



ST BENET'S HALL

Freshers' Pack

2017

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Contents

<i>Welcome from the President</i>	4
<i>Introduction to the JCR Committee</i>	5
<i>The JCR</i>	10
<i>Life at St Benet's</i>	12
<i>What to Bring</i>	15
<i>International Students</i>	16
<i>Graduates at St Benet's</i>	17
<i>Extra-Curricular Activities</i>	18
<i>Monastic Life at St Benet's</i>	24
<i>Useful Contacts</i>	26
<i>Glossary</i>	27



Welcome to Benet's!



THE JOINT COMMON ROOM

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 the 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 20-25 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, providing you with a sense of community and belonging in the somewhat overwhelming and eccentric city of Oxford.

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, cheese and wine nights, Eurovision nights 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.

Gurpal Khera
JCR President



President

Gurpal Khera | gurpal.khera@stb.ox.ac.uk | Sanskrit

Hi Fresher's! Welcome to Benets! I'm your JCR president, which just means that I coordinate the committee who organise events for you, and represent your views and interests to the Hall and University.

Benet's provides you with an amazing community, as you will find out when you arrive. It is not uncommon to have not applied here directly, but you will grow to love the supportive community we have, and you will find yourself making friendships with people across subjects and year groups. This is a very comforting fact in the face of a sometimes-overwhelming Oxford. I am also always here to listen to you, so feel free to contact me, regardless of the time.

I am about to start my second year studying Sanskrit (Oriental Studies) & take up Hindi and Urdu. When I'm not cramming my mind with grammar, or planning events, you will find me volunteering, enjoying food or watching films. I will watch and obsess over any show, ranging from the Handmaid's Tale, to Bob's Burgers, or even some remote Norwegian TV show about teens finding themselves (SKAM). Feel free to have a chat with me about Westerossi conspiracy theories too. I volunteer with various programmes for homeless outreach in Oxford, including the Order of Malta (you can read about this in the guide), and with the Oxford community itself.

Do feel free to contact me, or any of the committee. No question is too small or big, and we would all equally love to help you out, be it a general question or an academic one. We are here to support your move and transition to life in Oxford.

Congratulations on getting into Benet's, and we all can't wait to meet you in October!



Treasurer & Boat Club Captain

Jack Williams | jack.williams@stb.ox.ac.uk | Classics

Greetings Freshers. I'm your JCR Treasurer - anything to do with the JCR's money goes through me. This basically means that my entire job is to make sure the student body has money to buy drinks and other party materials for termly parties. Between the events our committee organises and links we have to other colleges there are plenty of opportunities for socialising.

Other than the degree I occasionally forget I'm doing, I am also captaining the men's squad of the St Benet's Boat Club this year and I'll be happily helping you all achieve your Oxford College rowing dreams. Benet's also has a strong tradition of fielding some of the least qualified teams for many other sports events throughout the year, from Tennis and Rugby to the Croquet. It can be an immensely fun way of trying out new activities without any expectation of ability, something I know first-hand being one of the almost-champions of the Benet's Dodgeball aspirations in my first year, despite our teams complete lack of experience.

If you have any questions or worries about Oxford or college life, I am more than happy to chat. All the best, and see you soon!



Secretary

Pat Bunker | patrick.bunker@stb.ox.ac.uk | PPE

Hello all! Congratulations on your offers, and welcome to St Benet's. I'm your JCR Secretary, which means that I take minutes of meetings, sit on committee, and am generally responsible for JCR admin. I am also the guardian of the JCR's precious constitution, a crucial document for when Benet's politics heats up (crucial motions this year have included condemning a student newspaper as 'fake news', and an attempt to purchase a kitten).

I'm sure that some of you are feeling nervous or apprehensive about stepping into the unfamiliar environment of Oxford generally, or of St Benet's specifically. Of course, feel free to speak to me (or any of the committee) about any particular concerns, but I can reassure you that Benet's is a uniquely friendly and welcoming community, and that Oxford is not as daunting as it may seem.

Enjoy your summers, and I look forward to meeting you all in October.

Welfare and Education Officer

Eleanor Wride | eleanor.wride@stb.ox.ac.uk / Theology



Hey guys! I'm Eleanor, and I am your Welfare and Education Officer.

I'm a second year student studying PPE. I volunteer for Battersea Summer Scheme, and I am also part of the Politics UJCC and Economics Society. At the end of Hillary term, I was diagnosed with Dyspraxia, a specific learning disorder and by now have quite a lot of experience with the Disabilities Advisory Service (DAS) if any of you need help with that! I also took a gap year, and tend to amaze people with the sheer number of jobs I've had.

