

St Hugh's College

FRESHER'S GUIDE - 2024

FRESHER'S REP

WELCOME

I'm Ernesto. 2nd vear Psychology and Linguistics student and I'll be Fresher's Rep for vour term in this amazing place that is St Hugh's. I know you've probably heard it tens of times by now, but let me say it again: you've landed in the best possible place, and I'm not just talking about Oxford—I'm talking about Hugh's. This college is full of incredible people, and you'll soon see why St Hugh's is so special.

It feels surreal that I'm already writing this; it feels like just vesterday was fresher That's why myself. my classmates and I have together this guide to make your transition into college life as smooth as possible and to preview some of the exciting things awaiting you. I've spent more time on this guide than on revising for my exams, so I hope it helps!



PLEASE READ THIS — it could save you from some awkward moments. There will be some things that I left out, so please feel free to send me a message and I'll get back to you.

Now, onto Fresher's Week (0th Week)! You'll be busy with informative talks, engaging workshops, meeting your tutors and whatever your college families come up with. The best parts, of course, are the social activities scheduled throughout the day and into the night, designed to suit every taste. Most importantly, enjoy the experience and make the most amazing friends!

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WHAT TO BRING/BUY

LOTHING

- Pyjamas, slippers and comfortable outfits
- SubFusc (will email you on this)
- Formal clothes for subfusc (Academic Dress in the uni website)
- Smart clothes for formals/events (there will be some black tie ones)
- Sporting attire (if you play)
- Costumes, etc...

• Bedding (can purchase from us)

- Bathroom towel
- Washing pods
- Drawing pins for the notice-board
- Clothes Hangers and Drying Rack
- Photographs from before uni made you cry over an essay
- Whatever cooking/kitchen items you may need (don't go crazy)

ALS

- Passport and valid ID
- Cards and cash both
- NHS and Insurance cards
- Medical details
- Keyring for your room key

essay
on't go crazy)



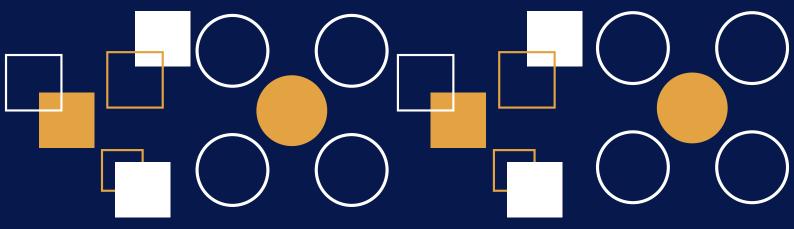


• Hygiene and shower products

- Condoms/sanitary
- Shavers/razors
- Basic med-kit (painkillers and antihistamines are key)
- Washing pods
- Dish soap
- Laptop
- Whatever you use to take notes (iPad, notebook, whiteboard)
- Any course-related books you have
- Past notes (may be handy)
- Planner or academic diary
- Bookmarkers

ELLANEOUS

- Water bottle
- A bike with a lock (easy to buy in Oxford)
- Headphones (noice-cancelling if you have bands)
- Umbrella
- Laundry bag
- Some long chargers (some libraries don't have personal sockets)



ACCOM KENYON



Kenyon embodies the rebellious, anti-establishment ethos that St. Hugh's is known for by boldly choosing to be situated more than a mile away from Oxford's bustling city centre. The striking brutalist design by architect David Roberts gives Freshers a truly unique living experience that stands apart from the norm. Unlike some colleges that couldn't handle such avantgarde architecture—New College famously tore down another one of Roberts' creations for being too radical— St. Hugh's has embraced it. If you have been lucky enough to be offered a Kenyon room, then congratulations—you got the arguably quintessential Fresher experience at St Hugh's. Kenyon houses exclusively Freshers (and a junior dean), making it ideal for group hangouts, getting ready to party, or just gossiping on the stairs.

In Kenyon, you'll find that floors are split into two sections of 6-8 rooms each, which tend to comprise at least one kitchen, one toilet, and one shower. Because of this, you won't be sharing with a ton of people; however, it does force you to be on (at least) acceptable terms with your flatmates. Kenyon also has its own laundry room, so you don't even have to leave your building in the cold winter.

While not particularly massive, every room is wellstocked with everything you might need (except a toilet and shower—that is reserved for the lucky MTB lot). Do mind that it comes with a single bed for sheets and that's it! Every room has its own window, which will provide you with amazing natural lighting, which you can enjoy in the comfort of your own window seat that comes with cushions and everything. There is plenty of storage space, so do not worry about clothes or small items, although you may struggle to fit suitcases or boxes, so take them back when moving in or put them in storage. The most important thing, of course, is your own sink. It might sound mundane, but having the ability to brush your teeth or do your skincare routine in your pajamas before bed is an absolute game-changer. You'll also have plenty of shelves for books or decoration, your own (pretty big) desk, and some pinboards to hang photos or reminders.



ACCOM MAIN

by Audrey D-H



If you are in Main Building, you are in luck. It is laid out across two floors and is fresher's accommodation only so is the perfect place to be for optimal settling in. The rooms in Main Building come in a variety of shapes and sizes, however, each contains a single bed, a desk, a wardrobe, a bin and a lamp. If you are lucky, you may also get shelving and an additional comfy chair. Unfortunately, the rooms in Main do not come with a sink, however, the corridors of rooms and the shared bathrooms help to contribute to a very friendly communal atmosphere. You may also find that the bathrooms that contain baths or bidets for a taste of luxury living.



Main Building is definitely the place to be if you enjoy cooking as it hosts spacious kitchens on both floors (one on the first floor and two on the second floor), that provide plenty of space for cheffing up whatever you may desire as well as cupboards, fridges and freezers for storage. There are also 'half-kitchens', complete with a kettle and a sink for additional space. These are another reason why Main can be the social hub of your freshers' experience: the kitchens can be a lively haunt both during the day and in the evening.

