

# Freshers' Handbook 2024-25

## JCR President's Letter

Dear incoming St Anne's Students, Congratulations and welcome to the University of Oxford! You have officially done it, and now you are a part of St Anne's College! You may be feeling a cocktail of emotions right now, from excitement, accomplishment and anticipation to anxiety, uncertainty and apprehension. Any feeling is valid, but I firstly hope you are feeling incredibly proud of yourself. I am sure (and I remember) it was a long and challenging application process, and I am certain that the confirmation of your place must be a massive relief. I am here to confirm to you that St Anne's is, without a doubt, the best college and is here to support you, especially in these first few weeks where everything is new. This letter is an introduction to life at Oxford, the JCR and some advice I have on everything.

My name is Roxi, I study Politics, Philosophy and Economics and I am your JCR President for the year! 'JCR' stands for 'Junior Common Room' and refers to two things: the group of undergraduate students that you are a part of, and a physical location called the Danson room – a social space where students come together for fun or in official meetings. There will be much more Oxford Jargon that will be new to you, so we have added a glossary at the back of this handbook that might be useful. However, don't stress about remembering it all: it will come naturally as you become immersed in this new environment. The JCR committee is a group of 26 elected students, usually in their second year, who represent the JCR on a range of aspects we consider essential to student life. The JCR democracy is integral to ensuring the college and students can cooperate on important issues and projects, and that our student voice is heard in the University. You can approach the relevant representative for anything you can think of: from welfare and entertainment to equalities and sport. As President, I am here to help you with any matter, either directly or by directing you to someone in our amazing committee. Each member has introduced themselves below, and you will be meeting them in real life as you settle in here. Freshers' Helpers - many of whom are also committee members- will be there for you during freshers week (which has been lovingly organised by your Vice-President Cecile) and they have been cherry-picked by both of us to represent the unique concoction of different backgrounds, subjects and interests that are found at Anne's! You are sure to find someone who understands you.

The Oxford experience means something different for each person, but being a certified Stanner means you will join the rich tapestry of St Anne's students and alumni, our personal hall of fame within this massive University. You may have applied here; in which case you have probably investigated what an Oxford education can be. You have clearly identified the ideal blend between new and old that St Anne's has to offer! If you have been pooled here (like I was), St Anne's chose you! The tutors in your interviews thought you belong here- and you do! The atmosphere here is vibrant and welcoming, with none of the stereotypical pretentiousness that Oxford can have a reputation for. Anne's has a rich history rooted in providing the opportunity for an Oxford education for everyone, no matter their gender or socioeconomic background, and has championed diversity and inclusion alongside academic success since its inception (no portraits of questionable characters on our walls). As a result, you are guaranteed to find your place and your people

here, so try not to stress. You belong here! No transition is easy (anyone that acts like it is pretending), however you will find some great support networks here including our amazing welfare team and understanding tutors who are always here to help, as well as your coursemates and all the amazing friends you'll make.

The world-famous reputation of Oxford may have constructed a stereotype of what life is like here and it is rooted in truth: the workload IS intense, due to the incredibly personalised tutorial system (tutes). However, it will (mostly) be a labour of love, since it is your passion that brought you here. Oxford's cobbled streets and ancient libraries, paired with the fresh feeling of home that Anne's provides, also helps romanticise studying here, but the most important thing you will need to master is balance. This year, our entz and welfare reps (you will read all about their plans below) are more in harmony with each other than ever before, a promising start for a year of events that will ensure your contentment and happiness in synergy. That's just for us at Anne's, but I'm sure you will also be eager to sample everything Oxford has to offer outside our castle walls. As someone who went to like 10 different societies in Michaelmas, from life drawing to international development, I am here to encourage you! Be organised (google calendar saved my life) and keep your coursemates close so that you stay conscious of the next deadline (ranting about the class and sharing notes is the ultimate bonding moment), but know that it is possible to do it all! But EQUALLY (this is the advice I wish I had last year) don't be afraid to take a night where you do absolutely nothing. Sometimes, the best memories are made spontaneously at the kitchen table or from a surprise knock on the door.

Part of the Oxford experience is also getting used to occasional failures, and the more you normalise that, the more you are free to pursue any opportunity you find interesting, no matter how intimidating, and to experiment within your degree, asking bold questions and sharing new interpretations. You have nothing to lose. Even if plans fail or people don't see your vision, all you have to do is step back and reflect on how far you've come to realise it is never a straightforward journey. And you are not alone. We are all here to make sure everyone has the best experience of Oxford that I am certain St Anne's College can provide.

This handbook has been created entirely by students, past and present (and assembled by me) to provide the best possible introduction to life at St Anne's, the JCR committee, freshers helpers, and all the opportunities that lie before you. It will hopefully answer all your burning questions, but if there are any left, feel free to contact me via email ([roxana.rusu@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:roxana.rusu@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)), Whatsapp (07392215523) or Instagram (@roxirusumariaa)- whatever you prefer! So, I can't wait for you to join us here in October!

And one last thing- first year will pass in a flash, believe me. Enjoy it.

Roxi :) (she/her)

JCR President

## JCR Vice President's Letter

Dear Incoming Freshers,

Welcome to St Anne's, the best college at the best university in the world (yes, I'm a little biased, but it's true!). I am sure you have worked hard to get here, so now it's time to reap the rewards and for your university journey to start. Oxford offers incredible and unique experiences, from a top-notch education to a thriving and vibrant social scene. You've earned your spot here, so give yourself a well-earned pat on the back!

First, let me introduce myself: I'm Cecile, a second-year medic from Northumberland and I will serve as your JCR Vice President this year. You may be wondering what the JCR is, what the different roles mean and what we do. As Roxi so eloquently explained, 'JCR' is just Oxford jargon for Junior Common Room (you'll get used to it, I promise) for the college's undergraduate student body (and also somewhat confusingly refers to our 'Danson Room', the main social space for undergrads in college). As you go through this guide, you will get to know a little bit more about each of our committee members and what their role entails.

The JCR committee is tasked with representing St Anne's across the university and catering to the aspirations and needs of the student community here. We are a lovely group of dedicated individuals who want to support and provide for you this year; we're always around to help with a wide range of issues, whether that's reducing our carbon footprint or finding out about the next BOP (big, organised party, aka college socials- not to be missed!). You will meet most of us in your first few weeks of term (whether that's at a JCR meeting or just around college) so please don't hesitate to approach us (we don't bite- promise!) As for me, as VP I'm a jack-of-all-trades. Essentially, I'm your first port of call for any queries or concerns, and if I can't fix them, I will point you to the person who can. I'm also the person in charge of putting together your Fresher's Week (no pressure...) and I'm passionate about giving you the best start to your uni experience!

The wonderful Roxi has already covered several points regarding life at Oxford and St Anne's, but I thought I'd add some more of my own as your resident overthinker (thought daughter, fr) and as someone who was in your shoes a year ago. Anne's is the place for you. While it is often described as a bit of a non-traditional Oxford experience, I really feel the ethos of our college encapsulates the best of what Oxford strives to be. While it doesn't have the centuries-long history of some of the other colleges (or the endowment to go with that...) it is Anne's unique charm that makes it special. I think more than anything, it is the students here that really make us stand out; while the people here are just as committed to their studies, they do so with a fresh, inclusive and open-minded approach. No matter where you come from, you will find a welcoming community and a place to call home here at St Anne's.

This time last year, my head was full of questions about my transition to Oxford and university life: How will I fit in here? Is the workload really as bad as everyone says it is? How will I find my people? But the first thing you need to know is: you will be fine. Everyone will experience feelings of imposter syndrome during their time at university, and frankly, the more we talk about it, the more normalised it becomes. And please trust me, you wouldn't have got here if you were

not genuinely passionate about your subject (and an interesting person too!) - the selection process makes sure of that. You made it through because you are genuinely capable of thriving here. Oxford students love to be dramatic; don't buy into the horror stories about our workload. Everyone's experience will be different, and you will find a rhythm that works for you. Whether you find your stride in the first couple of weeks, or if it takes you a couple of terms to get into the groove, you will, in time, figure out what works for you. First year is the time to experiment with different study methods and routines to find what works for you, and please don't hesitate to ask for help, whether that's from your coursemates, older students, or your tutors.

And when it comes to making friends, especially at Anne's, you really don't have anything to worry about. You will encounter an incredibly welcoming community at our college, built upon foundations of diversity and inclusion, so there truly is a place for everyone. And even if you feel you don't click with anyone immediately, don't stress! Friendships take time, and you have plenty of it. Whether it's through coursemates, flatmates, or even just a random group of people you strike up a good conversation with, you will have so many opportunities to meet new, interesting and exciting people during your time at university. And your friendship circles certainly won't be constrained to your year in college. There are hundreds of societies which cater to so many interests and passions, so you are sure to find your people. So, embrace every opportunity that comes your way, and don't pressure yourself to have everything figured out from the get-go: everything will fall into place.

I am honoured to be working with Roxi and the rest of the incredible JCR committee this year and I really want to help make your transition to university as smooth as possible. You'll also have an amazing team of Freshers' helpers ready to assist during your first week, making sure you settle in comfortably. If you have any further questions or doubts, or even just fancy a chat, feel free to get in touch with me at [cecile.durkin@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cecile.durkin@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) or via Instagram (@ceciledurks).

Finally, good luck and a huge congrats for getting here! We hope you are raring to get started just as much as we are looking forward to meeting you. I hope the rest of your summer is fantastic and I look forward to seeing you in October!

Cecile (she/her)

JCR Vice-President

## Meet Your JCR Committee

The JCR is the college democracy. our JCR committee are the people in charge of running that democracy, and the people you go to if you have any needs during your time at St Anne's.

### **President: Roxana Rusu, PPE (she/her)**

Hiyaa, my name is Roxi, I study Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and I am thrilled to be your President! My role is to lead our brilliant committee, do everything within my power to make your wishes a reality and represent the values and vibrancy of St Anne's to the rest of the University. Whether it's a late night at the library or an early morning trek to rowing, and everywhere in between, you can always find me out and about- feel free to say hi :)

Email: [roxanna.rusu@ox.ac.uk](mailto:roxanna.rusu@ox.ac.uk)

### **Vice President: Cecile Durkin, Medicine (she/her)**

Hey! I'm Cecile, a second-year medic from Northumberland (up the North!!) and I am delighted to be your VP. I'm excited to play a part in the brilliant JCR committee, and to maintain Anne's status as the best college at Oxford (I'm not biased or anything...) Other than being a friendly face around college, I also act as your first port of call for all of your JCR-related problems; if I can't fix them, I will point you to the person who can! I can't wait to meet you guys in freshers' week (get excited!) and in the meantime, feel free to give me a shout if there's anything I can help with!