Starting university is always going to be an overwhelming, but nothing can prepare you for Oxford. One of the great things about being at St Benet's is that you will never struggle to find someone to talk to, and this year we have a great Welfare team. As a person, I will always be here for you to talk to if you ever need to chat about anything, whether it be university related or not, completely confidentially. As Welfare Officer I can alert you of official channels you can take to help manage issues you may be having, and put you in touch with the appropriate university services. I promise you that no matter what your situation, you are not alone and we can help you get through it. I also run talks during Freshers' week and Welfare related events during the term.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all!



House & Food Officer

Dorota Kolarska | dorota.kolarska@stb.ox.ac.uk | PPE

Hi Freshers! I'm Dorota, your house and food officer. My job is to report problems about food to the kitchen staff and general maintenance problems to the administrators. Trust me - Benet's food is mostly really good, so hopefully I won't have too much to do. Anyway, in case of any complaints or ideas how to make things better just come to me!

I'm a very disorganised (should I admit that?) second year PPEist. I come from Poland so if you need any training in slaviv squatting you know who to ask.

Because my hometown (Krakow) is such a cool place, I know a little bit about homesickness and I'm happy to chat if you need to.

See you all soon!



Women's Representative

Alice Gent | alice.gent@stb.ox.ac.uk | History

Hi and welcome to Oxford and St Benet's!

I'm Alice and I'll be your women's representative for the JCR 20/18 and I'm really looking forward to meeting you all. After a pretty damn smooth transition from being a single sex institution to a community of both male and female undergraduates, I'm so excited for the next generation of men and women to join the Hall and, if my own experience is anything to go by, you'll be swept up by the community-driven atmosphere of St Benet's so quickly it'll feel like you've always been here.

There really is an ethos of inclusivity and respect at St Benet's which is quite unique within the university as a whole and the small student body promotes a supportive atmosphere which is pretty invaluable if you've just left home - I know there were a few moments when the Benet's support network was a lifeline for me in first year.

As for myself, I'm a second year reading history; my interests are mostly confined to the political sphere with a bit of music on the side. My role as Women's rep isn't a particularly defined one, but in the broadest sense I'm here to help with any issues that pertain to gender and inclusivity like harassment and unfair treatment, as well as stocking up the toilets with (emergency!) sanitary products. Honestly though, whatever the issue I'm happy to talk, drop me an email about anything troubling you. Have a good summer and see you in September!



Social Secretary

Josephine Gilbert | josephine.gilbert@stb.ox.ac.uk | Classics

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.

If clubbing takes your fancy, then you'll often find me in one of Oxford's many nightclubs! From the stalwarts of Park End and Bridge to the new club Fever or the rather indie Cellar, there are many different clubs out there and I will always be happy to show you around these fine establishments! If that just sounds like too much effort, then don't worry!

We also often take trips to the pub which are much more relaxed affairs and generally instigated when someone comes into the library and simply says "pub?"

I'll make sure to keep you all updated on particularly interesting looking events going on around the university, or those being run by our very own Benetians. The JCR also host many different types of events to give you all a well-deserved break from working such as 'Cheese and Wine Night' and our famous end of term parties, which are some of the best nights you'll have in your lives. Tasha will be taking over my position in Hilary term as I have exams then, but she's just as much fun as me so you can expect the same from her!

I can't wait to meet you all in October when I'll give you all a taste of the Oxford social scene during Freshers' Week, but until then please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about Benet's or Classics – I'm happy to answer anything!



LGBTQ Officer

Joseph Lord | joseph.lord@stb.ox.ac.uk | Classics

Hi, I'm Joe, and I'm the JCR LGBTQ rep for 2017/8- my role is mainly expressing the needs and defending the interests and views of the lesbian, gay, bi, transgender, queer and other minority sexual and gender identities within Benet's.

I'm a 2nd year classicist, and I've found the Hall to be a really welcoming, accepting and respectful place, and hopefully you will too - but if you feel at all anxious, or find something isn't as it should be, let me know, and we can work to make Benet's better for all its members, LGBTQ or not.

The fun part of my job is being able to link anyone interested to the LGBTQ events in and around Oxford - the University-wide LGBTQ Society runs a drinks night each week, there's lots of Welfare Teas and discussion groups, and there's always the Campaign, as well as great nights out at Plush!

