*St. John's College*

*Oxford*

*OX1 3JP*

*From the Welfare Dean*

*The Rev’d Dr Elizabeth Macfarlane*

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Dear new member of St John’s,

Congratulations on gaining your place in college. I look forward very much to meeting you during Welcome week and beyond.

May I introduce myself? As Welfare Dean, I’m here to support the whole community of St John’s, students and staff alike, as the welfare team leader, and to promote wellbeing for all through college initiatives and connecting people to the best sources of help. I’ll be making a presentation to you during your Welcome week induction programme, and later in term, I’ll invite each of you for an individual meeting with me to chat about how you’re getting on after your first few weeks, and whether there’s anything with which you need help.

During Michaelmas term, through a variety of welfare and academic events, we’ll help you to settle into college life, and find your place within the community. Before you begin your journey to Oxford, I encourage you to spend some time thinking about what unique and special experiences you’ll be bringing with you: what important ideas and people have helped form you as you begin your undergraduate journey? The University of Oxford has a world-class reputation and it is a human institution, rebuilt each year as it welcomes its newest members: what will you bring?

I will be available for you throughout your time in college, and you can always talk to me in confidence about any matter. I’m here to listen, and I’m here for everyone. I will do all that I can to support you, or direct you onwards if that’s best for you. Please don’t be shy or afraid of coming forward. I was an undergraduate at another college many years ago, and I’ve never forgotten how bewildering – and brilliant – Oxford can be.

Do be in touch with me by email if you have any questions or if you’re worried about anything as you prepare to come up for your first term. I shall look forward to meeting each of you in the autumn.

All best,

Elizabeth