Email: [cecile.durkin@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cecile.durkin@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Secretary: Gabriella Berkeley-Agyepong, English (she/her)**

Hi Everyone! I'm Gabriella, a second year studying the best subject ever (English). I'm looking forward to being your secretary next year - which means I will be writing up the minutes from JCR meetings and sending out weekly newsletters with lots of important information - which I hope you all read. I am so excited to meet you all, feel free to get in touch before or during the year. feel free to send me any suggestions! And say hi around college (I am usually spotted in STACS procrastinating an essay)

Email: [gabriella@st-annes.ax.ac.uk](mailto:gabriella@st-annes.ax.ac.uk)

### **Treasurer: Ben O'Donnell, Biology (he/him)**

Hola, my name is Ben and I am the incoming treasurer **!!**. I am primarily studying loving, laughing and living, but also a little bit of biology. I row, throw disc, and spoons in my spare time. I shall be charge of

all things money, such as funding your college endeavours or communicating budgets. Welcome to St Anne's !!!!

Email: [ben.odonnell@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ben.odonnell@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Entz Reps: Pippa Sefton, biology (she/her) and Noah Harper-Smith, biology (he/him)**

Hi my name is Noah and I'm gonna be your Entz rep for next year congratulations. I'm a biologist and I call my home Devon even though I actually live in Essex now. I'm hoping to make your year as fun as possible by organising events around St Anne's and generally being a friendly face and a super nice dude. You'll probably find me up rocking the karaoke but I am also football captain next year so if you love football, I will happily talk about it for hours. If you thought you would be working all day at Oxford, think again, I will make sure you enjoy yourself. Any questions about activities, life at Oxford and everything in between don't hesitate to ask

. I'm Pippa and, like Noah, I'm going into my second year of biology. I loved my first year at Anne's which I mostly spent chatting on the stacs sofas, around the kitchen table in Rayne or in Grapes (Oxford's most iconic(?) pub). Disclaimer - I also spent a fair chunk of it in the library but you can definitely get a good work/life balance at Oxford and that's where Noah and I come in! If you have any questions about the party culture at Annes or any ideas for the BOPS please email us !

Email: [pippa.sefton@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pippa.sefton@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) and [noah.harper-smith@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:noah.harper-smith@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Welfare Reps: Daisy Johnston, biology (she/her), Megan Wadsworth, medicine (she/her), and Nic Ong, experimental psychology (he/him)**

Hi Guys! We're Nic (Experimental Psychology), Daisy (Biology), and Megan (Medicine), and we're your welfare reps for the year!. As welfare reps, it's our job to support the physical, mental, and academic welfare of the undergraduate body. Both the academic pressure and new environment of university can often be stressful, with people facing their own unique struggles during the transition process which we aim to mitigate. Throughout the year we'll be a primary point of contact for any welfare issues that you face, so always feel free to find or email one of us if you have any concerns. On top of managing more pressing welfare issues, we'll be running a variety of events, from a weekly welfare tea on sundays to more infrequent events such as origami and movie nights! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us!

Email: [nicholas.ong@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nicholas.ong@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) and [daisy.johnston@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:daisy.johnston@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) and [megan.wadsworth@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:megan.wadsworth@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Access Rep: James Stephens, History and Politics (he/ him)**

Hi! I'm James, and I'm going to be the access rep for St Anne's this year. This involves working with the outreach department to help spread information and advice to potential applicants and ensuring that St

Anne's are doing everything we can to make Oxford accessible to everyone, regardless of their background. St Anne's is an amazing place to live and study, and I know you're all going to love being freshers just as much as I did. I would really encourage new students to become Student Ambassadors and help to promote St Anne's. Please feel free to get in touch with any questions about outreach or about college in general :)

Email: [james.stephens@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:james.stephens@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **International Students' Rep: Siddarth Vaitty, PPE (he/him)**

Hi everyone! I'm Siddarth, a second year PPEist, and I'll be representing us international undergrads on the JCR this year! That means it's my job to make sure that Oxford and St Anne's start to truly feel like a home away from home for you, no matter how far out home is - so if you have any questions or concerns, whether about international-specific things like opening bank accounts or luggage storage, or more generally about settling in here, just pop me a message or pull me aside in college! Looking forward to meeting everyone in October!

Email: [Siddarth.vaitty@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Siddarth.vaitty@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Equal Opportunities Rep: Liv Pennington, History (she/her)**

Hiya, I'm Liv from Cornwall. I study History and this year I'm your JCR Equal Opportunities Representative, which means that I'm in charge of advocating for and providing information to you about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. St Anne's is a great college for inclusivity - one of the best at Oxford - but we always want to improve so we absolutely welcome questions and suggestions at any time: to be directed to either me or other members of the Equal Opportunities Committee (Sexualities, Gender, Ethnic Minorities, Disabilities, Women's, Class). First year of uni is a shock to the system without having to deal with all kinds of other concerns so we're here to try to make that transition as easy and worry-free as possible all year round. I hope to be an open ear for such concerns at any time and I want to be able to make changes for you guys so let me know what I can do for you!

Email: [olivia.pennington@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:olivia.pennington@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **LGBTQ+ Sexualities Rep: Ruby Luzzatto, History and Politics (she/her)**

Hi! My name is Ruby, and I'll be the sexualities rep for the year. I love playing basketball, making music, and engaging in local politics in my home city, New York. I'm going to work closely with my friend Z, the gender rep, to further cultivate the welcoming and diverse queer community at Anne's.

Email: [ruby.luzzatto@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ruby.luzzatto@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **LGBTQ+ Gender Rep: Z Forbes, Fine Art (they/them)**

Hi! I'm Z, your LGBTQ+ gender rep. I'm here to help for any student struggling with their gender, whether you want a chat or help with all the admin that comes along with being trans or GNC! I also run the gender affirmation fund so please get in touch if you would like some support. I'm also a big video game nerd, art lover and horror buff.

Email: [zara.forbes@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:zara.forbes@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Ethnic Minorities Rep: Riyad Ahmed, Material Science (he/him)**

Hey, I'm Riyad and I'm your Ethnic Minorities, Faith and Culture rep for 24-25! I'm really excited for everything that I've got planned this year, from BAME socials to Charity formals, there'll be something for everyone! I'm currently working with the rest of the JCR to increase religious provisions in college, especially for events such as Eid and Diwali. As someone who really struggled to adjust to Oxford in the first term, I want to help all the freshers to get to grips here at Anne's - it's a really welcoming and inclusive community. I'll be here to lend a hand and support all the new students at Anne's (and the existing ones!).

Email: [riyad.ahmed@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:riyad.ahmed@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Women's Rep: Willow Carwardine, Medicine (she/her)**

Hi I'm Willow and I am really looking forward to being your Women's Rep this coming year. My role is to be a friendly face and supportive JCR representative for all female-identifying students. I will also be continuing, and hopefully expanding the sanitary product scheme, as well as arranging a couple of celebratory events with the other reps. I aim to amplify the wonderful environment that St Anne's offers, so please get in touch with any concerns or ideas!

Email: [willow.carwardine@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:willow.carwardine@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Domestic Affairs Rep: Alice Stoate, Law (she/her)**

Hi I'm Alice, a second year law student and I'll be your domestic rep this year! My role is centred around looking after domestic affairs, such as accommodation and food. I appreciate that as a fresher, knowing where you are going to live and what's available to eat is particularly important, so if you have any issues or queries please don't hesitate to let me know and I'll be more than happy to help!

Email: [alice.stoate@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alice.stoate@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Academic Affairs Rep: Lucia Roussell-Milner Roman, Law (she/her)**



Hey everyone, my name's Lucia and I'm super excited to be your Academic Affairs Rep. I'm from Northampton, and I love painting, going to the gym, and spending a bit too much money in cute cafes. I'll be a friendly face around college, and a key point of contact regarding all things academic. This includes sending anonymous tutorial reviews where you can raise any issues you may have, holding feedback sessions, and making you aware of all key academic resources and opportunities. We're so lucky to have a supportive environment at St Anne's, but I also know how much pressure we may face as students. So never be afraid to reach out if you feel overwhelmed, just drop a message and I'll always be happy to help!

Email: [lucia.roussel-milnerroman@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lucia.roussel-milnerroman@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Environment Rep: Issy Honeyman, Earth Sciences (she/her)**

Hey everyone, I'm Issy and I am your new environment rep! I am a second year Earth Scientist who, when I am not hiking to find outcrops or analysing thin sections, loves a good karaoke session in the Anne's bar. This year I want to continue the work to make life at St Anne's as environmentally friendly as possible. Being eco-friendly can be a challenge for busy students, which is why I am hoping to introduce new projects and events this year, involving gardening and repurposing old clothing, to increase access to sustainability. I am really hoping to get everyone involved and inspired, so if you have any ideas or questions, please feel free to contact me!

Email: [isabel.honeyman@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:isabel.honeyman@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Sport's Rep: Hannah Swain, Geography (she/her)**

Hey! I'm Hannah and I'll be your Sports Rep for this year. I can't wait to meet you all and introduce you to the amazing sports community we have here at St Anne's. When I'm not doing my degree, you can find me rowing on the Isis River or at our sports ground, the Fortress, playing Netball. From Rounders to Rugby, we have a great depth of teams within college as well as many Blue's players involved in University sports teams. This year I am here to support anyone and everyone who wants to be involved in sports. Don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions about our teams, the gym or sports in general!

Email: [hannah.swain@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.swain@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Arts Rep: Sylvie Jacob, English (she/her)**

Hey, I'm Sylvie and I'll be your Arts Rep this year! I study English, but (as an ex art student ) my greatest love is painting, so I am extremely passionate about making St Anne's a space full of art and creativity for all us students. I think it is highly important to cultivate an atmosphere that promotes people's individual talents within college, but also to forge creative connections more widely within the Oxford artistic community. Through holding events within college walls (from college bar gigs to art workshops) and supporting the artists of Anne's, I want to showcase everything we have to offer to the rich creative culture of Oxford.

Email: [Sylvie.Jacob@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Sylvie.Jacob@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Disabilities Rep: PJ, Japanese (she/they)**

Hi! I'm PJ (she/they), a 3rd year Japanologist. I grew up in the other place (horrors!), but I have since come to my senses and have become a stanner. Growing up, I was part of charity for children with my disability, and the sense of belonging it gave me is something I hope to create for other disabled students at Anne's!

Email: [pollyjean.webb@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pollyjean.webb@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Class Rep: Sharon Wilson, Biochemistry (she/her)**

Hi, I'm Sharon and I'm your class rep! I'm from Leeds and I study Biochemistry. Coming from a low income background, I understand that adjusting to life at Oxford can have unique challenges. I'm here to support anyone who feels they're struggling to fit in, as a peer supporter and member of the equalities committee. We'll run socials and drop-in sessions throughout the year for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to ask questions and connect with others. Feel free to stop me for a chat or drop a message with any worries or doubts, whether it's about cost of living, academics, or anything else on your mind.

Email: [Sharon.wilson@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Sharon.wilson@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Charities Rep: Izzy Gibbes, Biology (she/her)**

Hi I'm Izzy and I'm a second year studying biology and will be your charities rep this year! I'm super excited to have this role, and will be working closely with the JCR to come up with ways to give back to the community. I'll organise fun events throughout the year in aid of many charities, including the charity of the year, as chosen by you! If you ever want to get involved, whether that's through suggesting a charity that's close to your heart, or you're looking for volunteering opportunities, let me know - I'm happy to help. Feel free to get in touch or have a chat if you see me around college!