I can't wait to meet all of you, see you in Freshers' Week!



Graduate Representative

Thais Rocha da Silva | thais.rochadasilva@orinst.ox.ac.uk | Egyptology

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 with Giosiana Turchetti.

The graduates of Benet's are well integrated into the Hall and because we are a small community, we are part of the Joint Common Room with 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. 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. We are like a big family and there is no place like it in Oxford! As a Graduate community, we have the St. Benet's Graduate Society in which we do a lot of academic and social events as well.

I'm very much looking forward to meeting everyone and welcoming you all to our friendly community. 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. My family here includes my husband and Filó and Liz, our 2 cats, dear pets which have travelled from Brazil. Apart from my passion for Egyptology, I love Star Wars and Taekwondo.



Graduate Representative

Giosiana Turchetti | giosiana.turchetti@stb.ox.ac.uk | Egyptology

Hello everyone! My name is Giosiana Turchetti and I am one of the Co-Graduate Representatives of the Graduate Society in the JCR Committee of St Benet's Hall. I am in my second and final year of the M.Phil. in Egyptology, focusing on Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt. St Benet's Hall is a small community, but in the recent years graduate students have been steadily growing in numbers and we have been able to form the Graduate Society. The small nature of St Benet's allows all of the students to get to know one another and support each other. Furthermore, having the Graduate Society be a part of the Joint Common Room (JCR) allows for graduates and undergraduates to interact and take part in the Oxford experience together.

I was born in Italy and moved to Los Angeles when I was 8. I received a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology and a Bachelor of Arts in Middle East and Islamic Studies from the University of California, Riverside in March 2016. I am an avid watcher of Formula 1 and enjoy manga and anime in my spare time. I live in our graduate residence at Walton Street and look forward to meeting all of you and having a wonderful year! Please do not hesitate to contact me about anything, including life at St Benet's and accommodation at Walton Street!



BME Representative

Ines Bonneau | ines.bonneau@stb.ox.ac.uk | Philosophy and Theology

Welcome Freshers !!

I'm Inès and I am your BME (Black and Minority Ethnicity) Rep, which just involves me trying to raise awareness in the hall on issues concerning race in order for Benet's to be a comfortable environment for BME students. What makes Benet's special is the lack of division, you'll be able to socialise easily with people in other years and form close relationships within the hall, but it also pushes you to make friends from other colleges.

I am a second-year student in Philosophy and Theology and do pretty much nothing outside of my studies, except for that one 'run' I went on back in the first term which I banged on about for the rest of the year. This is not because of work, I'm just a sloth (and a notorious flake when it comes to nights out). I am, however, an expert when it comes to takeaways as I spend my free time ordering off Deliveroo, just eat and domino's, which basically makes me a low-level food connoisseur.

I hope that you all will find Benet's as welcoming as I did and that you'll have a good start to uni.



OUSU Representative

Peter Nietzsche-Whitfield | peter.nietzsche-whitfield@stb.ox.ac.uk | PPE

Welcome to St Benet's Hall and congratulations for getting into Oxford! I'm Peter, your OUSU (Oxford University Student Union) representative. This means I represent you at the regular meetings of the OUSU council. Besides that, I'm a second-year PPEist who loves languages, BBC Radio 4 and Doctor Who. Since I'm British-German, you can also ask me about anything that international students may need to consider from housing to sorting out banking.

Before you get here, you may have some reservations about Benet's and what studying in Oxford will be like, but I am sure you will thrive here. St Benet's is a very special place in Oxford that will welcome you and be your close community that will look after you while you enjoy life in Oxford. Next to studying there are frequent speaker events, all kinds of societies and if there's ever anything that bothers you, there will always be someone to talk to.

All the best and see you soon!



Sports Secretary

Henri du Périer | henri.duperierdelarsan@stb.ox.ac.uk | Oriental Studies (Turkish with Persian)

Sport is fun. Organising sport is an elaborate way of procrastinating. I get involved in more sports than my tutors would like, so I ended up with this role, which is to help you with any sporting desires you may have. There is almost too much choice at Oxford (we sadly still have no Benetians taking part in underwater hockey), but even if you should have unconventional tastes, I am here to cater for them (or encourage them). Sports are also a great chance to get your hands on ridiculously expensive stash which makes you stand out and feel special. The best stash is bland dark blue with white letters, to mark you out as playing for a university team: all Benetians are strongly encouraged to go for university sports. You are all welcome to come and chat to me for your sporting needs, or for anything really.

