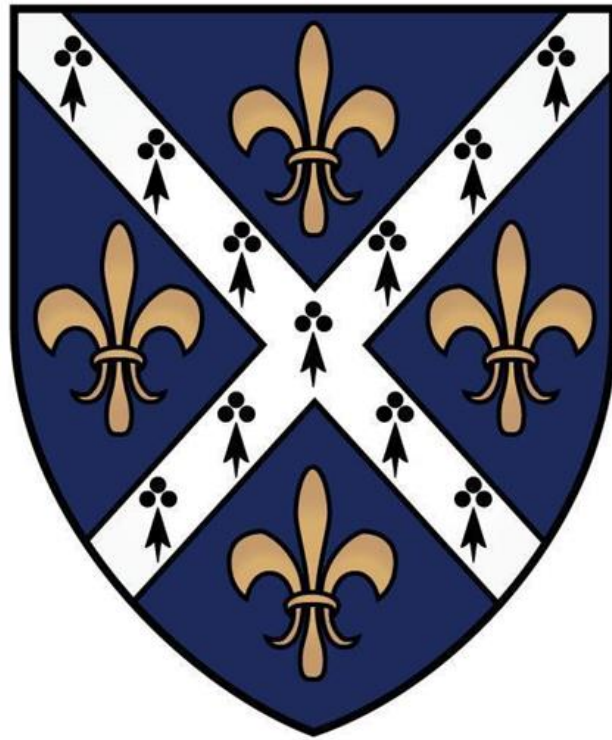


# **St Hugh's College MCR**



## **Freshers' Guide**

### **2023–24**



## A Word of Welcome!

Dear new Graduate Hughsies,

The spirit of St Hugh's is best embodied in our two college cats: Professor Biscuit and Admiral Flapjack. Now, these are two cool cats. Enormously erudite, Prof Biscuit wears his learning lightly. Flapjack, decorated as she may be, isn't one to strut about or puff herself up. They are instead (like the Hugh's community at large) warm, cuddly, friendly, and with an insatiable appetite for ~~treats~~ friendship. And although there may not be a competent mouser between the pair, we love them all the same.

If you have chosen St Hugh's, then you have chosen wisely. If Hugh's has chosen you, then count yourself among the lucky. For whatever type of cat you may be, (alleycat, glamour-puss, hypoallergenic, etc.) you will find a home at Hugh's.

Sincerely,

The St Hugh's Middle Common Room (MCR) Committee

(In cooperation with the St Hugh's Meow-CR Committee)



## About St Hugh's

St Hugh's was established in 1886 as a college for "women of lesser means". It first began accepting men on its centennial in 1986 and now has an equitable mix of both women and men. The college was founded by Elizabeth Wordsworth, the great-niece of famous poet William Wordsworth. Her father was the Bishop of Lincoln and, for this reason, she named St Hugh's College after the 12<sup>th</sup> century Bishop of Lincoln, St Hugh of Avalon (1140–1200). At that time, the Diocese of Lincoln included Oxford, so you can find statues of St Hugh (and his swan) throughout the city of Oxford (e.g. St Mary Magdalen Church, the New College cloisters, etc.).

St Hugh's is now one of the largest colleges at the University of Oxford, in terms of both size (approximately 15 acres) and students (about 900 students, split roughly equally between undergraduates and postgraduates). Notable graduates of St Hugh's include Theresa May (former Prime Minister of the UK), Aung San Suu Kyi (former State Counsellor of Myanmar and Nobel Peace Prize winner), Amal Clooney (human rights lawyer), and Barbara Castle (former First Secretary of State of the UK).

Read more about the [history of St Hugh's](#).



# Pre-Arrival

## Pre-Arrival Communications

You will have already received information from the University and College on your personal email, but as term approaches this email traffic will quickly divert to your Oxford email. You will want to set that up and begin to regularly check it *as soon as possible*. You will also want to avail yourself of the WhatsApp and Facebook groups set up to connect all 2023–24 St Hugh's MCR students. You may also want to peruse [Oxford's Welcome Guide](#), along with the [St Hugh's MCR page](#) and the [St Hugh's New Students page](#).