Email: [isabel.gibbes@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:isabel.gibbes@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **IT Rep: Aditya Khanna, Physics (he/him)**

Hey!! I'm Aditya. I'm a second-year Physics student from London. I'm currently the IT rep, responsible for managing IT-related queries, maintaining the site etc. Let me know if you have any questions about Eduroam, Physics, St Anne's, or anything else at all!

Email: [Aditya.khanna@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Aditya.khanna@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Student Union Rep: Ellen Ehrlich, Hebrew Studies (she/her)**

Hi, I'm Ellen, I study Hebrew, and I'm looking forward to being your student Union representative this year! The Student Union is an elected body advocating for student interests within the university's decision-making processes. The SU also delivers academic, welfare, and mental health support, It organizes events, oversees clubs and societies, and supports student-led campaigns on issues such as sustainability and equality for minority groups. However this year the Student Union will not be running as usual: it is undergoing a transformation process, which began last term and which will last for twelve months, to ensure better representation and engagement for all students. If you want to find out more or get involved, drop me a message or head to their website!

Email: [ellen.ehrlich@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ellen.ehrlich@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Alumnae and Comms Rep: Jasmine Boothe-Henry, Japanese with Chinese (she/her)**

Heyyy, I'm Jasmine. I'm a finalist studying Japanese with Chinese and I'll be working to make sure the JCR stays connected to the network of St. Anne's alumnae (and keeping Anne's Instagram running smoothly). We have some brilliant alumnae and I want to make sure that their stories reach current and prospective students, inspiring them to forge unique paths throughout and beyond their time at Oxford.

Email: [jasmine.boothe-henry@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jasmine.boothe-henry@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

## Meet your Freshers' Helpers

Freshers Helpers will be your first point of contact if you have any questions during Freshers' Week. Feel free to contact them on email, Instagram, or in person!

### **Roxana Rusu**

Somerset // Romania

Google calendar is an incredible way of creating a method to the madness and organising your academic tutes, lectures, sports and extracurriculars, but don't let yourself be controlled by your schedule. The best memories are actually made when nothing goes to plan.

PPE

### **Cecile Durkin**

Newcastle

What is right for you will be different to everyone else. Oxford is a pretty high-pressure environment, so it is so important to find your stress-relievers. Whether that is a hobby or a good social circle, find what makes you happy: your life is not your degree!!

Medicine

### **Gabriella Berkeley-Agyepong**

London

Try to strike the right work/ life balance. So join societies, sports and bands - find something you love to do which isn't necessarily tied to your degree, take a break with your friends in stacs. Do stay on top of your work as well and try not to feel anxiety about asking for support if you need it!

English

### **Ben O'Donnell**

Buxton, Peak District

I wish I worked harder during vacs because all the work you do saves time later on

Biology

## **Pippa Sefton**

Winchester

If you're thinking about doing uni sports, definitely go for it! Bring a bike if you have one though, because the sports ground (Iffley) is a bit of a trek from Anne's xx

Biology

## **Noah Harper-Smith**

Devon // Essex

Don't worry too much about First year, remember to not work too hard (or hard at all really) and take time to enjoy yourself as at the end of the day you only need to pass first year.

Biology

## **Daisy Johnston**

Bangor, N. Ireland

Organise a flat dinner in freshers' week to get to know your flatmates! It makes going out partying a lot easier.

Biology

## **Nic Ong**

Milton Keynes

Cook instead of going to halls! You can make great friends, listen to music, save money and the best part is: the freedom to eat at any hour of the day.

Experimental Psychology

## **Megan Wadsworth**

Cambridge

However you are feeling about moving to university is completely normal and valid! It's a really new experience for most people and it is totally okay to feel conflicting emotions.

Medicine

## **James Stephens**

Bolton, Manchester

Get to know the people on your course, because working with others in Oxford is invaluable!

History and Politics

**Ruby Luzzatto**

NYC

Try new things. If you see an interesting club at the fresher's fayre or hear about an event, just check it out! Especially if it's new and different for you!

History and Politics

**Seb Page**

Cambridge

Put yourself out there! there's so much the uni can offer if you take action into your own hands.

English

**Liv Pennington**

Cornwall

Take a breather when you need to but stay in control of it. Not doing the work will get in the way of having the fun - trust me. And bring fancy dress!!

History

**Z Forbes**

York

Top tip: Get to know your flatmates- you never know when you're going to need to borrow some pasta!

Fine Art

**Alice Stoakes**

Devon

Remember that you earned your place here- you're good enough to be at Oxford! It can be really overwhelming at first, and so keeping a sense of belief in your own abilities is incredibly important.

Law

**Zoe Stafford**

NE London

The GP (Dr. Leaver and Co) are really good, especially for trans stuff, so like go to them with all your problems!

Computer Science

**Hannah Swain**

Hampshire

Remember Oxford isn't just about academics, take care of yourself and have fun, then everything else will follow. You're time here will fly by seize every opportunity you can!

Geography

**Ellen Ehrlich**

Brussels, Belgium

You'll get lots of contradictory advice – about dealing with workload, partying, taking time for yourself, how to make friends, college life.. Whatever you do, you'll be fine, and if not, there are so many people here to help and support you, so don't stress!

Hebrew Studies

**Anna Philippopoulou**

Athens, Greece

Go “swimming” in your subject readings before you get here - pick and choose whatever looks most interesting and read about that. It'll ease you in to the content and probably be relevant later!

Physics

**Samuel Oliver-Sherry**

Merseyside

Know that you've made it, believe that you've earned it, and don't let anyone make you overthink that 😊

Music

**Willow Carwardine**

Kent

Join a random college or a uni sports team - it's a great way to meet different people.

Medicine

### **Ben Murphy**

MGA\* home ground

History

Advice is dont scran too many kebabs in freshers week and get food poisoning so you miss the final day

### **Tom Hunter**

Chelmsford

Official advice is to come to MGA\* socials even if you don't play football! \*Mint Green Army: the St Anne's football club

PPE

### **Clara Saiu-Bell**

Suffolk

The thing I wish I knew before going to Oxford: Sudafed spray! I somehow didn't even know it existed until halfway through the year but I've found it very useful :)

Experimental Psychology

So, there you have it ! A bunch of new faces and advice ranging from tackling imposter syndrome to tackling freshers' flu (potentially kebab-induced). We're all so excited to meet you! If you see any of us around college, know that you are in safe hands and you can approach us about anything and we can direct you to the right people. Even if you just want a chat or have any questions about Fresher's Week or college life in general, we are here to help. we don't bite I promise (except maybe our beaver mascot).



## **Accommodation**

### **Wolfson and Rayne**

It may be brutalist from the outside but it has a lot to offer! You can expect to have a sink with a mirror and a balcony, that most other rooms in freshers' buildings don't have. Expect big kitchens with good storage space too!

### **ATB (Above the Bar)**

All rooms in ATB are quite big, and have nice large windows. The layout of the building itself is quite a maze and takes some time getting used to. There are no rooms with mirrors so make sure you bring one! Kitchens are fairly small but there is ample storage space so you don't need to worry.

### **Woodstock**

Rooms in Woodstock range quite a lot in size but are all fairly spacious. All rooms come with sinks and mirrors and there are quite a lot of bathrooms: around six in the building. The kitchen is really large and is shared by everyone in the building. It is a great social space so there is a definite community feel here!

### **The Bevs (The Bevington Houses)**

Currently being renovated! (Count yourself lucky!)

## **What to Pack?**

### **Essentials**

- > CLOTHES, FANCY DRESS FOR BOPS, FORMAL CLOTHES
- > CLOTHES HANGERS
- > STATIONARY
- > EXTENSION CABLES
- > TOWELS AND TOILETRIES
- > MATTRESS TOPPER
- > THINGS TO MAKE YOUR ROOM FEEL HOMELY (PLANTS, LIGHTING, PICTURES AND PINS FOR PINBOARD)
- > MEDICATIONS (PARACETAMOL!!)
- > SAUCEPAN AND FRYING PAN
- > CHOPPING BOARD AND A DECENT KNIFE
- > DISTINCTIVE PLATES, BOWLS, MUGS, GLASSES, AND CUTLERY SO PEOPLE KNOW THEY ARE YOURS
- > WASHING PODS
- > LAUNDRY BASKET OR SOMETHING TO CARRY YOUR LAUNDRY TO THE LAUNDRY ROOM

### **Useful**

- > COLLEGE PROVIDES SHEETS BUT YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN IF YOU WANT
- > CLOTHES HORSE
- > SHOWER CADDY
- > SHOWER SHOES/FLIP FLOPS
- > SPEAKERS

> DOORSTOP

> LAMP

> COLANDER AND GRATER

> FOOD (STOCK UP FROM YOUR PARENTS WHILE YOU CAN)

> A GOOD BACKPACK/TOTE BAG

## Welfare

Hello and welcome to St Anne's! Your welfare reps for this year are Nic, Daisy and Megan, and our job is to support you with any worries or problems you might have, whether it is to do with physical, mental or emotional health, work and feeling overwhelmed, or just someone to talk to! We want everyone to feel happy, healthy and supported in and outside of college. We are involved in Peer Support Training, but there are also other Peer Supporters in college who are specifically trained to help if you have any concerns. We work with students, College, and the Students' Union (SU) to ensure that you have everything you need in terms of welfare to support your time in college.

We want to provide a well-rounded system for everyone and will liaise with other JCR reps, such as Ethnic Minorities and Disability Rep so that everyone can reach the support which is relevant to them. Welfare Events are something we organise; every week there is a Welfare Tea held in the Danson Room where you can come along, chat to us and other students and have tasty treats with a cup of tea :). Our events are no-pressure so there's never an expectation for you to eat or drink anything, you can just sit and be with people if that is what you need to take yourself away from work. We also plan to run crafting sessions where you can get creative and take a break, welfare walks in the Uni Parks (literally behind college!), yoga sessions and movie nights! You can speak to us at these events about anything, but you can also email us or come to us outside of these events- we're here for you anytime you need us! If you have any ideas for events we could run, please tell us; we want people to have fun and look after themselves at the same time.

St Anne's has a lot of resources for welfare; through a Sexual Health Scheme, we provide condoms, lube, pregnancy tests and safety alarms anonymously and free of charge- usually there are boxes of condoms in the pidge room that you can take from easily. There are also tampons, pads and other products available which are replenished regularly. During Freshers' Week, Seminar Room 3 in college will be open for us to use. We plan to make this space as calm and relaxing as possible for people who want to take a breather. We will also run events in there! Please do reach out to us if you're struggling, feeling a bit down or want someone to talk to as we know it can be difficult to find your feet and get into the rhythm of university life. We will help you or signpost you to someone who is more equipped to deal with your specific worries. Make sure you follow our Instagram for info and event details: [st\\_annes\\_welfare](#).

Welfare Love, Nic, Daisy and Megan xx

## Entz

What is ENTZ? Entz stands for entertainment and it includes club nights, bar nights, other events like ice skating and, most importantly, Anne's legendary karaoke evenings. These events are organised by us and subsidised by the college. It is (in our not so unbiased opinion) one of the most fantastic parts of life at an Oxford college.