The Joint Common Room

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 vintage 50s themed garden party. With many Benetians dressing in a vintage style, we had a great summer's evening outside with a great live band!



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 termly Cheese and Wine Nights were particularly popular this year with many people exploring new types of cheese along with their old favourites over a nice glass of wine!



The Garden Play (*Rookery Nook*) wowed a sell-out audience with a cast of tutors and students. Here you can see some of the actors in rehearsal!



Towards the end of term, the JCR also held the picnic on Port Meadow. Our social secretary, Josie, 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.

The ever-popular ChariTeas continued to be a popular event this year raising money for Refugee Aid. Highlights included hosting a bake-off event and adding samosas to the traditional tea and cakes!



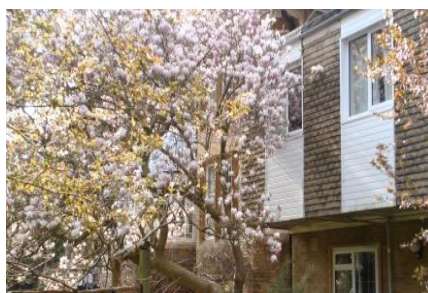
For all the excitement, expectation and anxiety, most people at the very least want to know about the basics, so here they are...

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!

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 11 Norham Gardens. This building contains student accommodation and other facilities, a library area, teaching rooms and offices, as well as a flat for the Master and his family. It also has workspace for the graduate students.



The garden of 11 Norham Gardens



The Outside of the accommodation block



The Conservatory

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

For students living either at Norham Gardens or 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!)
-



A typical Norham Gardens bedroom



Graduate Accommodation at 140 Walton Street is a 5-minute walk from St Benet's. It consists of 7 en-suite rooms with a communal kitchen. You can find all the details here:

[http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/media/global/wwwadminoxacuk/localsites/accommodation/documents/handbooksaugust2013/132-133-140 Walton St 2013.pdf](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/media/global/wwwadminoxacuk/localsites/accommodation/documents/handbooksaugust2013/132-133-140%20Walton%20St%202013.pdf)

Meals | 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

Weekdays

8:00am–9:30am	Breakfast
12:30pm–1:30pm	Lunch (Self-service)
3:00pm–4:00pm	Afternoon Tea
7:15pm	Dinner (Served) (7 pm Tuesdays, guest speaker)

Weekends

8:00am–9:30 am	Breakfast
11:30am–12:30pm	Brunch (Self-service, Saturday only)
1:00pm	Lunch (Served, Sunday only)
7:00pm	Dinner (Self-service)



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, depending on the weather. Dress for formal meals is jacket and tie for men and smart separates or dress 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 only worn once a term, at guest night.

You can find details of meal, and other, charges here: <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>

Library | The Hall Libraries are open 24 hours a day during term time, and are cosy 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>



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>



Calefactory and Solar | The Calefactory and Solar are the Hall Common Rooms. They are the social hub 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. Laptops, tablets and mobile devices may be used in the Calefactory and Solar, providing that they are silent, and that their use does not disturb others' enjoyment of the Calefactory or Solar, and remembering that the Calefactory and Solar are intended as

social spaces 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 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, but leave it clean and tidy or you'll incur the Junior Dean's wrath!



Welfare | Eleanor 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. Eleanor is always happy to help, but you can also approach our Junior Deans, who chair the Hall's Welfare Committee. 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. 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>

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>. Blackwell's bookshop (on Broad Street) sell the official University pocket diaries, which usefully number all the weeks for you (they cost about £10).

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 dryers in both buildings. 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, although they are provided in Norham Gardens.

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, toasters) 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.

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!

International Students

Moving to Oxford from a different country can be a daunting step to take. The Hall provides you with as much support as possible, first by providing you with a tight knit community, but also by other practical measures. Below is a list of some advice our current international students' would like to give:

Open a bank account as soon as possible | It may seem like an obvious step to take, but it is well worth booking an appointment with a bank in advance, before the term starts. Banks are a lot busier at the start of term, so it is worth booking an appointment before term begins so that you avoid getting this crucial step delayed due to the how busy the bank are. Also remember to check you have brought the correct paperwork, but also requested the documents you need from the Hall or University too.

International Students Orientation | Oxford provides international students with a lot of support, so it is well worth attending the international students' orientation.