Of course, if you do not wish to cook then another great aspect of Main is that Hall is just downstairs. In fact, there is no need to set foot outside of the building at all as it comes equipped with the catered Hall, the Bar, the Library, the JCR, and the Chapel. Moreover, if you start to worry that you never have to exert yourself to reach anything you may need -great news! - The gym also does not require venturing outside. The only reason to leave is to do laundry which is the one thing Main lacks, located either in Kenyon or Maplethorpe.

Also, when you inevitably lock yourself out of your room, the Porter's Lodge (Plodge) is right outside so it is easy to go and retrieve a key. Overall, Main building (although with the simplest rooms) offers the quintessential Oxford college experience. It is the main hub of the college and the biggest freshers' accommodation so allows you to meet the newest people and be in the centre of the action at all times.

ACCOM MTB



Maplethorpe (MTB) is the newest set of accommodation in college, perfectly located right in front of the beautiful gardens, which you'll have the pleasure of seeing every day. One of the coolest perks? Your Oxford Bodleian card doubles as your room key, so you don't have to juggle an extra set of keys. It might seem like a small thing, but in the whirlwind of Oxford life, it's a total game-changer.

Each corridor is comprised of eight rooms and one communal kitchen, with two fridges, two freezers and more than adequate cupboard space for everyone, as well as a central dining table to have meals confortably. Although not reserved entirely for Freshers, you'll likely be on a staircase with all of its 24 rooms solely comprised of fresh-faced first years so you'll have no trouble making friends or socialising.



What's more, with the laundry room just a short walk downstairs and the centre of Oxford a crucial few metres closer than for those in Main and Kenyon, Maplethorpe truly does provide you with everything you'll ever need, and of course the envy of those other Freshers not lucky enough to grace its modern, open halls.





DINING HALL

At Hugh's, you'll typically be treated to three meals a day, all paid for using your Bod Card. Be mindful of how many ketchup packets you take, though—each item adds up! Mondays are vegan, so my carnivore friends and I usually eat in town, but hey, more for you guys. On weekends, there's only brunch, but it runs late, so you can pack a massive scran and hold out until dinner. Breakfast features the usual suspects—beans, eggs, bacon, and more—and you can grab some coffee and fruit to boost your energy before that dreaded tutorial. The other meals vary constantly, and you'd be surprised at how much the weekly menu, which we get in our email, affects our mood. Our group chat explodes with joy whenever we see bang-bang chicken or sea bass teriyaki. Also, plan your entire week around Burger Tuesdays—the queue is longer than my Fresher's Rep to-do list, and trust me, it's pretty long.

If you have any dietary requirements, don't worry—just let the college know, and they'll accommodate your needs. And if you're a gym bro keeping an eye on your macros, you can even check the nutritional info on the menu.

To add money to your Bod Card, you can simply use the Upay system—an app the college uses. Now, you might worry that all this eating will rinse your bank account, but fear not, because the prices in the hall are very reasonable. Meals usually range from about £2-4, and the portion sizes are pretty generous.





FORMAL HALL

But if you think the regular meals are something to get excited about, wait until you experience the formals—the true highlight of Oxford dining. These aren't just meals; they're an event, a spectacle, and one of the most memorable parts of your time here. Whether you're sharing crazy stories with your friends or indulging in some of the best food you'll ever have, formals at Hugh's offer an unforgettable experience that combines tradition, great company, and exceptional dining.

Got a little too excited there. In all seriousness, formals are one of the most unique things you'll experience at Oxford, and I strongly recommend going. Tickets cost around £15, and you have to book them in advance, so coordinate with your pals (maybe invite a guest from another college) and enjoy the night. The meals typically consist of three courses (very rarely four), and they might just be the best food you'll ever taste. Never judge the menu too quickly—I nearly cried when I saw artichoke soup on the menu one day, and it ended up being my favourite dish of the term.

And on that note, please do yourself a favour and follow the chefs at **@chefs_at_sthughs** on Instagram. We DM them after every formal to tell them they did a good job, even though they probably think we're just a bunch of obsessed weirdos.





COLLEGE SPACES

by James G.



BAR

Every college bar has a college drink, but I have yet to find out what the St Hugh's emblem drink actually is (we have three so you pick your poison). Nevertheless, there is a range of decently priced pints. £3.30 for a Stella is my go-to, but if you're a cider kind of person then there's a very reasonable £2.60 Magners for you. If you've just got your SFE and can afford it, there is Moretti for £3.80 and also a pint of Guinness (from a can...) for the same price. Not really sure why I'm doing the section on the bar cause I've never bought any of the mixers, bottles, shots or anything else. If you insist on straying from these wise words, then I've been told the rest is also pretty cheap. The bar can also serve

JCR

Just upstairs is the JCR. You can take your pints up from the bar which is pretty nice when there's too many loud NPCs after a formal. There are two pool tables which cost nothing (extra), as well as a PlayStation which is hotly contested. There's FIFA, Mario Kart, and one of them street fighter games. Other than that there's not much there, it's basically just a room where the JCR committee meetings take place. If pool doesn't fit your fancy, there is table tennis and table football in adjacent rooms to the college bar. Probably my best memories in the JCR have been around the pool table. Games can get hilariously intense— to the point where I've sneaked in some practice rounds during my free time just to avoid the shame of getting absolutely thrashed But it's not just about the games. It's truly awesome to have spaces like this where you can mess around with your friends, chill out, or trade jokes. As time goes on, you'll find yourself wandering over to the JCR just to see what's happening, you never know.







BOPS

by James G.

I have to admit, I was pretty skeptical about bops at first. But now, I can confidently say that they are one of the most fun aspects of the Oxford experience. These are close-knit parties, typically open only to members of the college and their friends (if allowed). Each bop comes with a theme, and dressing up is highly encouraged. The college bar even tends to prepare a special bop drink that fits the theme—so there's really no excuse not to join in!