St Anne's is a friendly and inclusive college and we're notorious for our college cats, the aforementioned karaoke, our awesome XMas Mega BOP and our joint BOP with Somerville in Hilary term. There's something for everyone at Anne's - you guys will also have the opportunity to join in with the college sports teams, the biweekly formal dinners, music concerts, movie nights and loads more.

Anne's also has a great location - we're right next to Uni Parks, a short walk from Port Meadows and near all of the pubs and cafes in Jericho (which also has a super handy Sainsburys local). We have a lovely quad that you can chill on in Trinity term and a cafe called Stacs that is open Monday to Friday. And because we're a little further out from the centre of Oxford, you'll be able to keep active walking or cycling, and the city will feel a bit bigger (in the best way)!

You might be worried about the work life balance at Oxford - but we want to let you know that students at St Anne's work hard and play hard. We're sure you'll have a super fantastic time this year and that you'll be able to fit in a balance of everything that you want to do. (Side note: life at Oxford can be full on so you don't have to fit it all into the first week. We'll keep throwing fantastic events throughout Michaelmas so there's plenty of opportunities for a good time. Remember freshers is a whole year - not just one week!)

Events to look out for next term include Plush Tuesdays, Park End, sports night socials on Wednesdays, Bridge Thursdays, BOPS, pub quizzes and open mic nights in the college bar, a Halloween MegaBOP and some sober socials like ice skating and pumpkin carving. We've created a term card with a balance of drinking and alcohol free events but we also want to say that everyone is welcome to every event and you can of course drink or not drink as you wish!

We are looking forward to being ur entz reps next year and cant wait to meet you all in October!

Noah and Pippa x

## **Bops**

Bops are a huge tradition at Oxford. They are essentially informal college parties, often with a theme and jointly held with another college(s). At St Anne's, they happen in the dining hall or college bar and everyone dresses up following the theme. St Anne's also hosts larger 'mega bops' where tickets are also sold to students from other colleges. Bops are a great way to meet both other freshers and students across the university! Themes from the last year include: Dress as your degree Anne Sommers Xmas Megabop Carnival Megabop

## **Formals**

Formal meals are another Oxford tradition. They happen fortnightly at St Anne's which makes them all the more special. Everyone dresses smartly and enjoys a three-course meal with (optional) wine in the dining hall. When you make friends with people in different colleges, they may also invite you to their college formal, a great opportunity to see the traditional side of Oxford. Don't stress about not going to other formals though: I went to only Anne's formals in Michaelmas..... and then a different college formal each week of Hilary.

## **Balls**

College balls are black/white tie events and are one of the most memorable Oxford experiences and, although they can be expensive, it's the night of a lifetime. Expect top entertainment, incredible food and drink, and a party lasting all night. There are balls for most colleges, the Oxford Union and some specific society ones: like the 93% club which is significantly cheaper. I think everyone should experience a ball once, but there is no pressure right away: you have your whole degree.

## **Food at St Anne's**

At St Anne's we're proud of our chefs who have won awards in national competitions-not something most Colleges can claim. During the week, College offers three meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner), and on weekends there is only brunch on Saturday and Sunday- by far the best and most eagerly anticipated meals of the week - and a roast once a month on Sunday. There is always at least one vegetarian and/or vegan option provided at all meals, and menus are available online, on the JCR website, for the week. The Chef and his team cater to all dietary needs; simply make yourself known to a member of the Dining Hall staff and they will be more than happy to help. We are also particularly excited about our new Head Chef, who has been with us for three years now. As the former Head Chef at Turl Street Kitchen (a fancy and incredibly popular restaurant in the centre of town), the meals at Anne's have been getting even better, and we hear that he has plans to experiment with some new street food options!

## **Price and Payment**

Food is subsidised with main courses for lunch and dinner at about £3.50. However, soft drinks aren't subsidised (so it might be worth kicking your Diet Coke addiction before coming up). Brunch is perhaps the best value for money, as you can get a full English for just about £3! At the start of each term, £185 from your battels (a fancy Oxford word for a domestic bill from College) will be credited to your Bod Card (University card), which you pay in the first few weeks of each term. Every time you purchase something in Halls, you will scan your card -YOU MUST HAVE IT WITH YOU! It is possible for this to last you the whole term, but only if you stick to eating the very basics. Most people have to top up their Bod Cards before the end of term. This can be done on the St Anne's meal booking service online and may take a while to get used to - ask a second year if you need help. Any money that hasn't been used on your Bod Card will be refunded on your battels at the start of the next term and your balance will be renewed to £185. Tip: CARRY YOUR BOD CARD EVERYWHERE! Tuck it in your phone or lanyard. It is both a form of your student identification and a key to get into relevant colleges and for libraries and department buildings as well as allowing you to be able to buy food in hall and STACS.

## **Formals**

A 3-course meal served to your table (with food of an even higher standard than normal hall meals), complemented with by coffee and chocolates. Formals usually cost around £18 (or more, if you opt into getting a bottle of wine) and occur about five times a term (once a fortnight + one charity formal). The online booking system gives you the option to register any dietary requirements and to have wine with your meal, selected and subsidised by the College. Suits and dresses are to be expected so take this rare opportunity to show off your suave side! Sometimes there may even be a fancy drinks reception in Ruth Deech Building beforehand, especially at the more popular formal events, such as the Family and Sports formals.

## **STACS and Self-Catering**

The St Anne's Coffee Shop is open every day of term from 09:30 - 18:30, including Sundays. STACS is perfect for your caffeine fix, offers a famous pizza range, smoothies, cakes -basically all you could want. Best of all, you can pay using your Bod Card like in the hall, which means that it doesn't feel as though you're spending real money..

Our faves: The pizza (£4 plus 30p per topping - incredible), the chicken & cheese or the pesto, tomato & mozzarella panini (GREAT quick snack when you're in a rush), and the double chocolate chip cookies.

Whichever accommodation you end up living in, you will be guaranteed a kitchen/kitchenette, so if you fancy yourself as a bit of a Jamie Oliver, aren't able to make it to the dining hall during mealtimes, or have specific tastes or dietary needs, then do not worry; you will be able to cook for yourself. Every kitchen comes equipped with a: fridge, freezer, microwave, toaster, hob, oven and kettle (good vibes brought separately). (Oh, also, make sure you declare any food allergies - the wonderful kitchen staff are able to cater to practically everything, and it's important that the college nurse knows, just in case).



## Environment and Sustainability

### Sustainability

St Anne's cares a lot about sustainability and this is seen in all aspects of college life, from our bee friendly plants to our food! Our kitchen uses locally sourced produce and has drastically reduced their plastic use, and the vegetarian and vegan options are really tasty (we were in the top 10 on the Veggie Norington Table which ranks the colleges on how good their veggie options are!) We also run a variety of schemes to help students make eco-friendly decisions including: A bike sharing scheme to help you get around Oxford quickly and with a low carbon footprint (email [isabel.honeyman@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:isabel.honeyman@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) for more information) A food sharing scheme to reduce our food waste <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1188619734862356> Distribution of sustainable period products (email: [willow.carwardine@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:willow.carwardine@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) for more information)

### Bikes

Bikes are certainly great for getting about Oxford quickly, however, many people survive without a bicycle. If you are keen to get a bicycle then you should head down to the OUSU early on in the week, as they always have a good sale on bikes left behind from last year. Walton Street Bike Shop is also a place to look if you are willing to splash out the cash, or Decathlon outside of central Oxford. The Police have recently clamped down on cycling without lights, so make sure you get a light for your bike! Obviously, a sturdy bike lock and a helmet are also essential (your trusty treasurer's bike got stolen after freshers week and it DID have a bike lock- so make sure you get a D lock specifically). The Lodge even sells cheap helmets - some departments have sales at the start of each term, and you can often find a stall near the RadCam in Michaelmas giving free high-vis stickers. The St Anne's Bike scheme allows you to borrow one of the colleges own bikes up to 4 times a week for a fairly cheap termly price. Contact the lodge if you would like to join this scheme!

### Buses

There is a bus system in Oxford, however this is on the pricey side for students for some companies! Return tickets around Oxford to outer locations like Cowley, Iffley and Headington lie in the £3-4 range. For journeys to the Oxford Airport the prices lie around £20. We're lucky St Anne's has a bus stop right outside the front and back entrances!

## Sports!

Undoubtedly one of the best aspects of college life is getting involved in college sport. Whether you want to get involved as part of your daily exercise, as a beginner or are looking for more serious competition, there are a range of abilities, sports and teams here at Anne's. Most teams will be running a stall at the St Anne's Freshers Fair, and if not, feel free to contact Hannah, our sports rep, at [hannah.swain@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.swain@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) or our club captains for more information on how to get involved.

### Rowing

You only have to see the boat race to understand how big rowing is at Oxford, and college level rowing is a great way to get involved. Whether you've rowed before, or never even seen a rowing boat, St Anne's Boat Club is a great place to join if you fancy a fun, stress-free, but also competitive college rowing experience.

Coxing is also a great way to get involved, if you don't fancy rowing - you'll be an essential member of the team and all you need is a loud voice! The boathouse is only 10 mins away if you cycle, but walking is also an option. We have both novice and senior crews, who compete in a number races in Oxford across the year, such as bumps and regattas.

As well as providing the opportunity to meet people from different years within college, keeping fit with land and water sessions, and providing a fun stress relief during term time, SABC also has lots of fun socials like crewdates and formal dinners!

If you're interested, or would like any more information, check out the Instagram page [@stannesbc](#).

### Netball

St Anne's mixed netball team has continued its success, winning many games against colleges to remain in the second division. Netball matches take place on Thursday or Friday lunchtimes. College netball is not a huge commitment but is a great opportunity to get in a quick run around between lectures and meet people from other year groups. Win or lose, we always leave the games smiling! As well as playing, we often have lunch as a team and the socials throughout the year include crew dates and curries at Jamal's. The team is fun and energetic and would love to welcome as many new players as possible, no matter your ability. We look forward to meeting you in Michaelmas!

### Rugby

St Anne's/St John's Rugby Team (AK.A. The Saints!) is a joint college rugby team that strikes the balance between excellent sporting standards and a buzzing social scene. Widely regarded as the best college rugby team in Oxford, having won multiple awards and trophies and having been in the rugby cuppers final, The Saints remains all-inclusive and open to all experience levels. There's something for everyone in this big, rugby-loving family.

## **Men's Football**

A proud sporting institution, St Anne's Football Club, better known as the Mint Green Army (MGA), has two teams catering for all levels of ability. The ones team are in the second to top league of college football and off the back of successive promotions, retaining our place in this league was a serious achievement. Looking ahead to this season, we retain most of the 1st XI but have spaces for Freshers to step up to represent the College. The goal for this season is to have a proper run in Cuppers (cup competition for all colleges), something we have failed to do for far too long now, as well as getting promoted to the top league of college football. The Seconds were relegated last year, but it's a great opportunity for some more chilled football at a slightly lower level and hopefully to get promoted straight back, so there is a lot to look forward to next season. As well as Oxford's best pitch and kit, the MGA are also known for their famous curry nights. We are also invited to play in the uni-wide Futsal League in the Summer, so if 5-a-side is more your thing, then there is also something for you!

