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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Although I am well aware that your son or daughter is embarking on a new and independent stage of their life by coming to St Catherine's, I expect that you have a great interest in the life of the College yourself, and I am writing to tell you about the opportunities we provide for parents to feel a welcome part of our community.

This community is a thriving one, and one that we aim to ensure provides our undergraduates and graduates with a challenging but secure environment in which to pursue both their studies and their other interests or, indeed, pick up new interests.

If you are coming with your son or daughter on the day they move into their room in College, I very much hope to meet you then. There will be refreshments in the JCR, and I will be there most of the day.

We shall be sending all parents a copy of *The Year*, our annual publication for all members and friends of St Catherine's, and I hope you will find it of interest. We are keen to keep in touch with you during the time your daughter or son are studying and living in College, so that you can also get to know us. We hold an event on the last Saturday of Hilary Term, 11 March 2023, for first-year students and their parents, since this is a time when many students get picked up for the Easter vacation. If you are visiting Oxford then, I very much hope that you will be able to come. This event is always a sociable and pleasant occasion, and you may find it interesting to meet other parents and their offspring too. Invitations for this will be sent during January 2023. In the Trinity Term of your son or daughter's second year here, you will be invited to an event at the College, and I hope this will provide an opportunity for you to meet the wider College community. Finally, at some point after the completion of their course, we hold a graduation lunch at the College for graduands and their guests before the ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre.

No doubt graduation seems a distant prospect at the moment, but I wanted to let you know now about the ways in which we aim to make parents feel part of the College.

If you are not the parent of the student to whom we have sent this letter, but are acting in that capacity, I hope you will forgive my use of the word 'parent' throughout this letter, and understand that it should be taken to mean anyone who has taken on an equivalent role.

Yours sincerely



Professor Kersti Börjars