You don't want to be the one without a costume when the photos start being taken. The bops take place in the college bar, which opens up into a larger dancefloor hidden behind a makeshift wall where the night is mostly spent. When it comes to the music, we might not have a flashy setup, but that's part of the charm. DJing is basically just queuing up songs on Spotify, so anyone can sign up with their friends to run the party together. The bop technically starts at 9:30, but people tend to flow in a bit later. I once had the 10:30 to 11:00 slot, and even then, the crowd was limited. That said, as soon as the clock strikes 11, the floor fills up. The bop classics come out, with the night always ending with Yellow by Coldplay, as it's the St Hugh's Football Club song. After this, you can head back to your room whenever you want or go up to the JCR to enjoy some post-bop pizza, play Mario Kart or pool with your mates.

I'm not even being biased when I say this, but having been to plenty of bops at other colleges, Hugh'ss are definitely up there with the best. If you doubt it, just compare it to a Queens-Mansfield bop on a Monday night at Glam. I had the misfortune of going and would rather watch England lose the Euro final on loop.





COLLEGE CHAPEL

Located on the first floor of Main Building (just above the doors that you [potentially] skip through in pure happiness when you first arrive) is the Chapel. It's a multi-faith space, is open to everyone and plays an important role in the College life of many students. Supposedly, some bells chime every hour but this remains more of a legend than a verifiable fact. Aside from the bells, you might also hear the organ or the heavenly harmony that is the choir as they prepare for the weekly service, which happens every Sunday. These usually follow the structure of an Anglican evensong, but there are regular multi-faith services. And hey, free dinner, so you're more than welcome to attend whatever your religious beliefs may, or may not, be!

If you happen to be interested in singing, but don't want to sell your soul to a university society, then the College choir has rehearsals twice a week, which might be a lower level of commitment for you. There are choral awards and organ scholarships available for those who are musically inclined (you get paid, more vacation residence and a nice gown).

As is tradition in a lot of the colleges, the Chaplain is also a key part of the welfare team, and available to help with any of your concerns (although it should be noted that this role is entirely separate from religion).



COLLEGE GYM

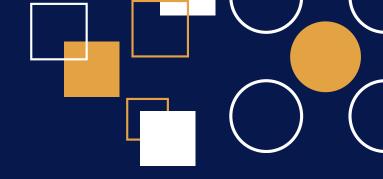
If you're someone who really has the time to properly maintain their fitness as a university student (unlike most), the college gym might be just for you! Membership is £33 per term, or £65 for the year (although senior members of Hugh's boat club get free membership). The gym is located below the JCR and beyond the college bar, meaning it's very central and accessible from all Freshers' accommodations. Remember to bring your BOD card, however, as it's required for entry, pending a brief induction session.

The important bit, however, is the available equipment! In the gym, you'll have access to six rowing machines (can you tell why there's a stereotype?), two treadmills, an indoor bike, some weights (both bench-based and free medicine balls), a few resistance machines (chest press, shoulder press, pulldown machine and leg press) and some yoga mats. These are spread out over three small rooms, each of which has a fan (because an underground gym without ventilation would be... Interesting) and iPod docks (if you're ancient enough to know how to use them).

It's a decent gym, but if you're looking for something more serious, or a wider range of equipment, it might be best to look further afield.







by CAYDEN O.

Never done a load of laundry in your life? Time to learn! It is quite therapeutic, actually. There are two places to do laundry: Maplethorpe Building (MTB) basement and Kenyon Building. Kenyon has only 2 washers and 2 dryers, so it is mainly used by people living in Kenyon. Maplethorpe has about 10 each, so this is where you will mostly go. Each wash+dry cycle costs a bit under 4 pounds (2.40 for a regular wash and spin, 2.50 for an extra wash, 2.60 for an extra wash and spin; 1.40 for drying).

How to operate the machines?

1- Put your clothes and detergent into the washing machine

2- Select your wash cycle on the payment touchscreen

3- Pay with contactless (a debit/credit card or your phone)

4- Press the start button!

5- The machine will display a time (about 40 minutes for a regular wash) — set a timer Come back when done and load your clothes into a dryer (or dry in your room)

Repeat steps 1-5, except with the dryer — you'll have to pick what temperature to dry at, so follow the care labels on your clothing. If you don't know how to read these, learn now:)

Things you will need

A contactless debit/credit card: only way to pay!
Your own laundry products, e.g. laundry pods
A laundry net to hold small items together
A big laundry basket/bag to transport your clothes

Tips and Courtesies

- Be on time to collect your laundry be mindful about others' time!
- When moving clothes out of machines, spin the drum around to check you've taken everything (socks always end up getting eaten :c
- To avoid fighting for a machine, you can do your laundry on weekdays and in the early morning or late night
- Don't be tempted to go for the extra wash/high temperature dry— the more your clothes are washed/spun, the faster they degrade!

Dry Cleaning

There's a number of services around Oxford. The closest to us are Johnsons The Cleaners (61 Woodstock Rd, Oxford OX2 6HJ) and Velvet Tailoring and Dry Cleaning (194 Banbury Rd, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7BY).

Ironing

Both Maplethorpe and Kenyon laundry rooms have irons and ironing boards in them! You can iron directly in the Maplethorpe laundry room — for Kenyon, set up the iron and ironing board at the power plug next to the laundry room c:

COLLEGE STORAGE by ELLIE Y.

Especially if it's your first time living away from home, keeping everything you need in a single room and packing it all away every 8 weeks can seem daunting. My biggest advice is: don't bring too much stuff in the first place. It's much easier to figure out what you're missing and then buy, than to take away items that clog up space and turn out to be unnecessary. It does get easier as the year goes on and you get a better idea of your personal needs. You also store all your luggage in your room over term-time, so I suggest using large canvas bags that are easily foldable and you can store inside your suitcases (which can go atop your cupboard or under your bed). Thankfully, Hugh's does have its own storage facility, a shed behind the smoking area that is usable by all undergraduates to store items over the vacs! Home students get 2 boxes of storage; international students get 5. While that doesn't seem like a lot of space, it also heavily depends on what you do or prioritise during the term (e.g. if you cook a lot, you'll need to factor in the space that utensils/pots and pans will take up). It also fills up VERY quickly. Here are some tips:

1- If you're a home student, consider making a few trips home pre-end of term to carry away items you don't need for the last couple of weeks.