## **Lacrosse**

If you're looking to pick up a fun new sport with a really welcoming crowd, great socials and minimal commitment - then the Saints mixed lacrosse team is for you! We train (very casually) about once a week, with cuppers matches every fortnight or so. Whether you've played lots of lacrosse before, only heard of it from Wild Child, or have no idea what lacrosse is, come along and have a go - it's basically glorified catching and throwing! Can't wait to see some new faces in Michaelmas. In the meantime check out our Instagram page [@saints\\_lax\\_](#)

## **Other sports we offer**

We offer many more sports including cricket, rounders, women's football, tennis, badminton, hockey and squash that compete weekly and in cuppers, which are intercollege tournaments. There is sure to be something on the sports scene at Anne's that suits you! There will be many chances to sign up for one of these teams, but your best opportunity is at the college freshers fair in fresher's week. Hope to see you there! If you are interested in setting up/leading a new sport please feel free to get in touch with me, my email address is [hannah.swain@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.swain@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

## **Facilities**

St Anne's has its own gym and weight room in college which you can access year-round for £29. These rooms have a number of cardio machines including bikes, treadmills and cross-trainers as well as a range of fixed and free weights. It is also due to be renovated in the very near future! They are perfect for a quick sweat at the end of a long day. If the college fitness rooms don't quite cater for your gym needs, membership to the gym and swimming facilities at the University Sports Centre at Iffley Road is also a reasonable price. Anne's also shares a sports ground with St John's which is known as "The Fortress" and is about a five-minute cycle from St Anne's up Woodstock Road. It has arguably the best-kept pitches in Oxford, with a

rugby pitch, football pitch, cricket ground, three hard tennis courts and three grass tennis courts accessible in the summer. The tennis courts are free to use (compared to the £5.45 you would pay at Iffley Road). If you are interested in booking a court, please message me on Facebook or email me, Hannah Swain

## **University Level**

If you are super passionate about sport, I really recommend trying to get involved in university level (blues) sport. To sign up for a team, look out for information about trials at the University Freshers' fair. Most university sports clubs will have a Facebook or Instagram where you'll be able to find out more information about their teams. If you're not sure where to start, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me and I'll be happy to help point you in the right direction! Transitioning into life in Oxford is a massive change for everyone and initially the work can feel overwhelming. But don't worry, balancing university sport, your work (lectures, tutes, classes/labs) and social life is very much possible. If at any point you are struggling to get involved in something you want to be doing or having difficulty balancing a super busy schedule (because we have all been there), please feel free to send me a message and I will try to give you some advice about managing everything.

St Anne's is filled with talented sports stars who also have plenty of experience of Blues-level sport so there's likely to be someone at college who you can talk to about the specific sport you're interested in. We can even boast about having 3 Stanners in the Women's Firsts Lightweight boat that raced Cambridge last year! Our sport history includes another Stanner, Amelia Standing, as the Stroke in the Women's Firsts Boat in 2019, as well as three St Anne's rowers in the Women's Firsts Boat in 2022, including the cox! The costs associated with university level sport (subs, kit, varsity etc) are subsidised by the college and there is usually support available from the sports club so do not fret if you feel that you may be limited by funds. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions!

## **Varsity Ski Trip**

The Varsity Ski Trip is a massive event in Oxford's calendar in which Oxford and Cambridge students travel to the French Alps for 6 days of partying, skiing and alpine bliss! Older than the Winter Olympic Games, what started out as the Blues Ski races has now become a renowned 3000+ student strong annual event in the Christmas vacation. Don't miss out - it's going to be epic! Whether you are an experienced slalom racer or complete beginner, the Varsity Ski trip is for you! The whole trip, including ski hire and lessons, are heavily subsidised by the university making it one of the cheapest ski trips out there. Loads of students start out as beginners so don't stress if you've never strapped on skis before! Skiing is only one part of this unmissable trip; relax at the end of the day at après, dance your heart out at the massive opening and closing night parties, and enjoy the many other events that take place throughout the week. Big names from years gone by include Disclosure, Hybrid Minds, Example, Rudimental and Sigala - be sure to expect artists of equal calibre this year, it really will be one of the best weeks of your life! For more information, feel free to contact the St Anne's Varsity rep at [pippa.sefton@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pippa.sefton@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) and join the Anne's varsity Facebook for any updates: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/1454241038201701>

## Music at St Anne's

St Anne's has a lot to offer for musicians of all abilities; whether you're looking for a way to make friends through casual jams, or fancy yourself the next Sir Simon Rattle or Mr Hudson (both St Anne's alumni), you will certainly find your musical voice here.

### Regular Society Meetings STAcappella

- • When: Sundays, 15:00-16:00
- • Where: Mary Ogvile Lecture Theatre
- • Who: Patrick Painter ([patrick.painter@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:patrick.painter@st-annes.ox.ac.uk))

If you enjoy singing, you can join the STAcappella choir. With a focus on more popular music repertoire, it is a non-auditioning, casual environment for both those who have sung before and those who just want to have a shot at it!

### St Anne's BoomSoc

- • When: Sundays, 16:00-17:00
- • Where: Mary Ogvile Lecture Theatre
- • Who: Emily Wackan ([sta.boomsoc@gmail.com](mailto:sta.boomsoc@gmail.com))

St Anne's, unlike any other college in Oxford, also has its own BoomSoc, a boomwhacker group. If you fancy learning how to whack plastic tubes in order to play real pieces of music, you might want to give this a try!

### Anne's x Hugh's Orchestra

- • When: TBC
- • Where: Either MOLT (St Anne's) or Morden Hall (St Hugh's)
- • Who:

oLucindaBell([lucinda.bell@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lucinda.bell@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk))

o Wing Hei Woo ([winghei.woo@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:winghei.woo@st-annes.ox.ac.uk))

The newest kid on the STACMS block, the Anne's and Hugh's orchestra is a non-auditioned Oxford orchestra that performs a more classical repertoire, with a concert at the end of term.

### Recital Series

- • When: Fridays, 18:30-19:15
- • Where: Mary Ogvile Lecture Theatre
- • Who: Nick Samuel ([nicholas.samuel@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nicholas.samuel@st-annes.ox.ac.uk))

The society organises weekly concerts in the MOLT, giving students (both those who study music and those who do not) a chance to perform to an appreciative audience. Whether you want to have the performing experience, or whether you want to watch and support your friends on stage, this is a great opportunity for all students to experience the cultural achievements of St Anne's students!

## Other St Anne's Camerata

## Things

- Who: Dr John Traill (john.traill@music.ox.ac.uk)

St Anne's also has music bursaries available for instrumentalists through its own string orchestra, the St Anne's Camerata, which is made up of a mixture of professional musicians, St Anne's scholars, and exhibitioners from the Oxfordshire area. Conducted by the Director of Music at St Anne's (Dr John Traill), they perform a mixture of classical and modern music to an exceptional standard alongside highly respected ensembles such as the Castalian String Quartet and Kaleidoscope Ensemble

## Performance Scholarship

- Who: Dr John Traill (john.traill@music.ox.ac.uk)

Every year, a bursary of £200 is awarded to the St Anne's College Performance Scholar, open to all instrumentalists and vocalists in the college. Following a competition judged by the Director of Music and a guest adjudicator of esteemed quality (previous years have seen Alice Farhnam and Stuart King grace our MOLT), the winner also gets to perform a prestigious concert for alumni!

## Practice Rooms

If you want to practise playing, you can practise in one of four of St Anne's practice rooms located in the basement of 50 Woodstock Road. You can have access to upright pianos and we are also fortunate to be one of the few colleges with a full drum kit! Also, music students have access to the Annie Barnes Room, which has a Yamaha Grand Piano.

## STACMS Committee / Who to Contact

The music society is brilliantly represented and coordinated by the four second-year music students. All four are extremely active within both the college's musical life and the university's, and are always happy to help and answer any further questions about music at St Anne's College. If this handbook hasn't answered your questions, get in touch with them at:

- • President: Nick Samuel (nicholas.samuel@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)
- • Secretary: Daniel Reynolds (daniel.reynolds@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)
- • Treasurer: Samuel Oliver-Sherry (samuel.oliver-sherry@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)
- • Publicity Officer: Wing Hei Woo (winghei.woo@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

**...or visit the social media pages here (currently only Instagram, but looking to expand!)**

- • Music Society ([https://www.instagram.com/sac\\_musicoc](https://www.instagram.com/sac_musicoc))
- • STAcappella (<https://www.instagram.com/sta.cappella>)
- • St Anne's BoomSoc (<https://www.instagram.com/sta.boomsoc>)
- • Anne's x Hugh's orchestra ([https://www.instagram.com/anneshughs\\_orch](https://www.instagram.com/anneshughs_orch))





## Arts and Drama

### Arts, Film, and Journalism at Annes

St Anne's has a vibrant and exciting artistic culture, which we're always developing, and are especially trying to push this coming year. You can participate in regular workshops held in college, including ones focusing on life-drawing, photography and film. We also host open-mic nights and weekly film screenings in the MOLT if you have a passion for film. St Anne's hosts an annual Arts Week, where we promote the artistic talent of the St Anne's students. And you will be able to witness the artistic flair of our students from the first week at our newly painted college bar ! During the year, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the rich tapestry of Annes art.

Get in contact with Sylvie, this year's Arts Rep, at [Sylvie.jacob@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Sylvie.jacob@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) if you have any more questions about how you can join in, or ideas about projects for this year!

St Anne's is strongly represented in student publishing, with two magazines: Industry and Lunchbox, having been run in the past by Anne's students. We also have a strong cohort of writers and artists working on publications such as the Isis and Cherwell. The St Anne's Arts Fund can provide financial support for theatrical productions, publications, and other events, so just speak to Sylvie (Art's Rep) if you want to access this.

P.S. Funding under £50 can be given without a motion, but larger sums need a JCR vote

### Drama

If you want to be involved in intercollegiate drama, there are plenty of ways to get involved, including groups like OUDS (Oxford University Dramatic Society), OULES (Oxford University Light Entertainment Society) and the Gilbert & Sullivan Society. OUDS has a portal which you can access by visiting their website - where auditions will be listed that you can sign up to for free! Plus, OULES puts on a termly play open to cast and crew of all abilities, so it's a great way to get involved as a complete beginner.

### Music

There are bands and orchestras of every type and size in Oxford, all with regular concerts. If you want to continue to play your instrument, and Anne's doesn't quite have what you want, then the broader university will step in! Of course, there are choirs and singing ensembles of every type too. Like sports, some of the groups require auditions and can be rather competitive - but there are many less competitive ones too. One great bonus of university music is that there are likely to be music tours or trips abroad. Our home-grown groups are STACappella, and Boom Soc, as well as many successful student bands.

