

Stephanie Holt
MCR President

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Oxford OX1 4EW

Dear fellow Orielensis!

First and foremost I would like to congratulate you on your success in getting to Oxford! Myself, the committee, and the whole of the Middle Common Room are looking forward to welcoming you to Oriel in just a few weeks time.

The MCR is your home away from home not just for the duration of your studies, but for the rest of your life and we all want to make this a welcoming, supportive, and above all fun space for you. The MCR is filled with people from all walks of life, from all over the world, and with one of the most diverse ranges of interests and perspectives I have ever had the pleasure of meeting, we are a true family, and one that you are now part of.

In the MCR you will find our common room, bar, kitchen, and study room. Our bar nights are frankly legendary, and our social and bar teams are building a programme of bar nights which will suit everyone's tastes, you'll have to taste some of our Oriel themed cocktails and Oriel beers and wines – non alcoholic options are also available. Our social team have gone from strength to strength over the last year, and the common room will see everything from elegant wine tasting evenings, creative art sessions, as well as bops and themed party nights to really let off some steam. The common room is the real heart of the MCR, and you'll find people to meet and talk to in there at any time of day, as well as a comfortable space to relax with a book or just to pop into for a coffee. Speaking of, we have an excellent coffee machine, and we provide free teas, coffee, and a selection of snacks for when you need to refuel. Our study room upstairs is currently going through a refurb. Up there you will find desks, monitors to connect your laptop to, and charging stations for your tech. We keep that space quite during the day so people can get their heads down and work.

It's not all just about working hard and playing hard, we are here to support you too. Our welfare team is there to talk to (as well as the Deans) if you're worried or stressed out, and they host welfare events throughout term (including our wonderful weekly Welfare Tea where you can catch a break from study, catch up with friends, or have a chat with our welfare team).

Formals are a major part of life at Oriel, and unlike many other colleges we have formals 6 days a week. On Sunday's these are followed by the legendary Second Desserts, I will leave you to discover those for yourself, but do come along!

While we wait for you to arrive we are making the final preparations for a busy Freshers Week, and we have a fantastic programme of events lined up for you. If you're arriving a little early, there are also activities happening the week before. Do come along, meet the committee and other Orielenses, we can't wait to meet you and welcome you to Oriel and the MCR.

From a personal perspective, I am looking forward to a wonderful year at Oriel as we celebrate the 700th anniversary of our College! I am thrilled to be able to serve our MCR as President, and I'm delighted that we have a brilliant exec committee who are busy hatching plans for an excellent year ahead. The MCR over the last year has carved a real place in my heart, rarely have I felt so welcomed, and when I say it is a family genuinely mean it. We may not agree on everything all the time, debate and free speech are openly welcomed, but we absolutely are there to support each other, find common ground in debate, and unreservedly celebrate our successes.

With best wishes, and *Floreat Oriel*,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SHolt', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stephanie Holt

Oriel MCR President

Oriel College & the Faculty of History (DPhil in the History of Natural History)