



MAGDALEN COLLEGE MIDDLE COMMON ROOM

August 2020

To all incoming Magdalen graduate students,

Welcome to the Magdalen College Middle Common Room!

On behalf of the Magdalen College Middle Common Room ('MCR'), we would like to welcome you to Magdalen. Despite the uncertainty and change that Coronavirus has brought to College life, we are determined to maintain our strong community as we are joined by our new members. Our College combines many of the best things that Oxford has to offer: beautiful and extensive grounds, a diverse student population, numerous sporting and artistic activities, excellent academic support, and a thriving graduate community.

The MCR refers both to Magdalen's graduate student body, and to our common room. The latter, located in two expansive rooms in the College Cloisters, is our social home. The MCR provides a range of facilities, services, and activities that are coordinated by the MCR Committee. Throughout your time at Magdalen, you will be invited to take part in a variety of MCR events. These will include formal guest dinners, exchange dinners with other colleges' MCRs, 'BOPs' (parties held in the MCR), relaxed drinks each Friday night at our famed Liquid Lounge, Sunday brunches, craft afternoons, tea and cake, sporting events, and academic research colloquia.

The MCR is a welcoming and vibrant community that we are sure you will settle into in no time. During 'Noughth (0th) Week' (Freshers' Week), the MCR Committee will help you to get settled and introduce you to your fellow incoming graduates and the rest of the MCR community. Please monitor your email account before and during Freshers' week for more information about this.

We strongly advise you to attend the 'Introduction to the MCR' briefing on Sunday 4 October unless you have good cause not to (for example, a compulsory faculty meeting; if in doubt please get in touch). This will be your opportunity to meet myself and the rest of the Committee, and to receive some useful information about Freshers' Week and settling in. The *Magdalen Graduate Freshers' Guide* accompanying this letter also contains a great deal of helpful information. If you have a more specific question, the University and College websites are very useful, but you are also welcome to contact me with any further queries.

We have started a Magdalen MCR Facebook Group where you can meet other Freshers, ask questions about the MCR or Oxford in general, and see details of upcoming events. The page is called "Magdalen College MCR Freshers 2020-21" and is a great way to keep in contact and we will use it to get in touch before and during Freshers' Week. Feel free to add yourself as soon as possible.

Finally, as is tradition in our MCR, we will be organising an informal 'College Family' system to help you get settled in, by putting you in touch with one or two current Magdalen MCR members from a similar academic background. They'll be in touch with you before the start of term to assist you in preparing for arrival and settling in once in Oxford. If you do NOT wish to be placed in a 'College Family', please email lucy.baehren@magd.ox.ac.uk to opt out.

We look forward to meeting you in Michaelmas Term.

Kind regards,

Lucy Baehren
MCR President
lucy.baehren@magd.ox.ac.uk