## **Student Journalism**

Oxford is absolutely full of brilliant student journalism and editorial work. You could write for the Cherwell, the Oxford Student (OxStu) and the Oxford Blue. If you're looking to try out scientific journalism, you can look at the Oxford Scientist (OxSci) magazine. For the more creatively inclined, you should submit to the arts and literature magazines like Industry, The Isis, Lunchbox and the Oxford Review of Books (The ORB).

St Anne's seems to have quite a big presence in Oxford's student journalism, with several Anne's students heading up major university-wide publications in the past, so if you're interested there will most likely be someone around college to get you started! You can find the individual publications on Facebook or contact one of the committee reps for more information.

## **Debating and Discussion**

There are several university-wide societies where you can indulge in discourse ranging from politics to feminism and philosophy, either through informal roundtable discussions or through formal debating. You can find several of these societies which convene weekly discussion groups through the SU website, or on Facebook.

The world-famous Union is the home of debating at Oxford and is both one of Britain's oldest university unions and one of the world's most prestigious students' societies. Whether you are an avid debater or prefer just to have heated discuss with friends, there are opportunities to get involved at many different levels. If you are not so keen on debating yourself, then it may be worth paying the (hefty) fee to join as there are always great speakers, and every Thursday there is an unmissable debate. Past speakers include Kanye West, Michael Jackson, Malcolm X, Marine Le Pen, Lord Sugar, and even daytime television superstar Judge Judy.

This section has only represented a fraction of what is available - With new societies being created each year (like breadsoc), you have a lot of options out there, and who knows, maybe you will be the next founder!

## Equalities

This year the Equalities Committee is represented by: Liv Pennington (Equal Opportunities Rep), Riyad Ahmed (Ethnic Minorities Rep), James Stephens (Access Rep), Sharon Wilson (Class Rep), PJ Webb (Disabilities Rep), Willow Carwardine (Women's Rep), Siddarth Vaity (International Rep), Ruby Luzzatto (LGBTQ+ Sexualities Rep) and Z Forbes (LGBTQ+ Genders Rep).

St Anne's is an inclusive community and as your Equalities committee this year we are truly trying to embody what it means for everybody to be treated equally. At St Anne's each representative hosts at least one event per term, and we collectively host Equalities Week which will happen in Hilary Term. Each of us are a point of contact to support you in any issues you may be facing with regards to equality, including issues we don't specifically have representatives for such as FirstGen, care leavers/young carers, and low income. As a university we have lots of campaigns on the Student Union website, which you can read more about here! (<https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/campaigns/>)

Current Campaigns include: CLASS Act, FirstGen, DisCam, CRAE, WomCam and many more!

The Equalities Committee are here to help, so please don't hesitate to contact any of us. As students ourselves we can relate to your experiences which may be easier for you to discuss rather than a professional. However, if necessary, we can point you in the right direction if speaking to someone else is more appropriate (e.g. counselling services, the welfare team).

## Class

It is incredibly important that first-gen students and those from a poor socio-economic background feel settled once they've arrived at Oxford. We appreciate and understand that all the fancy jargon, gowns at matriculation, formals and balls can make this particularly difficult as it isn't what most people are used to experiencing. Nonetheless, we want to make sure that everyone can have lots of fun, make the most of the unique experiences and feel comfortable. Also, with the rapidly increasing cost of living, it is crucial that there is adequate financial support in place to help those who require it most, especially as permanent, paid work during term time is not permitted. Luckily, Oxford university in general, and Anne's as a college is on the more affordable side when it comes to rent and food prices, and we also have hardship funding available when people get into significant financial struggle. There is also a lot of financial information available in order to help with budgeting.

## Ethnic Minorities

The BAME community across Oxford University is strong and closely knit. BAME formals are a great opportunity to meet other BAME students from other colleges and other years and BAME socials with one or two other colleges provide another occasion where you can meet other students of a similar background and culture (great for if you are feeling homesick). Socials include trips to G&D's (Oxford's renowned ice cream parlour), college bar trips, and other events, many of which take place in Anne's itself. The Student Union also hosts a range of BAME activities such as BAME Leadership Events, which aims to empower current and aspiring leaders to be effective in their role. Other events discuss issues raised by current BME students, such as being confident as the only BAME person in the room, and these sessions can be a great

way to discuss any concerns or thoughts you may have about being BAME in Oxford. The BAME community at St Anne's is friendly and welcoming to everyone, and our regular socials are a great way to relax and socialise with other BAME students at Anne's.

## **Women**

Something highly useful to be aware of is that college has a stock of free sanitary products that you can order either by contacting your Women's Rep, Tash, on [willow.carwardine@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:willow.carwardine@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) or anonymously via this form: <https://forms.gle/Z9UD4bLNrp4DpR8F9>. Please do take advantage of this system if it's of use to you - we have a significant backlog and a budget to buy more products so make the most of not having to pay for your period supplies! You can get a variety of pads, tampons and menstrual cups completely free!!

## **Access and Outreach**

Access and outreach is a really important part of St Anne's and there are lots of ways you can get involved. By becoming a Student Ambassador for college, you will be able to represent Anne's by giving college tours and answering questions from potential applicants from primary and secondary schools. It's such a great opportunity to feel like a part of the college community, and it feels great to help provide students from more disadvantaged backgrounds with advice and information, to make Oxford feel like a possibility for them. There is also the opportunity for paid work, including open days and residentials, which is a fantastic way to earn money while doing something really worthwhile.

## **LGBTQ+ Community**

Anne's is a very welcoming and open college. We have a big queer scene with events often happening in and around college, both college only and for the wider university. Some events run within Anne's are intended for just LGBTQ+ students, and some are for allies as well; if you're not sure where you fit within the community, come along and have a chat or just take in the atmosphere. Additionally, the LGBTQ+ Society hosts weekly socials for different subsections of our community and there is the legendary Tuesgays where people meet in a college JCR or bar to socialise before heading to Plush (a queer nightclub in the city).

Aside from the fun, there is also a lot of support available. If you are transitioning there is a gender expression fund which you can claim expenses related to this (social and medical) on by contacting the Genders Rep. There is also one run by the LGBTQ+ Soc. We also have two LGBTQ+ Reps in college whose job it is to fight your corner so if you encounter any difficulties or want advice or even just a friendly queer face, they are contactable. This year they are Ruby (she/her) and Z (they/them) They run an Instagram account (@lgbtqiannes) which regularly posts information regarding queer life in Oxford.

Moving to a new place can be scary as a queer person but Oxford is a very welcoming place with an excellent queer scene. We look forward to meeting you!

## **Cultural Food Places**

We recognise that a lot of students will want to cook for themselves but don't know where to buy specific ingredients for those home cooked cultural meals, so here is a list of supermarkets where you can buy non-english foods, whether it's that really particular Swiss chocolate, or halal and kosher meat! We recommend you also bring some with you if you're worried.

Baltic Food (Cowley Road)

Euro Supermarket (Cowley Road)

Lung Wah Chong (near the train station) Seoul Plaza (Cowley Road)

Tahmid's Store (Cowley Road)

Gloucester Green Market (often has pop-up stands with food from all over the world)

## Disabilities

### Disability Support

Being disabled at Oxford can bring some unique challenges. However, the University and your tutors want the best possible for you, and there's a wealth of support to ensure that your time in Oxford is fulfilling and enjoyable. Navigating life with a disability can be tough, so it's really important to ask for support. You're not being given anything you don't deserve – this support is simply there to help level the playing field. Sheila Smith (St Anne's Disabilities coordinator—[sheila.smith@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sheila.smith@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)) is your first port of call for disabilities support. Contact her as soon as you can, so that she can help to work out how College and the University can help you best. All disability support is entirely confidential. Any information you share is never passed on without your permission, but it's really helpful to share some info on a need-to-know basis with your tutors and the DAS, so you can receive the best possible support.

### Checklist

It's great if you're able to do as much of this as possible before term, because it can take several weeks to set up.

- Contact Sheila Smith, Disabilities Coordinator, as early as possible. She can help you to register with the DAS (Disability Advisory Service). The DAS can then help you to apply for DSA (Disabled Students Allowance), which funds equipment, expenses, non-medical helpers (e.g. scribes), and more to support your studies.
- With Sheila and the DAS, you can create your Student Support Plan (SSP), which details how your condition affects your studies and helpful adjustments to accommodation, teaching, and assessment. To give some ideas about what might be helpful in your SSP, here [https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/field/field\\_document/Example\\_SSPB%20dyslexia%20taught%20degree.pdf](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/field/field_document/Example_SSPB%20dyslexia%20taught%20degree.pdf) are two examples: [https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/field/field\\_document/Example\\_SSPB%20dyslexia%20taught%20degree.pdf](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/field/field_document/Example_SSPB%20dyslexia%20taught%20degree.pdf). Your SSP can also include things like accessible accommodation adjustments and more. But, remember, these examples are not exhaustive – if you think something would help ask for it! Please note that Student Support Plans are being updated so may be slightly different to these examples.
- Get medical proof. Ask your GP or hospital doctor for a letter detailing your condition and how it affects you. See <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability/needs> for a template. No diagnosis yet? No problem. It isn't uncommon to be waiting for a referral, and you can still access support from College and the University during this period. Request a letter from your GP explaining that your symptoms and/or traits match the diagnostic criteria for your condition, and that this condition is defined as a disability under the Equality Act. This will be treated by the DAS as if it was a letter of diagnosis.
- Explore whether you're eligible for free prescriptions. <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/prescriptions-and-pharmacies/who-can-get-free-prescriptions/> gives eligibility details. It's worth a look, as it can save a lot of money if you frequently receive prescriptions.
-

This is only a quick summary, so please contact me ([pollyjean.webb@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pollyjean.webb@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)) or Sheila if you'd like any extra information or support. We're here to help! You can also contact your tutors independently to request accommodations. Unlike support from the DAS and DSA, you do not need medical proof to do so. This is useful if you don't have a diagnosis, or don't have one whilst also not meeting the requirements for a GP letter in its place.

## Community

- Within college, we have our own St Anne's Disabilities Community. This year, I'm hoping to organise regular meetups, where we can chat about our experiences and anything else besides. Really, it's just a chance to meet some more people and relax.
- The Student Union has created DisCam – the Disabilities Campaign – which has a Facebook page for general advice and notices alongside specialised groups for different disabilities.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OxfordDisabilities/permalink/1153897018106611>. It's a great way to meet people with experiences similar and different.
- Neurodiversity at Oxford is a project organised by Dr Laura Seymour and Professor Siân Grønlie (who teaches at Anne's!), with DPhil student Georgia Lin as Project Coordinator. The project hosts events that connect individuals socially and professionally, including poetry readings, art exhibitions, informal crafting sessions, and zine workshops. They also offer mentoring. <https://neurodiversityoxford.web.ox.ac.uk/> An important reminder

A disability is defined by the UK Equality Act 2010 as a 'a physical or a mental condition which has a substantial and long-term impact on your ability to do normal day to day activities.' This includes more than you might assume—including some conditions that don't always have obvious effects. So make sure you check <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/discrimination/protected-characteristics/what-counts-as-disability/> for more detail.