WhatsApp MCR General Chat group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/K5qXNCnsmrq3Fg9fHekCWN>

WhatsApp MCR Announcements group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GfIP4q2nqa1DtyjkSytezt>

Facebook MCR group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/995902834891171/>

## Freshers' Week

Although according to the [Dates of Term](#), Michaelmas Term doesn't officially start until Sunday, 8 October (Week 1), there will be a number of events taking place in Week 0 ('noughth week') and even Week -1 to help you settle smoothly into Oxford and make sure everyone has a place to meet other Hughsies before term starts. The St Hugh's MCR Committee (postgraduate student committee) is hosting a full roster of events especially for you, including but not limited to: pub nights, dancing, and casual meet-ups. These events will start at the end of Week -1 (~ Sept 28) and ramp up throughout Week 0 (Oct 1–7). Additional information and a schedule of events will be sent to your Oxford email in the coming weeks.

## Your Department

In addition to the roster of events put on by the St Hugh's MCR Committee, your department may also be hosting welcome and meet-and-greet events. You have likely heard from someone in your department already, but If you have questions related to your course, contact your departmental director of graduate studies or course advisor.



# Getting to Oxford

## Flying

For those of you flying, try to arrive via either Heathrow or Gatwick. Luton or Stansted are also options, but it's a bit tougher to reach Oxford from either of those airports. From the airport, it's usually easiest to reach Oxford by bus rather than other means of transportation.

## Buses

There are two main bus services to be aware of:

1. **The Airline Bus**—The easiest way to get to Oxford from Heathrow or Gatwick. Check times online but they run regularly. Gloucester Green is the main bus station and the closest to St Hugh's.
2. **The Oxford Tube**—Despite the name, this is a bus service and NOT actually a train/metro service. It runs regularly from multiple stops in London to Oxford. It also puts in at Gloucester Green. The train is also an option for getting to/from London.

You can use the National Express to get to Oxford from Luton or Stansted.

## Trains

If you are arriving by train, then the closest station is Oxford (Central). Oxford Parkway is also nearby. After you settle in, trains are great for getting around the country—more on that later.

## Cabs

If you arrive in the City Centre, you can walk or take a bus (just check Google Maps, CityMapper, etc.), but if you're heavily laden with baggage then you might want to take a cab. Uber works but is expensive—001 Taxis or RoyalCarsOxford are other app-based taxi services.

## Arriving at college

If you're living in College, you will pick up your key from the Porters' Lodge. If you're using Google Maps, simply type in "St Hugh's College" and it will take you to the lodge.



# Top 5 Tips for Incoming Freshers

## 1. Arrive as early as possible

Despite the official dates of term listed online, we recommend you arrive as early as possible to take advantage of all of the opportunities to meet people and get settled in during Week 0 and even during Week -1.

## 2. Bring formalwear

Oxford is unusual in that students will routinely have occasion to wear cocktail and formalwear. Strange as it may sound, suits, tuxedos, cocktail dresses and ball gowns are routinely seen around the University! Whether this is to attend formal dinners, balls, or simply matriculate and/or sit your exams, your future self will thank your present self for packing formalwear. In addition, you should read up on [‘sub fusc’](#) requirements and ensure you bring all constituent elements; you may have clothing that will suit both functions.

## 3. Join a Freshers Family

Incoming Freshers have the opportunity to join a ‘family’ with 1-2 returning students acting as ‘parents’ who will show incoming students around, organize outings to pubs, and generally show them the ropes. It’s a fun tradition in which we encourage everyone to partake!

## 4. Download a Few Apps for Getting Around

We previously mentioned 001 Taxis and RoyalCarsOxford as cheaper alternatives to Uber. In terms of nationwide rail service, try downloading Trainline or TrainPal for buying train tickets. If you intend on traveling around the UK via train at all, you will want to buy a [student railcard](#) — it will pay itself off quickly.

## 5. Freshers’ Fair

There is a [wide array of clubs and societies at Oxford](#) and nearly all make an effort to recruit new members during the [Freshers’ Fair](#), currently scheduled for **4–5 October**. You won’t want to miss it!