NHS | It is beneficial to familiarise yourselves with the NHS if you are not already familiar with it. You will all meet the College doctor during Fresher's week, and he will be welcome to answer any questions

you have. In the meantime, this website is helpful for learning about how to use the NHS
<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/uk-visitors/Pages/access-services-in-England.aspx>

Societies | There are also many country based societies you can join if you feel homesick, which are more informal.

Graduates at St Benet's

As explained above, graduates and undergraduates at St Benet's form one student body. We admit about 20 undergraduates and about 15 graduates a year, so there are almost equal numbers of Freshers.

All the members of the JCR Committee, listed above, will look after your interests just as much as they look after the undergraduates'. The two Graduate Representatives, Thais and Giosiana, will take specially good care of you! Do email them about any questions you may have.

Graduate Accommodation Many of our graduates live in a graduate house at 140 Walton Street, a 5-minute walk from St Benet's. It consists of 7 en-suite rooms with a communal kitchen. You can find all the details here:

http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/media/global/wwwadminoxacuk/localsites/accommodation/documents/handbooksaugust2013/132-133-140_Walton_St_2013.pdf



Other graduates live in our main building at 38 St Giles. Others live elsewhere, for example in the University Graduate accommodation at Castle Mill, near the railway station. All this accommodation is very central and within easy walking distance of most Faculty buildings.

Studying at St Benet's St Benet's is fortunate in being situated very close to the Blavatnik School of Government, the Oriental Institute, the Department of Archaeology and the various Anthropology buildings. It is about 15 minutes' walk from the Said Business School. This makes it a useful base, and we encourage our graduate students to come in frequently for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and even tea in the afternoon, if you are free then. All the facilities are used by all students.

In our second building at 11 Norham Gardens, there is a dedicated graduate study space, in addition to the two libraries (one at 38 St Giles and one at 11 Norham Gardens) which the graduates can use alongside the undergraduates.

Each graduate will have a College Adviser who will be on hand throughout your course to offer support and advice.

Arriving in Oxford Graduates all arrive on different dates for the beginning of their courses. When you arrive, you will probably want to go straight to your accommodation, but please come and see us as soon as possible after that. The first two or three weeks, before everyone is here, can be a bit lonely, and we will be emailing you about events for graduates before the main programme begins on Saturday 30 September.

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)



Music



Whatever instrument, whatever standard, there is something for you in Oxford!

Hi everyone, I'm Tasha! Being in a small place like Benet's gives you the brilliant opportunity and motivation to really explore what the university has to offer music wise. Although getting involved can seem a little daunting, all the while dealing with a new work load and trying to settle in, there is still time to continue/rekindle/discover a love for music.

There really is everything here; bands of ever genre; orchestras; chamber groups; musical theatre; societies; choir; acapella – you name it, Oxford probably has it, and Benetians are taking over! (Remember 'Out Of The Blue' from Britain's got talent 2011, or the ' Alternotives' from BBC's Pitch Battle?) Music is also hugely important within Benet's, from after dinner sing-alongs, to the Carol Service.



Perhaps the musical highlight of the year is the Smoker (talent show) every Hilary term. My personal highlight from this was the Benet's girls (The Bennettes) performing 'It's raining men'.

There is a piano in the Benet's main building, and one in Norham Gardens in the blue room. The blue room can also be booked as a practise room.

If you think you might be interested in taking part in musical life, please get in touch! I am more than happy to answer any questions you have, advice you about time commitments and audition processes, and put you in touch with the relevant people.

Looking forward to meeting you all in October!

Natasha Frank
natasha.frank@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/>.



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 as 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





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, but it was 2017 that saw the introduction of our first Women's crew and a blades win. The boat club is excited for our continued success in both the Men's and newly formed Women's squads.

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. I, Jack Williams, and Josie Gilbert are the Men's and Women's Captains and will be your two main points of contact for rowing related business.



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. Boat Club crewdates are weekly and are a great way to socialise with each other and meet new people from other colleges. Every term ends with a Boat Club dinner, which a large proportion of the Hall attends, 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 Summer 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. Torpids and Summer Eights are the legendary bumps races, where the aim is to chase and ram your opponent crews - it was at Eights this year that our crew caught a crew on every day of racing, winning "blades".



If you have any questions about rowing at St Benet's or wider Oxford rowing opportunities, feel free to email me or Josie (jack.williams@stb.ox.ac.uk and josephine.gilbert@stb.ox.ac.uk) 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. I look forward to meeting you all very soon,

Jack Williams
St Benet's Hall Boat Club Men's Captain



Somerville-Benets Christian Union

Hey! I'm Sam - I'm heading into my third year doing Theology at Benet's. The bits that make me who I am range from producing rap music to pronouncing 'latte' as 'lat-tay' and not 'lar-tay'.

