

Dear Churchill College Freshers 2023,

Many congratulations to all of you for achieving your offers! It is an incredible achievement and one which you should all be very proud of.

Whether Churchill was your first choice or if you were pooled, you are all very welcome and I have every confidence that you are going to love life at Churchill. Churchill is genuinely one of the friendliest colleges in Cambridge, with beautiful grounds, plenty of open space and everything you will need on site.

My name is Scarlett and I am the Junior Common Room ('JCR') President for the coming year. I remember when I first arrived at Churchill, in a new city, with new people, new places and a whole lot of excitement, adrenaline and nerves. The JCR were incredibly helpful in helping me to settle in and know who to turn to (there will be a Senior Tutor and JCR talk on the first day you arrive), and we are all so excited to have the opportunity to do the same for you.

Who are the JCR and what do they do?

The JCR committee is an elected group of undergraduate students from Churchill whose role it is to represent the students and help make your experience at Churchill as best as possible. To get to know us better, you can take a look at our profiles on the JCR website (<http://jcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/committee>) and Instagram (@churchillcoljcr).

The JCR are responsible for organising anything from Freshers' Week through to bops, themed formal halls and all things welfare, as well as just generally being there for students no matter what worries you may have or issues you may encounter. We have some really exciting plans for the year ahead and look forward to sharing these with you over the coming months.

Keeping in touch

We are here to make the transition to university as smooth and enjoyable as possible, helping you to settle in once you arrive and between us answering any questions that you may have. We have set up a WhatsApp group and Facebook group so that you can stay updated, keep in touch and ask any questions before coming to Cambridge.

WhatsApp: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/EWYuLY9JzEA0mOuFRnK1rh>

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/2358611454311879/?ref=share>

Alternatively, feel free to take a look at the FAQ section on the JCR website (<https://jcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/faq/>) or email anyone on the Committee. Our emails can be found here: <https://jcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/committee/>.

Freshers' Week

We are currently finalising the Freshers' Week timetable and you will be sent a copy in time for the start of term.

College parents

Each year, incoming freshers have the option to – and are strongly encouraged – to apply to become part of a college family. The parenting scheme is organised by the JCR, and involves being assigned ‘college parents’ who will spend the first evening at college with you and be there for you throughout your time at Cambridge. All college parents are second year students who have become ‘college married’ – meaning partnered up in groups of two or three – during their first year, and volunteered to be part of the parenting scheme. You can sign up to take part in the scheme here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd32eTUH60NjgwzkRZ_NqhdN11sDyFgHnp3dG0NJ5pKnOGmng/viewform?usp=sharing.

Things to read before coming to Cambridge

In addition to the official JCR Welcome Pack and college Undergraduate Handbook, David (one of the JCR Green Officers for this year) has very kindly put together an informal guide for what to do in Cambridge. This guide is packed full of information and recommendations about all the amazing things that Cambridge has to offer:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFpgLB8O1A/tTB0IDCWEgDXF3ym_w0yAQ/view?utm_content=DAFpgLB8O1A&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink#1.

Freshers’ events during August and September

Last but not least, various University Alumni Groups are holding a number of online and in-person freshers’ events around the world in late August and September for new undergraduate students starting at Cambridge this autumn. These optional events are a great opportunity to hear from current and former students about their experiences of Cambridge and meet other new starters before the beginning of term. You can view the schedule of events here:

<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/events/cambridge-university-freshers-events>.

Once again, a huge congratulations on achieving your offers. I hope you all have a restorative and fun-filled summer and I look forward to meeting you all shortly.

With best wishes,

Scarlett

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