# Student Resources

## University & College

A number of resources available to students through two avenues: the University and the College. The dual nature of the system is rooted in tradition and, while at times redundant, it also helps to provide a capacious safety net. Often the College points of contact are a good place to start because they are in a position to give you more personalized attention.

## Health & Welfare: Who's Who?

St Hugh's maintains a broad array of [resources for personal welfare](#). Sarah Dragonetti serves as the [College Nurse & Wellbeing Coordinator](#), Femke Stokes as the [College Counsellor](#), and the Reverend Katie Tupling as the Interim [College Chaplain](#) — to name only a few. In addition, the Porters are all trained in First Aid.

The [MCR Committee](#) maintains hygienic items, sexual health items, and a first-aid kit in the MCR House (87 Banbury Rd). The MCR Committee Welfare Officers also lead welfare initiatives, along with members of the University-wide [Peer Support program](#). You can access the [Oxford Nightline](#) at 01865 270270 which is a self-described “listening, support and information service run for and by students of Oxford and Oxford Brookes universities”.

As a student in the UK, you will also have access to National Health Service (NHS) resources. To access these you MUST register with a surgery upon arrival. You will receive separate instructions/exhortations about this. If you live in College, you will want to register at [Summertown Health Centre](#). If you live outside of College, you will want to consult the [NHS Directory](#) for your closest location. In the case of an emergency, you can reach the NHS at 111 (you should dial 999 for other emergencies – 112 will also work).

## Academic & Financial Matters

Academic matters can often be addressed with Thea Crapper, [Academic Registrar](#). Sometimes you may also wish to consult your College advisor, a Fellow of the College who is in your field of study (but probably not your exact course of study). They will reach out during the first few weeks of term. If unforeseen financial circumstances threaten your studies, consult the [Financial Assistance webpage](#). Watch your email throughout the year for info on Research Travel Grants.



# Facilities & Services

## Food & Formals

From 0<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> weeks, the dining hall provides three meals a day during the week and brunch at weekends for St Hugh's students living either on College or off. There are always vegetarian and vegan options, and many dietary requirements can be accommodated by writing to the Catering Manager in advance ([additional information and contact details here](#)).

[Formal Halls](#) take place during termtime on a weekly basis (and sometimes more often). Intercollegiate Exchange Formals are facilitated by the MCR Committee with other colleges and also occur regularly during termtime.

## Bod card

Your Bod card (short for [Bodleian Libraries](#) card) is about the most valuable thing you will own in Oxford. It is used to:

1. Swipe into University and College buildings
2. Check out library books
3. Identify yourself at exams and University and College events
4. Pay for meals in College
5. Secure student discounts throughout Oxford

## Post & Parcels

The College maintains a pidge ('pigeon hole', i.e. a mailbox) for each student in the Lodge where post (mail) can be delivered. Post and parcels should be addressed thusly:

[Student Name]  
St Hugh's College  
St Margaret's Road  
Oxford OX2 6LE



## Email, Internet, & Data

You will receive instructions about [setting up your email](#) before you arrive to Oxford. [Requests for name changes](#) can be made in the case of problems (or preferences). You can [access the internet](#) by completing only a few short steps. You can contact the [St Hugh's IT team](#) if you have any issues. You may also easily purchase a [data plan](#) through one of several phone carriers.

## Laundry

Low-cost laundry facilities are located in the MCR House (87 Banbury) and 13 Canterbury Rd. Additional laundry rooms can be found in Maplethorpe Building, though these are mainly for undergraduate use. Some laundry rooms have irons.

## Gym, Sport, & Societies

The [St Hugh's Gym](#) is available to students for a nominal fee. Private gyms, like [Buzz Gym](#), are also a popular option depending on your needs. The MCR also maintains croquet, badminton, and other sports equipment for use by students. Meanwhile, MCR members have access tennis & football courts shared with Keble College on Woodstock Road and squash courts at Wolfson College at specific timeslots. Talk to the MCR Sports Rep for more details.

Like all colleges, St Hugh's is immensely fond of its rowing teams and the Torpids and Summer Eights races are considered by many to be highlights of the year. There are however several other sports teams including [football](#), cricket and more! The JCR (undergraduate body) also maintains [several clubs and societies](#) which are also open to MCR members. With the exception of rowing, the College clubs tend to be more casual than the [University-led clubs and societies](#) discussed previously.