Holding together all the 'bits' for me, is that I'm keen to spend my life exploring and following the person of Jesus Christ. If that's you too, then sweet, you should come along to the Somerville-Benet's CU. We meet each week to discover more about Jesus (with some top food and top chat) and to be empowered to live and speak for him in our university. We're part of the Oxford Inter-Collegiate Christian Union (OICCU) who host central meetings and university-wide events. You can find out about it and in particular OICCU's pre-term Freshers Getaway (100% recommend) at www.oiccu.org



If that's not you but you're interested in some of life's searching questions, or what it would actually look like to follow a radical Palestinian carpenter from 2000 years ago, I and the CU are here for you! Do get in touch or get ready to 'get your grill on' when term begins. Would love to hear your own thoughts!

So if you're in either of those camps, Christian (whatever that means) or not, I'd love to hear from you if you want to just introduce yourself, find out a little about Benet's, or have a chat about some of the God stuff. Drop me an e-mail at samuel.hodson@stb.ox.ac.uk or text at 07982 279922.

Otherwise, hope you all have a fantastic summer - I'm stoked to meet you all.

Peace out

Sam

Homeless Projects
Oxford Companions of the Order of Malta



Dear Benetian Freshers,

As I am sure you will soon come to realise, Oxford is a wonderful city for us both to live and to study in. We are incredibly lucky to be able to make our home, read for our degrees, and enjoy our social lives in 'the city of dreaming spires'. However, I am equally sure that you will very soon discover that not everything in Oxford is as dreamy as it might otherwise seem to the tourist or the visitor: for a shockingly high number of the residents of Oxford whom you will encounter on a daily basis are extremely marginalised, sleeping on the streets; others you will not encounter, because they live alone and isolated. This is, hopefully, where the Oxford Companions of the Order of Malta can be of help.



The Oxford Companions are a student-run group affiliated to the Order of Malta, a Catholic order, also known as the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, dedicated to works of charity and living the Catholic faith by serving Christ in 'Our Lords' the Poor. Although many of our volunteers are either not religious or not Catholic, the Oxford Companions share in this work of reaching out to those most in need, giving them what support we can. Soup (generously donated by Benet's kitchen), sandwiches, tea, and coffee are taken by volunteers to those homeless on the streets four times a week, and a further two breakfast runs go from Trinity College every week. There is also a project in St. Giles' parish hall (just up the road from Benet's) every week on Saturday from 11.30am to about 2.15pm, providing a chance for homeless people not only to shower and get some clean clothes if they wish to do so, but also to read the papers, have tea, coffee, a bacon sandwich, or toastie, and talk to others in the shelter of the hall. Finally, we share in giving a weekly Sunday lunch to homeless people at one of the night shelters in the city.

Besides the Companions' more visible outreach to the homeless of Oxford, we work with other marginalised groups in the city, especially the housebound elderly or those in care homes, and children with special education needs (SEN). These important projects provide a chance for our volunteers to help those less seen, but equally needy, members of our community who are so often forgotten about.

Working with the Companions can be deeply moving for our volunteers; it allows one to do something which seems a small offering of time or effort, and yet it is so appreciated by those we are privileged to serve. We hope to provide not just physical sustenance to those who we help, but a vital opportunity for human interaction, acknowledging the dignity and value of each individual we meet. Much valuable charitable work is directed to those far away: we look to those who are suffering nearer-by, sometimes quite literally at our feet, and we pray that the motivation for this work is a sincere Christian charity – seeing and loving the suffering face of Christ in the suffering.

The Companions rely on the generous help of volunteers from across the University, but especially of Benetians; indeed, the Hall has a strong link to our work, being the place where the Companions were started and where, to this day, much of our work is based. Our soup runs leave from here, and our food and supplies are stored and prepared in our JCR. Many current and former students are involved with us, volunteering to make sandwiches, setting up supplies for the run, or taking part in the activities themselves. Our Senior Member is Fra' John Eidinow S.M.O.M., who is a solemnly professed knight of the Order, and Director of Studies in Classics at Benet's.

