

Preston Means

MCR President

Oriel College, Oriel Square

Oxford OX1 4EW

Dear fellow Orielensis,

Congratulations on your success in getting into Oxford! This is an incredible accomplishment, and the graduate community at Oriel is ready to welcome you in the next step of your academic and professional journeys. The Middle Common Room is looking forward to meeting you and supporting you throughout the year.

The MCR is a second home for you as a member of Oriel College. We aim to create a welcoming, supportive, and enjoyable environment for you. You will meet many brilliant people from all over the world. You will meet people with diverse interests and perspectives that challenge you and help you grow both academically and personally. While it may not feel like it in the beginning, this is one of the most formative moments in your Oxford journey. The people I have met in the MCR have truly changed me for the better. Enjoy the formation, embrace the change, and welcome home.

In the MCR you will find the common room, MCR bar, and study room. Our common room is where you will meet the majority of your fellow MCR members, whether during social breaks between study sessions or welfare teas hosted by our Welfare Team. The common room also hosts various events organized by the Social Team including wine tastings and themed parties. The common room is meant to be a comfortable space for you to kick back with some friends or relax with a book. We also have an amazing coffee machine (for free!), free teas, and a kitchen to heat up some meals.

Our Bar Team organizes our weekly bar nights, usually every Wednesday and Friday during term. They also work with our Social Team to organize festivities after our Grand Formal and Guest Night dinners in the formal hall. Our bar offers a variety of cocktails, including two Oriel signatures. We also have a variety of beers and wines, and we are working on incorporating more mocktails into the menu.

The study room upstairs houses extra monitors and charging stations for your use. It kept as a quiet space for anyone needing to hunker down and work. Despite its quiet nature, the study room is another likely place where you will forge friendships as you work in solidarity with your peers before finding an MCR event to attend or heading out on the town to end your workday.

Apart from being a social and academic space, the MCR is here to provide you support. Our Welfare Team and the Deans are here to discuss any issues you may have, as well as be a listening ear if you have any worries or stress you would like to discuss. If you need any

guidance to resources throughout your time in Oxford, they are fantastic to reach out to (and feel free to reach out to me!)

We are excitedly anticipating your arrival. We are making final preparations for an eventful Fresher's Week where you can attend events in the MCR to meet your cohort. There will also be events the week before for anyone arriving earlier. Feel free to attend any of these events (and be mindful of some required events), as this is a fantastic time to make connections and enjoy yourself before the real work starts. We are so excited to meet you!

On a personal note, I cannot put into words how excited I am to welcome you all to Oriel. It was this community that helped me integrate into Oxford. I am incredibly humbled to be acting as the MCR President this year. Our brilliant MCR Exec Committee is busy crafting plans to make the MCR as engaging and welcoming as possible. Thanks to the Committee last year and the members who greeted my cohort so warmly, I have never had a space in Oxford that I so consistently feel that I can come home to. I hope we can bring that warmth and excitement to you this year.

Best wishes, and *Floreat Oriel*,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized 'P' and 'M' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

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