2- Get stuff into storage ASAP (like early Week 8) to ensure you have space 3- Take pictures of your stored boxes so you know where to access them next term! Also, invest in recognisable containers (such as a colourful suitcase or luggage strap)

WHERE DO I GET STORAGE CONTAINERS?

Big plastic storage boxes are typically made available near the end of term by our international rep (shoutout to Ed) although they run out VERY quickly, so keep an eye out for them! In general, though, sourcing out your own containers is a safe guarantee. A really great place to source out extra storage boxes is via supermarkets or other places like the covered market that often have loads of spare cardboard boxes at the end of a working day. You don't even need to dumpster dive (mostly): if you ask, people are generally happy to give what they have – which also happens to be a good general rule of thumb for uni. My go-to is JiaMart in the city centre, opposite St Peter's, as they tend to have massive box sizes. Another benefit is that the boxes are often very recognisable – it's always fun to go into storage at the start of a new term and instantly distinguish your own boxes by the colourful packaging designs on the front!

Also, consider the actual physical viability of carrying your stuff. If you live in Main or MTB, your job is slightly easier as you will have a lift. Still, though, to make your life as painless as possible, containers with wheels will be much more manageable, or you can even buy a foldable trolley.

COLLEGE CATS by CHLOE W.

We have two lovely cats at St Hugh's, Admiral Flapjack and Professor Biscuit. Biscuit is the female tabby and Flapjack is the male orange cat. **Check them in the pictures below!** You are welcome to let them into your rooms before 6 pm, as long as:



You keep them supervised



You keep them away from open windows, potentially hazardous plants and other substances such as cleaning solutions in your room



You make sure they get out safely: please do not leave them in corridors they cannot let themselves out of.



The cats are on a managed diet, so please avoid feeding them.



Admiral Flapjack



Professor Biscuit

You are encouraged to send photos of them to their page (@hughsiecats) on Instagram and contact the junior dean or cat rep if you have any concerns about their well-being.



SOCIETIES

Contrary to what people might think, Oxford isn't just about studying—you can absolutely explore your interests here too! Whether you're into sports, arts, politics, or something a bit more niche, there's a society for it. We have societies at both the college level and the university level, so you'll have plenty of opportunities to dive into what you love. You'll get the chance to check them out at the Freshers' Fair I've scheduled during Freshers' Week, and trust me, it's worth attending!

I won't bore you with an exhaustive list of every society we have, but rest assured, we've got most things covered. Whether you're looking to play a sport seriously or just for fun, join a subject society, get involved in the arts, or dive into politics, there's something for everyone. And yes, we even have some niche societies that might just surprise you. And if you can't find one that fits your interests, you can always create your own—trust me, it's easier than you think!

During Freshers' Week, many sports teams will hold taster sessions, and some societies will host socials to give you a feel for what they're all about. Don't be ashamed if you feel a bit nervous—every one of us was once a fresher joining a well-formed group of friends. It's all part of the experience, and you'll quickly find your place.

Joining a society or sports team is one of the best ways to meet people who share your interests. Whether you're bonding over a joint competition as a team or hanging out during social activities, you'll make friends that could easily become your travel buddies or partners in crime for future adventures. So please, do come to the fairs!

To explore more about the societies available, check out the <u>college societies page</u> and the <u>university societies page</u>. I've hyperlinked them for convenience.



JCR COMMITTEE

The JCR Committee is essentially the student governing body of St Hugh's and it is democratically elected every Michaelmas term. It is comprised of a plethora of representatives that fulfil different administrative, representation, or well-being roles. Every member is more than happy to help you with whatever inquiries, conditions, or ideas you might encounter during your time at Hugh's. We organize a wide range of events throughout the term. Our goal is to create a vibrant and supportive community where every student feels valued and heard. For more information about the members of the JCR Committee and their roles, please check the link: Meet the Committee. Feel free to email them with any questions or ideas you may have—they are lovely people whom I am happy to call my friends.

Beyond this, the JCR committee holds a private (committee-only) meeting every week, where we discuss current issues in college and report our individual movements. Additionally, we hold a public meeting biweekly, where the entire student body can bring motions and participate in discussions. These meetings are an excellent opportunity for everyone to have their voices heard and to contribute to the betterment of our college.

The team is led by Jimmy, our awesome president who leads us akin to Gandalf guiding the Fellowship in Lord of the Rings. His leadership and dedication are the bedrock of our committee, ensuring that we steer through both calm and turbulent times with grace and efficiency. Because of this, it is best if I leave you with a welcome and message from him.

INSERT JIMMY MESSAGE (WAITING FOR HIM)

COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Hugh's offers two libraries within our grounds: the breathtaking Howard Piper Library and the Bodleian KB Chen Library. It may not seem like much, but having two libraries (especially one of them being a Bodleian) gives us a lot of aura and bragging rights. Let me quickly go over both of them.

HOWARD PIPER LIBRARY (OPEN 24/7)

The Howard Piper Library is one of the biggest college libraries in the entire university, and it remains open 24/7, so you'll be well-prepared for any assignment crisis that may pop up at 2 a.m. (because who needs sleep, right?). You can look up whatever book you need on SOLO and then navigate the labyrinthine rooms and arrangements to borrow it for two weeks or just use it inside. The abundance of rooms allows for different vibes, so you won't get bored of working in the same space—there's something for everyone!

The main reading room boasts a massive high ceiling and four-person desks with individual lights and plug sockets. It's pretty good for studying, and you can secure a desk with your mates to all work together. The room has a massive window, so it's well-lit during the day. However, it can sometimes get a bit cold, so I recommend grabbing one of the communal library blankets for those chilly winter nights.

