclub. &quot;The Union&quot; will always mean this, rather than OUSU.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OXON</strong></td>
<td>abbr. If you see it after someone's name, it means they have a degree from Oxford (sometimes replaced by Oxf).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PORT MEADOW</strong></td>
<td>A meadow in north Oxford where we have our JCR picnic in the summer.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PRELIMS</strong></td>
<td>abbr. Preliminary Examinations. See Mods.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROCTORS</strong></td>
<td>University officers with disciplinary powers.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PUNTING</strong></td>
<td>Messing around on the river, propelled by a long pole liable to stick in the river bed. More fun to come in Trinity term.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RAD CAM</strong></td>
<td>The Radcliffe Camera. That big round building. History parts of the Bodleian inside.</td>
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</table>
2. End of term oral reports given by your tutor to the Master, in your presence.

**COWLEY RD:** An area in East Oxford with lots of international restaurants, bars and cafes, and home to the Cowley Road Carnival in summer.

**CREW DATE:** A sports team goes out for a social with another sports team, normally in fancy dress. They are a lot of fun.

**CUPPERS:** Any official inter-collegiate competition.

**DOS:** (Undergraduate) Director of Studies.

**DPHIL:** Oxford’s name for a PhD. Ask a graduate!

**DOS:** (Undergraduate) Director of Studies.

**ENTZ:** abbr. “entertainments”.

**FRA’**: Ask Fra’ John.

**GAUDY:** College celebrations for alumni and current members. St Benet's hosts one in London on 9 November – look out for your invitation!

**GERARD’S CHARI-TEAS:** Teas organised by the JCR to raise money for charity; named after the alumnus of the Hall who began them, Gerard Miles.

**GUEST NIGHT:** Benet's hosts one a term for distinguished guests. Four courses, plus wine and port. Gowns are worn - it's fancy.

**HILARY TERM:** Spring term.

**JCR:** abbr. Joint Common Room. A smaller version of a student union. Meetings are open to members of college to go and discuss issues. It is also our sitting room, and has a TV. In most colleges, 'JCR' means Junior Common Room, as opposed to 'MCR' (Middle Common Room) for graduates.

**JERICHO:** A quirky area in North Oxford where many Benetians choose to live.

**MATRICULATION:** Induction ceremony for new members of the University held in the Sheldonian Theatre. You turn up in sub fusc, get spoken at in Latin for a while, and then leave as a member of the University.

**REFECTORY:** This is our common dining hall where we eat.

**RUSTICATION:** Kicking, or being kicked, out for up to a year. Rare. Only happens if you do something really bad or don’t do any work. However it is now mostly referred to as suspension.

**SCHOLAR:** If you get a first in your mods or prelims you'll become one, wear a different gown, and get some money from college.

**SCHOOLS:** Exams. Usually refers to the final exams of a degree ('Finals'). The Schools Dinner is a Hall celebration for finalists after their last exam.

**SENDING DOWN:** Rustication for life. Very rare.

**SMOKER:** The Hall’s annual talent show.

**ST BENET:** abbr. St Benedict.

**SUBL FUSC:** This is what you wear for matriculation and exams. A dark suit with dark socks, or a dark skirt with black stockings or trousers with dark socks and an optional dark coat; black shoes; plain white collared shirt or blouse; a black tie, white bow tie or black ribbon; mortar board (academic cap).

**SUPERVISOR:** The person who co-ordinates graduate study.

**TAB:** Cambridge student. From its Latin name Cantabrigia, abbr. Cantab.

**THE OTHER PLACE:** University of Cambridge. A lame joke you'll get bored of.

**THE RULE:** The Rule of St Benedict, from which a short abstract is read aloud before dinner, and according to which the monastic life is governed.

**TORPIDS:** Another rowing event, in Hilary term. Has slightly different rules from Eights.

**TRINITY TERM:** Summer term.

**UNI PARKS:** The University's park, which is open to the public and is a short walk from St Giles. The Hall’s new building at Norham Gardens backs onto it.