Volunteering with the Companions is a marvellous way to give something back to those of our fellow inhabitants of Oxford who are most in need. I warmly invite you to get involved with our work in whatever way you can, whatever your religious background: no doubt, a Catholic ethos lends our work a distinctive character, but we are by no means solely for Catholics! Please, consider helping us in whatever way you can; however large or small your contribution, we appreciate every effort whether it is a one-off or several times a week. You may well find yourself challenged and formed in a way you hadn't expected.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at thomas.carrott@stb.ox.ac.uk, or Daniel Mullens (St. Hugh's), President of the Oxford Companions, at blessed.gerard.opn@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting you in the coming term!

Yours,

Thomas Carrott,
Theologian (Second Year)

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>.

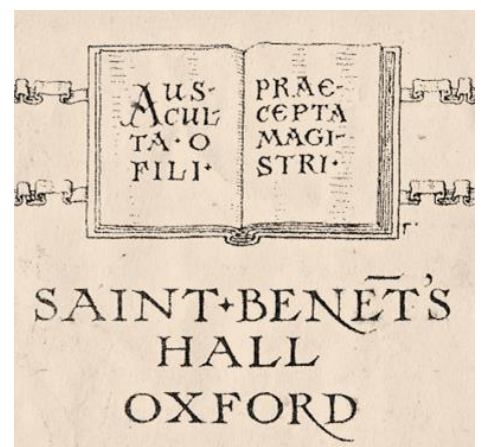


The Monastic Community

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.



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 (<i>Monday to Saturday; recited in English</i>)
7.30 a.m.	Mass (<i>Monday to Saturday</i>)
10.00 a.m.	Sunday Mass (<i>Sunday</i>)
6.30 p.m.	Vespers (English) (<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday</i>)
6.30 p.m.	Sung Plainsong Vespers (Latin) (<i>Tuesday, Thursday, & Sunday</i>)
9.00 p.m.	Sung Compline (English)



*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...!*

Useful information can be found on the following websites:

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

Useful Contacts

Useful Websites	Welfare	Hall Email Addresses
<p>St Benet's Hall www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>University of Oxford www.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>SOLO (library search and loans) http://solo.ouls.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Nexus (email) https://nexus.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Oxford University Student Union www.ousu.org</p> <p>Weblearn (subject resources) www.weblearn.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>NHS Choices www.nhs.uk</p> <p>Oxford Health & Welfare www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw</p> <p>Virtual Tour of Oxford www.chem.ox.ac.uk/oxfordtour</p> <p>Proctors' Information www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/info</p> <p>Oxford contact search http://www.ox.ac.uk/gsearch/</p>	<p>The University Counselling Service: 11, Wellington Square 01865 270300 reception@counserv.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Dr Leaver, Hall Doctor Jericho Health Centre Monday - Friday 8.30am - 6pm Tel: 01865 311234</p> <p>Nightline 01865 270270</p> <p>The Samaritans 01865 722122 or 08457 909090</p> <p>National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600</p> <p>LGBTQ Switchboard 020 7837 7324</p> <p>OUSU Student Advice 01865 288461</p> <p>Thames Valley (Oxford) Police 101</p> <p>OU Security (emergency) 01865 289999</p> <p>OU security (all other calls) 01865 272944</p> <p>NHS Direct 111</p> <p>St Benet's Hall Office 01865 280556</p>	<p>All Hall (except monastic) email addresses take the format firstname.lastname@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Professor Werner G Jeanrond – Master werner.jeanrond@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Mr Stephen Rumford – Bursar stephen.rumford@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Fr Oswald McBride OSB – Prior & Chaplain oswald@ampleforth.org.uk</p> <p>Dr Santha Bhattacharji – Senior Tutor senior.tutor@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Mrs Martina Stancheva – Administrator martina.stancheva@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Ms Katy Griffiths – Alumni Relations Officer, Communications Officer & PA to the Master katy.griffiths@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Mr Jason Bean – Maintenance & Housekeeping Manager jason.bean@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Dr Pieter Francois - Dean pieter.francois@anthro.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Ms Cristina Dumitru – Junior Dean cristina.dumitru@path.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Mr Harald Edinger – Junior Dean harald.edinger@politics.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Fr Gabriel Everitt OSB – Librarian gabriel@ampleforth.org.uk</p> <p>Dr Frances Reynolds – Presiding Fellow & DoS Oriental Studies frances.reynolds@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Dr Yvonne Cornish – DoS History yvonne.cornish@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Fra' John Eidinow – DoS Classics john.eidinow@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Dr Mary Marshall – DoS Theology mary.marshall@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Dr Nicholas Waghorn – DoS Philosophy nicholas.waghorn@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Dr George Bitsakakis – DoS Economics george.bitsakakis@stb.ox.ac.uk</p> <p>Dr Alex Barker – DoS Politics alexander.barker@stb.ox.ac.uk</p>