Right across the hall on the 1st floor is a small room that houses the law library. While most of you will have no business with the books there, it's a cozy space for about 10-12 students that can help you settle into some heavy work.

The ground floor has three other rooms. The Fulford Room is a typical Oxford-style room with dark wooden desks (similar to the main room) but much less well-lit. It houses most of the humanities books. On its sides, you'll find two less grand rooms that house the STEM collections. The East Room has individual booths that are perfect for when you're in a work crisis, while the West Room has a main 10-person desk along with two individual ones. These rooms offer the most light, so they're great for avoiding the looming threat of a nap. In addition to these rooms, there's also a small silent working space on the 1st floor with space for 6-8 people. Phones are banned here, so it's an intense room for serious working—great for those who mean business. On the other side of the spectrum, there's a table, sofas, and bean bags in the foyer where you can do some relaxed working and chatting.







COLLEGE LIBRARIES

KB CHEN LIBRARY (MON-FRI: 9AM-7PM, SAT: 11AM-2PM)

We like to claim this library as one of ours, and while it is within our grounds, it's technically a Bodleian Library, which means it's part of the larger network of University Libraries. This is a massive win, though, as you have access to a Bodleian right here at Hugh's. Bodleian Libraries allow you to order books from one to another, often those which are to be used within libraries and cannot be loaned out. Hence, you can get whatever book you need delivered right to (basically) your doorstep.

Beyond this logistical convenience, the Dickson Poon Library is pretty awesome. It's small and houses the Chinese Faculty Collection. However, it has a very modern layout, with massive windows that let in plenty of natural light. Plus, there are a number of private 2-person working booths, where you and a friend can lock in for hours at a time. Sadly, it's not open on Sundays and has limited hours on Saturdays, but it offers an awesome way to change scenery when possible.

It is also very conveniently located in the same building as the Wordsworth Tea Room, which is a college operated coffee shop were you can get sandwiches, snacks and coffee in between your library session. You can even work in here, which I particularly enjoy, although note that people chat in here, so reserve this for non-crucial work.







OTHER LIBRARIES

A quintessential aspect of Oxford is the abundance of libraries we have at our disposal, whether to work or at least pretend you're doing so. Knowing what different libraries offer is key to mapping out a perfect workday. Here, I list my top five favorite ones and point out the important categories. Yes, only five because I'm biased and don't have unlimited time or space, sorry.

TAYLOR INSTITUTION (MON-FRI: 9AM-7PM, SAT: 10AM-6PM)

Don't be scared of the queue of postgrad students dreaming of getting their hands on the 6 or 7 individual balcony desks—they have no life. Even if you don't manage to get that desk, the library is pretty awesome. It houses the Modern Languages and Linguistics Collections all in one place, and as a linguist myself, I may be biased. Beyond this, it offers multiple rooms, whether you want the grandeur of an old Oxford-style main reading room, quieter and more lit-up areas, or individual sofas, there's something for every taste. Most importantly, it has its own common room where you can have lunch or chat in between studying. Conveniently located in the center, top-tier place!



VERE HARMSWORTH (MON-FRI: 9AM-7PM, SAT: 10AM-4PM, SUN: 11AM-5PM)



Two main things have seen this library rise in my rankings: it's open on Sundays, which may sound silly, but if you spent Thursday to Saturday doing anything but that essay, you'll often find yourself with busy Sundays. Beyond this, the main reading room gets awesome natural light in the mornings, making it a great space for early shifts without the fear of falling asleep. A bit before closing the outside of the building lights up, which offers some awesome vibes. Only potential downside is that it lies a bit far away from any food or drink, so you better come stocked up with food (or patience for the walk) if you plan on coming here.

OTHER LIBRARIES

RADCLIFFE CAMERA (MON-FRI: 9AM-9PM, SAT: 10AM-6PM, SUN: 11AM-7PM)

I won't spend too much time talking about it because most of you probably know about it. Yeah, the building is super cool with its stunning architecture and iconic dome that's a symbol of Oxford. Yeah, the outside is flooded with tourists taking photos. And yeah, you sometimes study here. The upper reading room is awesomely lit, especially the balcony. Meanwhile, the lower one offers that dim lighting that attracts all those dark academia fanatics. I've found the silence, sheer number of people, and grandeur of the building a great way to force me to work. Also, it makes up the main portion of the History Faculty Library, so all you historians can brag about it. Open on Sundays too, which is big.

Special mention to the Gladstone Link, that dystopian tunnel between the Radcam and the Bod. Personally, it's not my favorite, but some people enjoy the change from the usual "Oxford vibe". Different tastes for different folks, I guess!



LAW LIBRARY (MON-FRI: 9AM-10PM, SAT: 10AM-7PM, SUN: 10AM-7PM)
ENGLISH LIBRARY (MON-FRI: 9AM-7PM, SAT: 10AM-1PM)



If it wasn't located in another timezone, I'd crown the Law Library the best in Oxford. It shuts at 10pm on weekdays and 7pm on weekends, making it an awesome spot for late sessions. The vibe of the room—a single main hall—is bright and filled with massive desks that have plug sockets everywhere and space for at least four books per person. The English Library is very similar and located within the same building complex, though the room is a bit less well-lit. I admit that I frequent the Law Library more because of its more flexible hours on weekends. A key factor is the Missing Bean Cafe, located within the building. Great coffee and snacks that you can get right next to your study spot.

OTHER LIBRARIES

BODLEIAN OLD LIBRARY (MON-FRI: 9AM-9PM, SAT: 10AM-4PM, SUN: 11AM-5PM)

The Bodleian Old Library is one of the oldest and most iconic libraries in Oxford, offering endless rows of desks straight out of an Orwell film. Loved by old people for reasons no one quite understands, this library has its quirks.