Some examples of help you could get:

- Extra time/rest breaks in exams
- Exams spread over a longer period of time
- Recorded lectures
- Transport to and from contact hours (lectures, tutorials, classes)
- Library assistant to take out books for you
- Use of lifts
- Accessible accommodation in college

## Faith

If faith is important to you, there is plenty at both Oxford and St Anne's to help you maintain this. At university a shared faith can be a great way to meet new people. Discover more about yourself and enjoy some great experiences. Whatever your religion you will find a society or a group which allows you to meet other like-minded people.

### **ST ANNE'S CHRISTIAN UNION & OICCU (INTER-COLLEGIATE CHRISTIAN UNION)**

Our CU is a lovely group of people who have a shared love and/or interest for God. So, regardless of where you stand with faith, we'd love to meet you and chat about quite literally anything!

Currently, we hold a Bible study every other week, and a hot chocolate and prayer evening every Sunday. We also have various fun events every term both within our college and joint with the others. OICCU also hosts a range of seminars, talks, and socials. There's lots more information available on the website and Instagram pages. Really looking forward to meeting you all in October!

### **JEWISH SOCIETY (JSOC/OJC)**

Oxford Jsoc (Jewish Society) is NOT just a religious society; our aims and likewise our events are varied in their nature. JSoc organises social, educational as well as religious events for students of all shades of observance - ranging from those who go to shul three times a day to three times a year. With prestigious speakers, cocktail parties, bagel brunches and of course Friday night meals, Jsoc provides a unique opportunity to mix with other Jewish students. We also provide meals every night of the week at the OJC (Oxford Jewish Community Centre) so eating kosher food in Oxford should never be an issue. Charges are reasonable. Look on the J-Soc website for further details. Oxford JSoc has its very own Chaplains, Tracey and Michael Rosenfeld-Schueler. They are around not just to educate, but for any help on any issue, however mundane you might think it is. Further details on the Oxford Jewish Chaplaincy website <http://oxfordchap.weebly.com/>.

Whilst the OJC is the home of Jsoc, we have plenty of events that take place in colleges, which is a great way to get to know Oxford. We have 'lunch n learns' most days of the week on a plethora of controversial and interesting Jewish issues. Traditionally Jsoc has been at the heart of many interfaith and intersociety events, from barbecues to football matches. Despite having events most days of the week, Friday nights are at the heart of JSoc. With themed dinners, speakers and of course chicken soup (that will never match up to Grandma's but we try), Friday night services are a great way to end the week. The JSoc lounge combined with an abundance of alcohol (and kosher food!!) ensures that Friday nights are not only a meal, but one of the best social events of your week. Further details on the J-soc website <http://www.oxfordjsoc.co.uk/jsoc>.

### **ISLAMIC SOCIETY (ISOC)**

The Islamic Society brings together students and alumnae from all backgrounds whether Muslim or not. This university-wide society brings together members from across different colleges for socials, dinners, lectures and classes! There's a weekly term card with all the events going on including Interfaith Formals, Ice Skating and chilled-out trips to G&D's. Ramadan is notably one of the most exciting times for Muslim students as we often get together for evening meals and prayers and enjoy some Halal food. The Prayer Room located in the Robert Hooke Building is a popular place for Muslims to get together for Jummah prayers! There is a large emphasis on welfare and support for other Muslim students and we hope that it



will create an environment where students can feel as though there is someone to turn to if they need help. As an extension of this you can opt-in to have an ISOC-parent to link you directly with students in ISOC who study your subject! To find out more check out the website: <https://www.ouisoc.org/ouisoc-committee>.

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies is also a new institution which has a beautiful library and grounds for studying and lectures located next to Magdalen College. You can get a library card to access an even larger range of Islamic Culture related books and scriptures here: <https://www.oxcis.ac.uk/news/library-reader-cards>.

## **HUMSOC**

The HUM Society caters for the needs of the Hindu and Indian students by providing a range of religious, social, and cultural events across the university. The group intends to educate both Hindus and non-Hindus in the teachings and philosophy of Hinduism. Previous events have included Holi celebrations, social dinners, interfaith sports and speaking events. Every week there are Aarti sessions, involving the waving of lighted lamps before an image of a God, which can be great to give the mind a break after a hard day's work. The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies isn't far from Anne's either. To find out more check out the website: <https://oxfordhindusociety.co.uk/#about>

## **Finances**

### **STUDENT LOAN**

The most important thing to do before you arrive is to sort out your student loan; you can find out how much you're entitled to, and apply, here: [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance). Make sure to do this as soon as you can, so you have plenty of time to focus on the more exciting aspects of coming to college. If you fill it in late, your first payment might be delayed so definitely get on this ASAP... Your student loan is split into two parts:

The Tuition Fee Loan - this covers the entire cost of tuition for home and EU students and is paid directly to the university (one less bill to remember!)

The Maintenance Loan - this covers other living costs; it is means-tested (i.e. the amount you receive depends on your household income)

Last year, the total cost of staying in college accommodation for all three terms was around £4900. This included a room during term, and £185 of hall food per term. Although this is a good rough guide for this year, prices might be going up again this year! Are we surprised!?

### **OXFORD UNIVERSITY BURSARY SCHEME**

This provides money according to your household income, as stated in your student loan application. Staggered funding is available for people with household incomes lower than £42,875. Details can be found here: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/ug-funding/oxford-support>

### **WORKING IN OXFORD**

You're not allowed (and most likely won't have time) to take on proper work while you're at college. The one exception is working for college - you may be able to pick up a couple of shifts per week at the college bar, or do some light library work. Working as an ambassador, either for college or the university, normally reaps financial (or culinary) rewards, as well as providing a good CV filler.

### **STUDENT BANK ACCOUNT**

In short: it's worth getting one. Compared to normal current accounts, they tend to offer excellent terms to students. Make sure to shop around, as banks offer different benefits with varying overdraft options and freebies, like student railcards or vouchers. For foreign students, opening a bank account may require a little more effort. For more information for International Students, please refer to the International Guide or contact our International Rep, Siddarth Vaity.

### **INTERNSHIP AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES**

The main thing to do with these is keep track. Sign up to a couple of careers networks at the freshers' fair, and try to read the (many, MANY) emails you'll receive with lists of opportunities. These will start as soon as you arrive, and sometimes being the early bird will pay off. There are micro-internships specifically for between term-time, and a huge range of Summer internships both paid and voluntary. The applications and deadlines come out in strict batches so do keep your eyes peeled for anything of interest. Some internships will also be advertised on the JCR Facebook page. CV clinics are run by both the college and the University

of Oxford Careers Service, to help guide you through the process if you're struggling. Our advice is apply to a few at a time and know that you don't have to choose something directly related to your subject! Website: <https://www.careers.ox.ac.uk>.

## **STAYING ON TOP OF YOUR FINANCES**

Budget budget budget! Money management apps (such as Money Dashboard and Yolt) are a good way to keep track of your spending, and offer tips on how to avoid your overdraft. Websites like MoneySavingExpert also offer advice and information about a range of financial topics.

## **LEVIES**

These are payments you must make at St Anne's used to fund JCR provisions, and other good causes. Some of these are optional, but a few are compulsory (mainly to avoid people freeloading!). The compulsory Levies are:

JCR Welfare Levy - The Welfare Levy is used to provide vital services to St Anne's students throughout their time at university. These include services such as Welfare Teas, Peer Supporters and Contraceptive provisions.

Punt Levy - The Punt Levy provides free access to Punts during Trinity term to all members of St Anne's College.

Homeless Levy - This levy is given to a broad range of local homelessness charities via On Your Doorstep.  
Danson Room Maintenance Levy - This levy is used to pay for improvements and upkeep of the JCR.

Living Wage Levy - This levy is used to ensure that all staff working at St Anne's College are paid the Real Living Wage, currently £11.44 an hour.

Sanitary Products Levy - Last term the JCR voted to introduce a new £1 compulsory levy which will go towards purchasing sanitary products. This will greatly improve the resources and availability of the Sanitary Product Scheme which allows products to be distributed to JCR members for free.

The opt-out levies are: J

CR Charities - This levy is specifically for donating to charities, chosen each year by the JCR through voting

JCR Homeless Action

JCR Arts Levy - this levy helps fund Arts week.

## Glossary

### Ali's

Kebab vans serve the same function at 3am as oases do in desert environments. Not quite Evian, but heaven when you need it. He is (twice) an Honorary Member of the JCR and has recently invested in some sweet new wheels. Fresh food and fresh looks. Best known for the North Oxford delicacy the 'St Anne's Special'. Say hi to Zak :)

### Arts Week

A week in Trinity Term when Anne's turns up its culture vibe. Expect exhibitions, plays, pimms and painting! You can get involved with the latter - find out more in Michaelmas term.

### Battels

College bill. Includes hall food and any other expenditure on your Bod Card. Often increases proportionately with time spent in the College bar..... probably just a coincidence.

### Beaver

College mascot because St Anne's students spend their days out, hard at work, and retire to their homes at night (a highly questionable analogy). Check out the beavers carved into the stonework of Hartland House. Amy Hartland was a generous benefactor with Canadian roots and admired the work ethic of the early Stanner women.

### Bod-Card

Bodleian University Library Card. Used to take out books from the various university libraries, including our College Libraries. Also used to pay for hall meals. Topped up via meals website.

### Bop

Themed Parties that each College holds a few times each term. Part eye-watering hedonism, part Freudian childhood relapse. Two sides of the same coin, really, but always great fun and an essential feature of first year. Our dining hall 'Mega-Bops' are renowned across the whole university.

### Collections

College assessments taken at the beginning of each term, because nothing says hello to a new term like a three-hour exam. Officially the world's worst progress test and they also don't actually count towards your degree. But, you know, all part of the fun.

### College Family

Bizarre peer mentoring system which has become an ingrained social service in its own right. First-year children are assigned two second-year parents: subjects similar, genders unspecified. Your College parent may have a spouse. Do not be alarmed by this: it isn't legally binding.

## **Consulto et Audacter**

The College's motto, meaning 'purposefully and boldly'.

## **Crew Date**

A dinner you will have, usually with your sports teams, but can be related to any society or subject. You will go to a local restaurant - favourites are Jamal's and Angrid Thai. The custom usually is to not eat anything at all and expose your team members through a series of drinking games you usually won't remember. Don't feel pressured into drinking though if you don't want to! (downing a pint of milk is arguably more impressive)

## **Danson Room**

The undergraduate common room sporting comfy seats, ping pong and foosball tables and some working space too. Also where JCR meetings are held (although not mitigating the discomfort of floor-bound latecomers). Welfare teas are also hosted here along with group showings of Love Island during the summer.

## **Dean**

Nice and important person whom you should only really ever be seeing whilst in the company of several hundred other people. If you're 'deaned', you've probably done something wrong, and if you can't remember what that was, likelihood is that's part of the problem.

## **Formal Hall**

Special dress-up three-course meal held usually five times a term at St Anne's; a proud Oxford tradition. Food is better than anything you could possibly cook/mildly heat in your life. Wine can be included in the price of the meal. Make sure you set an alarm and book up in advance as they sell out quick, especially the Family and Christmas formals Menus and seating plans are available on the notice board in Hartland House.

