

Alcohol and drug policy

1. All members of Churchill College should be aware that drinking alcohol to excess and taking controlled substances or drugs (other than under medical direction) is dangerous and, in the case of the consumption of controlled substances, illegal.
2. Any member of the College suffering from ongoing problems in relation to alcohol consumption or drug-taking is urged to seek early advice. Students may approach their Tutors or the College Nurse. They will be directed to appropriate sources of professional support. Academic staff (Fellows) may approach the Senior Tutor or the College Nurse. Non-academic staff may approach their Head of Department or the College Nurse. Students are advised to note the College's policy on confidentiality within a welfare context. In short, confidentiality will be maintained within the College welfare team on a strict need-to-know basis.
3. Confidential advice may also be obtained by members from their GPs/doctors or, in the case of students, from the University Counselling Service (www.counselling.cam.ac.uk; Tel. 01223 332865).
4. The College will do its best to provide appropriate support to any member who approaches it about problems they might be suffering with drink or drugs.
5. The College notes that the unauthorised possession of certain controlled substances or drugs, including cannabis, is a criminal offence.
6. Members of the College who have unauthorised possession or make unauthorised use of any such drug, or who supply any person with such a drug or knowingly assist him or her to obtain unauthorised possession of it, render themselves, independently of or in addition to any penalty they may suffer on conviction by a Court of Law, liable to disciplinary sanction. In the case of students this may involve the Board of Discipline, which has the right to send a student temporarily or permanently out of residence, i.e. to expel them from the College and by extension the University.
7. Churchill College does not protect members from due legal process, and any member possessing and especially distributing controlled substances is liable to be reported to the police.
8. The College notes the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, dealing with so-called 'legal highs'. Under this it is now a criminal offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply and/or to import or export certain psychoactive substances proscribed under the Act. The College will respond to breaches of this legislation in exactly the same way it will respond to breaches of other laws relating to drug use.
9. Although possession of such substances for personal use and personal consumption is not a criminal offence under the Act, members of College who possess for their own use and/or who consume psychoactive substances proscribed under the Act on College premises or who facilitate such use may also be liable to be subject to disciplinary investigation and sanction.
10. Drinking alcohol to excess, whether through binge-drinking or chronic alcohol consumption, is both detrimental to health and to a student's ability to study. In the case of staff it typically has a detrimental impact of their work. It can also result in antisocial behaviour leading to harassment, the abuse of others and the disruption of College life.
11. For students, being drunk or being dependent on alcohol is not in and of itself a disciplinary offence, though being drunk and disorderly is subject to disciplinary sanction. In the most serious cases, this could involve the Board of Discipline, which has the right to send a student temporarily or permanently out of residence, i.e. to expel them from the College and by extension the University. Where drunkenness is involved in other offences (e.g. damage to property), drunkenness is a compounding factor in any offence, not an excuse. For staff, being under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs at work is a disciplinary offence.