It is perhaps the largest one out of all the Boldeian Network in Oxford, and is comrpised by three main areas: the Lower and Upper Reading Rooms and the Duke Humfrey;s Library. While the two former are similar, do understand that they comprise a series of rooms so if you are looking for a friend best of luck in finding them. What is good is that most desks are inidvidual and have plenty of space for devices, books and drinks, beyond this, everyone has its own plug socket. The Duke Humfrey's is your spot if you love silence and history. Just remember: no coats, bags, or drinks. Basically, it's like stepping into a time machine with strict rules.



RADCLIFFE SCIENCE LIBRARY (MON-FRI: 9AM-10PM, SAT: 10AM-4PM, SUN: 11AM-5PM)



The last of the heavyweights, the RSL has become one of my friend group's favorite libraries over the years. With an informal reading room room with sofas and desks where you can talk more freely, and a quiet room to lock in, you can accommodate any type of work. Food and drink rules apply in the reading rooms, but there's a tea point and vending machines for breaks. You can take these to eat and chill out in the Wellbeing Room. There are also several private study group rooms you can book to revise before prelims. Located guite close to college, it is one of the best spots there is. It houses most of the STEM books, so there's no need to trek far to get your hands on your (albeit maybe short) reading lists. Open late on weekdays and at least a bit on Sundays.

GROCERIES AND SHOPPING

by ELLIE, CAYDEN, ROXANNE, MICHELLE AND PENNY

Firstly, we must impress upon you to SAVE UP YOUR LUGGAGE SPACE!! During term time you store all your suitcases in your room so please bring as little as you can with you. Here is a list of things you do NOT need to bring over:

- Generic toiletries such as oral care and soaps: there's a big Boots in the city centre that provides all this! Tesco has lots of stuff on its lower floor, more on that later.
- Stationery: WHSmith will get you covered for most things, although there is also a MINISO in Westgate for more cutesy storage and trinkets
- Cutlery and cooking utensils (such as pots and pans): There is a Robert Dyas near Westgate that sells all that, plus electric appliances and homeware. M&S is also a shout! If you're looking for high-quality, there's also a John Lewis in Westgate.
- Instant food and snacks: there are numerous supermarkets including for ethnic foods here that will most likely cover that super niche pot noodle brand, and otherwise online supermarkets exist. You'll be fine.

Now onto the most important mention: where to get food!

In general, for big grocery loads, look no further than the Sainsbury's and Tesco on Magdalen Street, which are right next to each other and also to a bus station. It's in the city centre and about a 15-20 minute walk away from St Hugh's, but fret not if your grocery load is just too much to bear: bus 2A takes you straight to Hugh's main gate, and 300 Park & Ride drops you off mere metres away from the back gate (Dickson Poon). Tesco's is big and sells everything - get a free clubcard if you haven't yet as it will offer exclusive discounts!





THE INFAMOUS TESCALATOR!

GROCERIES AND SHOPPING

by ELLIE, CAYDEN, ROXANNE, MICHELLE AND PENNY

Apart from the Sainsbury's we've already mentioned, there is also a Sainsbury's in Jericho and one in Summertown, which are closer to St Hugh's. Also, if you're looking for unbelievably cheap food – potlucks are a great social activity but require LOTS! – your best bet is the Aldi's and Home Bargains down Botley Road, past the train station. If you fancy fresh produce, Gloucester Green Market is open Wednesdays to Saturdays and they often have a farmer's market section on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

For quick fixes, 9 to 9 will be your best friend – it's just down North Parade Avenue right at its opening to Banbury Road, only a minute away from the Dickson Poon gate. It sells all the essentials, including fresh vegetables, milk, condiments, toothpaste, pads and a huge variety of snacks. An alternative is East-West Provisions on Woodstock Road, which is about ten minutes away, near the Maths Institute (opposite Anne's).

In terms of ethnic foods, here is a list of specialised supermarkets:

- There are several **halal** grocers in Cowley (past Magdalen Bridge), including Al-Amin and Medina. Cowley in general is great for ethnic foods although quite far.
- Cowley Road Sainsbury's has a **Kosher** section
- Asian groceries and snacks: JiaMart (opposite St Peter's College, near Westgate), GG Oriental Snack Shack (in the eponymous Gloucester Green offers 10% student discount), Lung Wah Chong (on the way to train station, near Said Business School)

ON TO SHOPPING!

Westgate is enormous and the default go-to for most. Primark and NEXT are bop outfit staples, and there are also other fun stores for makeup products (Superdrug and PureSeoul opened recently if you're into K-beauty!). There are, of course, also the usual clothing stores like Uniqlo, Urban Outfitters and H&M. North Parade Avenue also runs a fortnightly open market on Saturday mornings, and you could always take a trifle around the many charity shops such as Oxfam scattered around the city.

Overall, Oxford is a very well-stocked city and most basic life amenities are always readily available. The one thing you really should invest in before getting here is a trolley to bring things to and fro, but then again there is always Amazon (prime) – and that is a solution to 99% of shopping issues anyway.

RESTAURANTS

Oxford offers everything from popular chain restaurants to local favorites and hidden gems. I'll share some of my top picks, as well as a few Hugh's favorites, so you'll have some great spots to start with during your first couple of weeks. But remember, this city is your oyster—explore every corner!

VINY'S CAFE AND LITTLE VENICE:

The North Parade duo is one of the most popular pairings around college. Located on a charming little street just 2 minutes from campus, these spots are our go-to for a quick meal. Viny's offers a wide variety of sandwiches—so many, in fact, that it almost feels like they have more options than necessary, but we're not complaining. If you've missed hall lunch or just need a quick snack, this is the place to be.

Just two doors down is Little Venice, a pizzeria that we suspect is owned by the same people. For around 10 quid, you can enjoy a pizza all to yourself, or if you're feeling adventurous like our International Rep, you might opt for a calzone. It's pretty good, but the price means it's more of an occasional treat rather than a daily indulgence.



ALI'S KEBAB



At Oxford, every college seems to have its own kebab van that students swear by, and for us at St Hugh's, we've got our own go-to spot.

