

Oxon, July 29th 2024

Dear new Orielenses,

First of all, I would like to say congratulations on being offered a place at Oxford University and at Oriel College! We at Oriel are just as excited to welcome you to our family as you certainly are about coming to join us. On behalf of the entire graduate community here, I welcome you to what I hope will be a life-changing experience that will mark your heart as much as it has marked mine.

You have worked really hard to be here and you will find yourselves surrounded by many people who did so too. You'll get to know many brilliant, smart and impressive people, which will be a lot of fun, but at times you might come to feel some impostor syndrome. In these moments remember that here you will not stand out for how smart you are, but by how kind you are. Kindness is accessible to all and is the building block of a healthy and thriving community such as Oriel. Our college is not primarily a group of beautiful buildings bound by a rich history, but fundamentally a friendly, encouraging and loyal family — of which you will become part from the moment you sign your names in the Provost's book on matriculation day.

During your degree, the Middle Common Room (MCR) will be your home, a place to meet new people, have fun, relax, rant about the hard essay you are working on, or share your excitement at a new project. The MCR runs a busy social calendar with music nights, dinner and bar exchanges with other colleges, welfare teas, a punting scheme, formal dinners, guest nights to which members bring friends or family to enjoy an Oriel experience; furthermore, we have a fantastic bar open twice a week, and Second Desserts on Sunday after formal; there is always coffee, tea and biscuits available for a break from study; we have a members' study room and also run "Oriel Talks", where you can present your work to the rest of the community to have feedback and share you topics of interest.

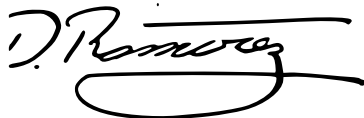
In your time here, I strongly encourage you to get involved and try new things. Believe me, one of the biggest treasures you will take home with you will be the people you meet and the experiences you dare to try. I particularly encourage you to engage with the MCR community through some of the many roles available in our committee, in which you will be able to help shape the life of the graduate community of Oriel. You will be able to get to know the current committee and learn more about the vacant positions during Freshers' Week when you arrive.

Now, Freshers' Week. We are working hard during the vacs to be able to offer you a great experience on you first week here at Oriel, so you get to know the college and

the people in it through many diverse events that will be included in the Freshers' Week Timetable in your Freshers' Pack. It will take place during 0th Week (6th - 13th October) and will open with a reception in Oriel's 400-year-old Dining Hall on the Sunday, as well as with a coffee with Lord Mendoza, the Provost of Oriel on the Tuesday. You will find specific information about all the events of Freshers' Week, as well as general information about Oriel, finding your way around, matriculation, meals and many other things on the MCR website (orielmcr.org), as well as in the Freshers' Guide and Timetable that we have prepared.

Finally, and most importantly, I am here to help you and make your experience of Oriel the best possible. Please, if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, projects, are having a tough time or just wanna have a coffee and chat, do come see me, I'm always around college and happy to talk and help you, either myself or pointing you in the right direction. Count on me and with our fantastic committee. We are very excited to have you join Oriel and are here for each one of you, so do count with our help always. Once again, congratulations and *floreat Oriel!*

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diego Ramirez', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Diego Ramirez A.
MCR President