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

<p>ALUMNUS: A former student of the Hall/University.</p> <p>BALL: Like school leavers' ball, but three times more expensive. Plenty of food, drink and music, though.</p> <p>BATTELS/BATELLS: College bills. Paid at the beginning of each term. Include your rent and such like.</p> <p>BENETIAN: A member of St Benet's, student or staff (for LIFE).</p> <p>BLUE: Oxford's sports teams/the award for participating in one.</p> <p>BOATIE: Rower.</p> <p>BOD: abbr., Bodleian Library.</p> <p>BOD CARD: 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.</p> <p>BOPS: 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.</p> <p>BR: abbr., Brother. A monk who has not (yet) been ordained a priest (Father, Fr.).</p> <p>CALEFACTORY: This is the <i>formal</i> 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.</p> <p>COLLECTIONS: 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. 2. End of term oral reports given by your tutor to the Master, in your presence.</p> <p>COWLEY RD: An area in East Oxford with lots of international restaurants, bars and cafes, and home to the Cowley Road Carnival in summer.</p> <p>CREW DATE: A sports team goes out for a social with another sports team, normally in fancy dress. They are a lot of fun.</p> <p>CUPPERS: Any official inter-collegiate competition.</p> <p>DOS: (Undergraduate) Director of Studies.</p> <p>DPHIL: Oxford's name for a PhD. Ask a graduate!</p> <p>EIGHTS: A rowing competition in Trinity Term.</p> <p>ENTZ: abbr. "entertainments".</p> <p>FRA': Ask Fra' John.</p> <p>GAUDY: College celebrations for alumni and current members. St Benet's hosts one in London on 9 November - look out for your invitation!</p> <p>GERARD'S CHARITY-TEAS: Teas organised by the JCR to raise money for charity; named after the alumnus of the Hall who began them, Gerard Miles.</p> <p>GUEST NIGHT: Benet's hosts one a term for distinguished guests. Four courses, plus wine and port. Gowns are worn - it's fancy.</p> <p>HILARY TERM: Spring term.</p> <p>JCR: abbr. <i>Joint Common Room</i>. 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 <i>Junior Common Room</i>, as opposed to 'MCR' (<i>Middle Common Room</i>) for graduates.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>MICHAELMAS TERM: Autumn term.</p>	<p>MODS: 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.</p> <p>MST/MPHIL: Graduate degrees. Master of Studies/Master of Philosophy.</p> <p>NORHAM GARDENS: The location of the Hall's second building.</p> <p>NOUGHTH WEEK: The first week of term. Term weeks are numbered 0-8, and begin on Sundays.</p> <p>OSB: It's written after monks' names and means 'Order of St Benedict'.</p> <p>OUSU: abbr. Oxford University Student Union.</p> <p>OXFORD UNION: 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. "The Union" will always mean this, rather than OUSU.</p> <p>OXON: abbr. If you see it after someone's name, it means they have a degree from Oxford (sometimes replaced by Oxf.).</p> <p>PORT MEADOW: A meadow in north Oxford where we have our JCR picnic in the summer.</p> <p>PRELIMS: abbr. Preliminary Examinations. See Mods.</p> <p>PROCTORS: University officers with disciplinary powers.</p> <p>PUNTING: Messing around on the river, propelled by a long pole liable to stick in the river bed. More fun to come in Trinity term.</p> <p>RAD CAM: The Radcliffe Camera. That big round building. History parts of the Bodleian inside.</p> <p>REFECTORY: This is our common dining hall where we eat.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>SENDING DOWN: Rustication for life. Very rare.</p> <p>SMOKER: The Hall's annual talent show.</p> <p>ST BENET: abbr. St Benedict.</p> <p>SUB 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).</p> <p>SUPERVISOR: The person who co-ordinates graduate study.</p> <p>TAB: Cambridge student. From its Latin name <i>Cantabrigia</i>, abbr. <i>Cantab</i>.</p> <p>THE OTHER PLACE: University of Cambridge. A lame joke you'll get bored of.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>TORPIDS: Another rowing event, in Hilary term. Has slightly different rules from Eights.</p> <p>TRINITY TERM: Summer term.</p> <p>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.</p>
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