Located just 5 minutes away from college and open until 4am, it's perfect for a quick break in the middle of an essay grind or a stop on the way back from the club. The cheesy chips are as legendary at Hugh's as Lady Ellish's accolades, and you know there are plenty of those. The chicken burger is underrated, but don't sleep on the doner kebab either.

Whatever your go-to is, Zac will know your order and name by heart after a couple of weeks. As Freshers' Rep, I'll tolerate no treason in favor of the clearly inferior Hussain's or Solomon's, so be wary.

RESTAURANTS

PEPPER'S BURGERS

Do not judge by appearances, Peppers' may look unassuming, but most agree that it serves the best burgers in Oxford. Their classic cheeseburgers are insane, but the real magic lies in their insane choice of salads and sauces that they give you. Whether you're a fan of spicy kicks or prefer something a bit milder, they've got you covered. And remember, you have to get a double patty—it's weak if you don't. They keep it old-school too, still serving everything in simple paper wrapping, which somehow makes it taste even better. And if you're planning a trip to Pepper's, be kind and let your friends know—they'll definitely want in on them.



THE COVERED MARKET



If you ever find yourself tired of the "I don't know what to eat" dilemma, just bring your friends here. With its wide array of offerings—from local delicacies to international flavours—it's an insanely versatile spot, catering to every taste and need. Conveniently located in the heart of town, it fits perfectly into your daily errands. My personal favourites are Donburi Inn for some fantastic Japanese rice bowls, Georgina's for a top-notch sandwich, and Ben's Cookies for the best (though a bit expensive) bite of sweet goodness you'll find in Oxford.

PUBS

THE FOUR CANDLES

While I've been your faithful guide through our rather mediocre food scene, there is no better man to tell you about our centrepiece than 2nd-year Historian James Grocock:

"You'll run into everyone you know before a night out here. Spoons is the place to be. If you're on a budget, head to Greene King, where each pint costs an unbeatable £2.01—a steal for anyone looking to stretch their night out funds. And if you're after something that doesn't taste like dishwasher water mixed with honey, there's a wide range of pints priced between £2 and £4. My personal favorite is Leffe. They've also got mixers and other drinks if that's more your speed. Most people go to Spoons for a few final drinks before hitting the nightclub, but it's just as enjoyable for a hearty breakfast or a laid-back midday visit with some friends for some cheap meals"



THE GARDENERS ARMS



Though also located in North Parade, The Gardener's Arms is big enough to deserve its own feature. This is the pub where we gather for card games and chilled chats, and it's become something of a Hugh's-only place. Here, you can have a relaxed night without the buzz of running into everyone you know (unlike at Spoons). I'd never miss a chance to promote Cask Mondays at the GA—they serve the most bizarre ales you'll ever try, all for a glorious £3.50. It's a steal, really. Plus, they've got a loyalty pint program where you buy 8 pints and get the 9th free, which might just be the best deal around.

RESTAURANTS AND PUBS: JERICHO

THE JERICHO CAFE

A favorite among the girls at Hugh's, The Jericho Café is the go-to spot for brunch near college. Though it looks small, the basement has plenty of room for your entire subject group. Most of the dishes are simple, wholesome, and absolutely delicious. The menu offers a great mix of breakfast classics and lunch favorites, from avocado toast to sandwiches and salads.

If you're into coffee, you're in for a treat. The Jericho Café serves some of the best brews I've had (and that is coming from a Costarican person), perfect for catching up with friends or getting some light studying done. With its charming, laid-back vibe, it's a place where you'll want to linger, whether you're alone with a book or surrounded by friends.



THE JERICHO TAVERN



Just like La Masia produced football greats, the Jericho Tavern gave us Radiohead, who played their first gig here. While it's not always about the music, this pub boasts a fantastic beer garden, perfect for soaking up the atmosphere during the day with a scintillating burger in hand, or enjoying some late-night drinks under the stars. The opening hours are generous, and with student-friendly pints like Pravha and Madri at just £2.40, it's a steal. And if you're lucky, you might even score a free Johnny and Lemonade, making the night even better.

CLUBBING AND NIGHTLIFE by FERDY A-Q.

BRIDGE: WHEN TO GO - THURSDAY

The Bridge smoking area is one of those spots that feels like home during a night out. It's so comfortable and inviting that it's often the highlight of the evening.

The top floor here is always a good time—you're pretty much guaranteed to hear "Mo Bamba" at least five times in one night, and the DJ is usually open to requests. The lower floor plays the usual pop hits, so it's a reliable spot for a safe, fun night.

There's also always a man roaming around with a camera, taking photos that you'll find on Facebook the next day.



ATIK: WHEN TO GO - WEDNESDAY



ParkEnd Wednesdays at ATIK are the classic night out in Oxford. ATIK is a club with two floors, though we often pretend the bottom floor doesn't exist and instead enjoy our time on the three dance floors above. The main floor is usually the busiest, although the DJ there seems to enjoy hearing his own voice just a bit too much. For a more laid-back vibe, the smallest room—Tiki Bar—lets you enjoy the same pop tunes without the crowds. Curve—the hip-hop and afrobeats floor—really comes alive later in the night, though it does tend to attract a crowd that's always up for some serious partying.

I can't really tell you how much the drinks cost here, mainly because I prefer to avert my eyes as soon as I see the total on the card reader.

DISCLAIMER: IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I INCLUDE THIS ENTRY IN MEMORIAM, AS ATIK IS SET TO SHUT ITS DOORS FOR THE FINAL TIME. THOUGH THE LIGHTS WILL DIM AND THE MUSIC WILL FADE, THE MEMORIES—BOTH GLORIOUS AND QUESTIONABLE—WILL LIVE ON IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO ONCE GRACED ITS FLOORS.

ATIK, YOU MAY BE GONE, BUT YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. REST IN PEACE, SWEET PRINCE.

CLUBBING AND NIGHTLIFE by FERDY A-Q.

