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Dear Fresher,

Welcome to St Catz and our Middle Common Room (MCR). We hope you have a fantastic time studying in Oxford. Whilst much of your academic work is conducted through your department, your college and MCR (the graduate student body and the common room itself) provide a wide social community and life for you to become part of.

The last year and a half have been a challenge for many of us and, while we hope to start this academic year with a minimal number of restrictions, we find ourselves preparing for every possible scenario. As a new student in Oxford, you may worry about meeting people. The good news is that, at Catz, we are well-known for having one of the largest, most diverse, and above all friendliest MCRs in Oxford. The social calendar has always been full of a huge range of events for every interest, which are relaxed and inclusive, and we intend to continue like this. We have all sorts of events up our sleeves that are adapted to changing circumstances so that we can always provide you with a lively social space. We hope you'll enjoy life at Catz as much as we do.

We look forward to welcoming you for Fresher's week, which will be full of fun events to help you discover Oxford, Catz and the MCR community. The planning has already begun, and a detailed timetable will follow in September, once we have a better idea of the restrictions that will be in place. We really encourage you to participate in as many events as possible – it's a great way to meet people and very quickly feel at home.

Our MCR website (<http://mcr.stcatz.ox.ac.uk/>) has lots of information about life at Catz, including some tips on finding accommodation within Oxford, as well as various MRC-related initiatives, such as the recently established academic review *SCAR*. Have a look at the 'New Graduates' section, where anything related to Freshers' Week will be posted. We also have a Facebook group, 'St Catz MCR Freshers 2021' (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2985744355044462/>), where you can find other new graduates starting at Catz and ask any questions you may have. This is also a good place to find other new Catz members looking for accommodation, too. We will also use this group to advertise signups for events and other fun things, so make sure to have a look at it every now and then!

Finally, if you have any questions, do get in contact with us or any of the committee members (email addresses on the website). Have a great summer and we're really looking forward to meeting you.

All the best,

*Chloe Colson*  
*Isabella Vouza*

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