## Cycling

Because Oxford is relatively compact and St Hugh's relatively close to City Centre many students get by walking. However, others (particularly those who live in Cowley, Botley, etc.) may find it convenient to invest in a bicycle. There are several places to buy a [secondhand bicycle](#). You can also purchase [discounted locks and lights](#) through the University. The St Hugh's Porters' Lodge has a bike pump and WD40 for jammed locks.

## Further Reading

We hope that this guide will help to make your introduction to the College (and the University!) to be stress-free and hug(hs)ely enjoyable! You will find several other

1. [University of Oxford's 'Preparing for Oxford' Guide](#)
2. [St Hugh's College](#)
3. [St Hugh's College MCR](#)

# The Complete Who's Who

## Principal: [Lady Elish Angiolini](#)

The Principal is the head of college, ultimately responsible for all that takes place within its walls. You may be invited to her house or garden at some point this year. Lady Elish previously served as the first female Lord Advocate of Scotland.

**Most likely to be...** saying grace at Formal Hall

**Can be found...** in her office in Main Building

## Academic Registrar: [Thea Crapper](#)

The Academic Registrar is your first point of contact for all academic matters in college. She is also the disability contact and the person to email if there are problems with exams or submissions. She can put you in touch with the Senior Tutor, Professor Vilain.

**Most likely to be...** working hard for students to make sure all is going well with their degrees

**Can be found...** in the College Office in Main Building

## Senior Tutor: [Professor Robert Vilain](#)

Professor Vilain is responsible for the academic progress of the College's postgraduate and undergraduate students, working very closely with Thea Crapper, Academic Registrar.

**Most likely to be...** singing the praises of the students' research

**Can be found...** by contacting Thea Crapper

## Dean: [Dr Damian Jenkins](#)

The Dean is responsible for discipline in College. He heads the decanal team of an assistant and four junior deans, who are all graduate students and whose job is to prevent fun in inappropriate places.

**Most likely to be...** laying down the law to any misbehaving students

**Can be found...** if you're up to no good, you don't find him, he finds you...

## Accommodation Manager: [Magdalena Robinson](#)

Magdalena is your first contact for all accommodation issues within College.

**Most likely to be...** juggling all the room bookings in College

**Can be found...** in her office in Main Building, by the entrance

## **Estates Team:** Headed by [Richard Noonan](#)

Door knobs, chairs, walls, windows: if anything breaks, the Estates Team is your best friend. Fill in the [Maintenance Request Form](#) and they will arrive at your door (usually that day or the next).

**Most likely to be...** holding College together

**Can be found...** through the magic of the Maintenance Request Form

## **Domestic Bursar:** [Rahele Mirnateghi](#)

Rahele is responsible for catering and household matters at St Hugh's, from the sandwiches at lunchtime to the high table menu at Formal Hall.

**Most likely to be...** deciding what you're going to be eating in the hall

**Can be found...** in her office in Main Building

## **Nurse & Wellbeing Coordinator:** [Sarah Dragonetti](#)

Sarah will help you if you get sick, or want a chat, and can also refer you to your GP. She can liaise with your department if you need extensions for medical reasons and helps organize wellbeing events — particularly those in relation to the gardens!

**Most likely to be...** emailing you about her Friday gardening events

**Can be found...** in her office on the first floor of the main building

## **College Counsellor:** [Femke Stokes](#)

Femke is an accredited BACP (British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy) available for St Hugh's students to talk to.

**Most likely to be...** helping students work through personal issues

**Can be found...** by emailing her!

## **Chaplain:** [The Reverend Katie Tupling](#)

The Reverend Katie Tupling is our Interim College Chaplain College Chaplain and holds weekly chapel services featuring a choir consisting of both students and faculty. She is available for all students of any religion (or none).

**Most likely to be...** filling Main Building with song on Sundays!

**Can be found...** at her office next to the Chapel

## IT Office

The [St Hugh's IT office](#) is in Main Building, along the corridor with the other College offices. They are primarily there to help with any problems that can't be solved on your own.