O2: WHEN TO GO - WHEN THERE'S A GOOD CONCERT ON

Pretty sure I'd rather spend the rest of my life aimlessly rolling a rock up a mountain than ever step foot in this horrible institution again. Indie Fridays are absolutely massive for white people who drink Brewdog and collect stamps in their free time. There are actually some decent concerts here every now and then but the drinks will send your wallet to A&E so you have to pregame hard. I'm told that Fishies on Wednesday is loads of fun if you aren't one of the stuck-up mugs who refuses to talk to Brookes people.



PLUSH: WHEN TO GO - TUESGAYS



I've spent two nights at Plush, and both ended rather abruptly—let's just say it's an experience. The drinks are pretty extortionate, although I've heard their Jägerbombs are top-notch (still need to verify that one myself). The music actually gets quite dancey and clubby later on, which is refreshing.

The layout is a bit confusing, and you're almost guaranteed to spend at least three minutes trying to find the bathroom on your first visit. And since it's underground, the temperature gets nasty, so be prepared to sweat—dress lightly if you can.

BULLINGDON: WHEN TO GO - WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE A TREK TO COWLEY

I've never actually been here so here's a feature verse from someone who has:

"It was really fun and there was good music. It might have been techno that night. There was more than one DJ. I remember a really big room."

– Natasha Hermer, 2nd year, History Student, 5'2", OBE. Likes to be referred to as 'Tashy Herms'.



GETTING AROUND



Other colleges might tease you about Hugh's being far out, but don't let it get to you. You can walk to most places in town—libraries, eateries, other colleges, or clubs—in under 20 minutes. Just grab your headphones and enjoy some tunes.



Hugh's is a bit far out, so if you like to maximize every second of your day, a bike can be a game-changer. Don't worry if you don't own one—second-hand bikes are easy to find on Facebook or Oxbikes. Plus, you can lock it safely in college.



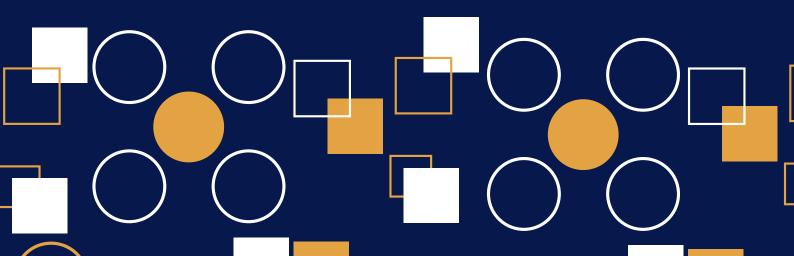
You could call me the Voi Voyager. These e-scooters are rented via an app and are perfect for medium distances, like heading to far colleges for a bop or going to Cowley to support our rugby club. Most rides tend to be under £4..



Oxford has a reliable bus network, with routes available from Banbury or Canterbury Road heading south into town. Buses are frequent, and Google Maps can help you track them. They're a favorite for a trip to the club at midnight.



Taking taxis might feel luxurious, and while they aren't usually necessary, they're handy for events far out, like at Isis Farmhouse. They're also great for getting to and from the train station when you've got heavy luggage.





<u>HUGH'S</u> JARGON

by Amber G.

At Oxford University, where ancient tradition mingles with scholarly pursuit, one might expect the halls to echo with lofty discourse and erudite exchanges. And indeed, they often do. Yet, amidst the venerable spires and cloistered quads, there exists a curious phenomenon: a lexicon all its own, filled not only with the weighty terminology of academia but also with a playful and at times downright silly assortment of jargon.

An award given to Varsity sports players (those who make it into the

university level squads and play against Cambridge.)

A party organised by the Entz Reps on the JCR, usually with a BOP theme and fancy dress (e.g. dress as a song, dress as your type...).

Each college has between two and four of these each term.

COLLECTION Mock-style exams set by college tutors at the beginning of the term.

A Fellow who is responsible for supervising the conduct and

discipline of the students. To be 'deaned' is to be sent to the Dean.

DICKY P Slang term for the Dickson Poon Building in Hugh's.

This stands for fun events – like bops, socials, blind dates... Usually

used to refer to the JCR representatives for Entz, Demi and India.

FELLOW A senior member of a college – usually a tutor.

FINALS Exams that count for your degree. They're not always taken at the

end of your course.

FRESHER A first-year student.

FORMAL HALL

A weekly formal dinner hosted by the JCR at Hugh's College occurs every Tuesday. It consists of three courses and is of excellent value.

ISIS The part of the River Thames that runs through Oxford.



JUNIOR COMMON ROOM (JCR)

Can refer to either:

- (1) The undergraduate student committee at your college;
- (2) The physical space where people can hog the ps4, play pool, play FIFA, chat and fall asleep. Sometimes in that order.

MATRICULATION

An initiation ceremony held at the onset of your first term, formally welcoming you into the University. It entails donning appropriate attire, partaking in Latin proceedings, followed by celebrations,

MCR

Middle Common Room. Like the JCR, but for graduate students.

MODS

First-year exams for some subjects (e.g. Law) and second-year exams for certain other subjects (like Classics) which have no first-year exams.

NOUGHTH WEEK

The week before the beginning of Full Term, collections occur then.

PORTER

The college gatekeeper/security guard. Be nice to them as they are responsible for handling your packages, organising the mail, providing spare keys when locked out of your room, and assisting in caring 24/7 with whatever else may come up

PRELIMS

First-year exams for most subjects.

SOLO

Oxford's online library catalogue, you'll be shown how to access/use it during fresher's week so attend your library tour!!!

SUB-FUSC

Item of clothing worn for examinations and formal occasions at Oxford. It is like a mix of a gown and a cape.

TERM

Periods of on-site education in the University. There are three: Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity.

TUTE

Short for tutorial. Small group teaching sessions, usually weekly session, with a given tutor. While initially intimidating, they are widely recognised as one of Oxford's most rewarding experiences.

VACATION

What Oxonians (and Americans) call the holidays. Often abbreviated to 'vac', they take place after each term.