## **Gowns**

Funky black drapery designed to make you exude pure scholarliness and look extremely attractive to tourists. Needed for matriculation, disciplinary meetings, exams and formal hall in some colleges (but not at St Anne's). Students who achieve a distinction in their first-year exams are upgraded to long Scholar's gowns- ultimate drip for ultimate sweats.

## **JCR Committee**

Your representatives to college, who are there to address all the concerns you might have. You'll think it's a big deal maybe for a week (but hopefully the novelty will never fade), then likely realise that we're the same as you only with.... We're just like you, there are no perks.

## **Keys**

Surprisingly expensive items that you need to get into your room, especially when you lock yourself out and probably are 10 minutes late somewhere. (approach the porters with a smile if this happens)

## **Matriculation**

Compulsory official registration ceremony where everyone wears subfusc and files into the centre of town to listen to some Latin. It may feel a little tedious but everyone makes a day of it and it's the most Oxford you will feel in your entire time here.

## **Prelims/Mods**

First-year (Prelims/Mods) and final-year examinations. Most take their first-year prelims at the end of Trinity term, in summer, yet PPL and Law, Psychology and Classics students sit their mods at the end of Hilary term. Keep calm and carry on.

## **Principal**

Helen King. She runs the college.

## **STACS**

Glorious acronym for St Anne's Coffee Shop, opened in 2008. Opens at 09:30am and closes at 05:30pm daily and takes Bod Cards. Great for working or a catch-up. Get your caffeine fix, and treat yourself to one of their famous pizzas (with a pint if you fancy).

## **Stash**

Basically Merch for college. You can buy College stash (e.g. puffer jackets or fleeces that feature the Anne's crest); university stash; sports stash; stash for different societies - the list is endless. You can also add your initials too! Walk down Cornmarket Street and you will encounter at least 100 people wearing different articles of stash.

## **Trashing**

The Oxford way of celebrating the end of your exams - by having your friends throw prosecco, lambrini, confetti, silly string, Holi paint, baked beans and shaving foam all over you before a pleasant jump into the River Cherwell.

## **Varsity**

The famous Oxford Blue vs Cambridge Blue (minty green) (not to be confused with Mint Green Army green) (which is not mint green) sports matches played every year. Also used to refer to the annual Oxford and Cambridge ski trip.

## **Checklist**

### **BEFORE YOU ARRIVE**

Read the Freshers' notes produced by College and **FILL IN AND RETURN ALL OF YOUR FORMS**. This will make your life once you arrive at Oxford much easier, and make sure you're not in College's bad books.

Follow us on instagram! we are [@st\\_annes\\_students](#) <3

Make a dent in your reading lists, even if it's just a few books! Your life will be easier in Michaelmas term. Don't stress yourself out about it though, you will not be at a massive disadvantage if you can't complete it and not only that, but some subjects don't send out reading lists early so don't worry!

### **WHEN YOU ARRIVE**

Arrive at St Anne's for your allocated time slot. Head straight on over to the Lodge where Freshers Helpers will give you your key and welcome pack.

Find a friendly Freshers Helper (look out for nametags!) and we will show you to your room and point out various key areas of College.

Unload all your things into your room. See off your parents, dry your eyes (and your mum's) and get ready for a great week.

Get to know your room and your accommodation.

Locate the nearest shower, kitchen and bathroom.

Keep hold of your key.

Meet your housemates and prepare to introduce yourself. You will be living with these guys for the next nine months! Good luck!

Go across to the lunch hall. Here you'll be able to meet lots of other Freshers. Sit with whoever, anyone will be happy to chat.

Make your way to the Danson Room or the Quad where you'll be able to meet the rest of your year group, as well as other Freshers Helpers.

Most Importantly, relax and enjoy yourself. Don't worry about trying to meet everyone and remember everyone's names. Instead make the most of everything and have fun on your first day.

## Final Words

We hope that this booklet has answered any questions you've had about life at St Anne's and that you're as excited as us to be back at St Anne's (for many of you, you'll be seeing St Anne's for the first time!). After months of working hard on personal statements, interviews and admissions exams, it can feel strange that your Oxford journey is soon to begin. You've made it! - don't forget that you deserve to be here based on your efforts, strengths and dedication. Oxford is a fresh start, and this year will no doubt be a strange one, but it will pass very quickly so take the time to take it all in and make the most of it!

There's a reason the Oxford admissions process is so long and rigorous. It's not just for the university, so that they can find the best people they can. It's also about choosing people they feel sure will survive and thrive at Oxford. So, if you have anxieties about starting or are worried your tutors have made a mistake, they most definitely haven't. Every person who turns up has been meticulously selected for a specific reason. It won't just be you having those feelings and you are always far from being alone. One of the worries everyone has, in Freshers' Week and beyond, is the sense that everyone is doing better than them; succeeding socially, or coping better academically. That is not true. Everyone has their ups and downs. Oxford is truly a rollercoaster and you're no different.

The opportunities at Oxford range from subject societies, micro-internships, sports, music, art and everything in between. You can do whatever you want and you can do it at the highest levels and competitively. Work is important, but not the be-all and end-all. Oxford could teach you how to be the best Earth Scientist, Historian or Economist in the UK; it could help you to become a stand out actor, a passionate writer or a resilient rugby player. It doesn't have to be one or the other.

Fresher's Week may look like another few days, however it is a unique time where there is almost no academic commitment - a time to find your feet, make friends and discover St Anne's, Oxford and what they have to offer. But remember to not put too much pressure on yourself from the beginning, just enjoy yourself and everything else will fall into place!

Thank you for reading: I hope it gave you a taste of the life ahead and if you have any other question feel free to email me at [roxana.rusu@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:roxana.rusu@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)!

This handbook has been assembled by Roxana Rusu.

Based on the previous year's handbooks compiled by Krishh Chaturvedi, Vivian Abrokwah and Holly Boyle

Enjoy the last few weeks of the summer - we are eagerly awaiting your arrival!



## **Contacts**

### **PRINCIPAL - HELEN KING**

Helen King is a former St Anne's PPE student who then went on to a prolific career in law enforcement, making her way up to the position of Assistant Commissioner, the third highest rank in London's Metropolitan Police. You already know that she's a big deal at college, but she's also a really nice lady who will often stop you for a brief chat when walking around college.

### **VICE PRINCIPAL – PROFESSOR DON PORCELLI**

Prof. Porcelli is there for a confidential chat about College life, work and policy.

### **TREASURER - MR JOHN FORD**

In charge of all things financial. John is the person to see if you are worried about money. Remember, there is no such thing as a stupid question when it comes to managing finances.

### **SENIOR TUTOR FOR ADMISSIONS - DR SHANNON MCKELLAR**

Responsible for the academic business of College - from student recruitment, academic progress and academic teaching staff (tutors and lecturers). She works closely with the JCR Academic Affairs, Access and Welfare Reps.

### **DOMESTIC BURSAR - MR JOHN BANBROOK**

The Bursar is responsible for maintaining College facilities. The Bursary consists of vital departments: Accommodation, Catering & Facilities.

### **ACADEMIC REGISTRAR – KATHERINE BROWN**

Responsible for academic administration. Also works with the Academic Office, which produces materials for incoming Freshers and helps us plan Freshers' Week - please make life easier for them by returning all of your forms on time!

### **DEAN – PROFESSOR FREYA JOHNSTON**

Prof. Johnston is a Fellow in English. It is Prof. Johnston's job (along with the Assistant Deans) to ensure that we all live happily ever after in the College.

### **IT MANAGER - MR IAN BURNELL**

He runs the college computer network. Contact him if you have a problem with the network. For problems with your own machine, contact the IT Rep (Sam Davis).

**LIBRARIAN – CLARE WHITE**

Responsible for both College libraries, she is a friendly face who is sure to also become a familiar face quickly from your many visits to the library.

## **Welfare Details**

### **WELFARE CO-ORDINATOR AND SENIOR TUTOR - Shannon McKellar**

Oversees and co-ordinates welfare support in college. She is available to meet students with any welfare concern, academic or not. Contact [shannon.mckellar@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:shannon.mckellar@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) Academic Office, 1st floor, Hartland House (East)

### **DEAN OF WELFARE - Rachel Busby**

Responsible for student welfare in collaboration with the Assistant Deans and the rest of the Welfare team. Contact: [dean.welfare@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dean.welfare@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) (please email in advance to arrange a meeting) - 50 Woodstock Road.

### **ASSISTANT DEANS - Robert Stagg, Jennifer Cassidy and Ben Verboom**

They live on the main College site and can be contacted by students for an informal chat or advice. They report to the Dean (Freya Johnston) and Senior Tutor (Shannon McKellar). The assistant deans are accessible between 7pm and 8am, but if you want immediate assistance, call the lodge. Contact: [robert.stagg@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:robert.stagg@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) / [jennifer.cassidy@lincoln.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.cassidy@lincoln.ox.ac.uk) / [benjamin.verboom@spi.ox.ac.uk](mailto:benjamin.verboom@spi.ox.ac.uk)

### **COLLEGE NURSE - JULIE OSBORNE**

For all medical and health concerns. Available Monday, Thursday and Friday 09:30 - 12:30, Tuesday 14:00 - 17:00 and Wednesday 10:00 - 13:00. These times may change. Contact: Via the Porters' Lodge or [st-annesnurse@nhs.net](mailto:st-annesnurse@nhs.net) - 27 Banbury Road, Ground floor.

### **COLLEGE DISABILITY CO-ORDINATOR - Mrs Sheila Smith**

Organises many of the practical arrangements surrounding disabilities & works closely with the Disabilities rep to facilitate the needs of all students. Contact: [sheila.smith@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sheila.smith@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) - Academic Office, 1st floor, Hartland House (East)

### **JERICHO HEALTH CENTRE. NEW RADCLIFFE HOUSE. WALTON STREET**

College GP Practice. This is part of Dr. Leaver and Partners. How to contact: 01865 311234 (this is also the out of hours contact number)

### **JCR WELFARE REPS - Nic Ong, Megan Wadsworth and Daisy Johnston**

Contact: [nicholas.ong@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nicholas.ong@st-annes.ox.ac.uk), [megan.wadsworth@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:megan.wadsworth@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) and [daisy.johnston@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:daisy.johnston@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)



## **External Support**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES: (only if there is a genuine emergency) 999**

**NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 101**

**ST ALDATES POLICE STATION (THAMES VALLEY POLICE): 8 King Edward Street, Oxford, OX1 1SZ**

**NHS: 111 (When you require urgent medical help but it's not life-threatening)**

**JOHN RADCLIFFE HOSPITAL: 01865142 166. Headley Way, Headington, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX3 9DU**

**OXFORD FAMILY PLANNING: 01865 456 666**

**OXFORD GUM CLINIC: 01865 231 231**

**NATIONAL DRUGS HELPLINE: 0800 11 66**

**IF IN DOUBT ABOUT WHO TO CONTACT IN AN EMERGENCY CALL THE LODGE AT: +44(0)1865274800**