**Most likely to be ...** solving all of your technical difficulties

**Can be found ...** in their office in Main Building

**Porters:** The Porters are responsible for the security of College. They also sort the post, delivered to your pigeonhole in the lodge. They can help in the event you're locked out or would like to make an anonymous noise complaint. The Porters are very friendly and incredibly helpful!

**Most likely to be ...** emailing you when your Amazon Prime order arrives

**Can be found ...** in the Porters' Lodge ('Plodge') by the front gate

**Scouts:** For those living in College, the scouts will normally clean your rooms once per week (vacuuming carpets, wiping down hard surfaces) and communal facilities (e.g. kitchens) each weekday. If you want to make any special arrangements about room cleaning (fortnightly instead of weekly or whatever) they are very approachable.

**Most likely to be ...** the unsung heroes of college!

**Can be found ...** in three places at once (rumours of their magical powers abound)

**Gardeners:** The gardens are the pride and joy of St Hugh's and the gardeners can be found busying themselves in the flowerbeds or trimming shrubs to maintain them. You may not have much to do with them, but if you are a keen gardener, I'm sure they would be more than happy to have a chat!

**Most likely to be...** making the gardens bloom

**Can be found ...** in any green space, but particularly near the greenhouse by 13 Canterbury Road

**Felines in Residence:** [Professor Biscuit and Admiral Flapjack are the College Cats](#) who may be very friendly/persuasive, but should not be fed treats! They are welcome to roam free, but you should always make sure they can get out of any buildings in which they may wander.

**Most likely to be...** sunning on the lawn or posing for close-ups

**Can be found...** where the cuddles are

You may also consult the [complete list of St Hugh's Faculty and staff](#) online.



## Glossary

<b>Battels</b>	(n, pl) Bills from College
<b>Bod</b>	(n) contraction of Bodleian library
<b>Bod card</b>	(n) Library card/ID/access card/payment card for meals. Without it, life gets rather difficult.
<b>Bop</b>	(n) Party in the College bar, normally fancy dress (costume/theme dress). At St Hugh's, we call the Friday night MCR social event 'TFS', for 'The Friday Social'.
<b>Common Rooms</b>	(n) <b>JCR</b> —Undergraduate student body (and physical common room) (n) <b>MCR</b> —Postgraduate student body (and physical common room) (n) <b>SCR</b> —Academic faculty
<b>Fellow</b>	(n) A member of the College teaching staff (tutors, lecturers...) A fellow or tutor is also known as a Don.
<b>Formal</b>	(n) Formal Hall
<b>Fresher</b>	(n) First-year student, whether undergraduate or postgraduate
<b>Hall</b>	(n) Dining hall; food provided therein
<b>Noughth week</b>	(n) 0 <sup>th</sup> week is the week before term starts, preceded by -1st week

<b>Oxford Union; Union</b>	(n) University debating society  (n) the building where Union debates and speeches are held
<b>Pidge</b>	(n) contraction of pigeonhole, meaning your mailbox in the Plodge
<b>Plodge</b>	(n) contraction of Porters' Lodge
<b>Principal</b>	(n) Head of the College, currently <a href="#">Lady Elish Angiolini</a> for St Hugh's
<b>Punt</b>	1. (n) A long, flat water vessel propelled by a long pole  2. (vb) About the most inefficient means of propulsion through water. Great fun!
<b>Sub fusc</b>	(n) Fancy dress worn when sitting exams and for matriculation.
<b>Terms</b>	(n) <b>Michaelmas</b> —Autumn term: October to December  (n) <b>Hilary</b> —Winter/Spring term: January to March. Also known as 'Hellary' for the combination of weather and workload.  (n) <b>Trinity</b> —Summer term: April to June
<b>TFS</b>	(n) St Hugh's-specific abbreviation for The Friday Social, our MCR's weekly Friday night social activity
<b>Tilly</b>	(dog) St Hugh's dog-in-residence—she can often be seen walking around College with her mum (Elish, our Principal) or dad (Dom). Friendly but hates poodles.
<b>Tutorial; Tute</b>	(n) Small class or one-to-one teaching
<b>Vice-Chancellor</b>	(n) Head of the University of Oxford, currently Professor Irene Tracey.

# Map of College

