



JCR Welcome Letter 2026

Hi everyone,

Congratulations on securing your place at St John's - I'm looking forward to welcoming you all in October! I'm Sanjay, the JCR President (JCR stands for Junior Common Room, the undergraduate body of the college) and I'm also Freshers' Week Co-Chair alongside Ruth and Dom. You'll see plenty of us over Freshers' Week!

Your inbox will be filled with emails and documents from St John's before term starts, so I'll try to keep this brief! St John's has been an incredibly welcoming and fun community, whether that be formal dinners, BOPs (college parties) or college sports, music, or drama societies. Oxford's college system may seem confusing, but it means that day-to-day student life (tutorials, food, accommodation, etc.) will primarily be based in St John's, rather than the wider university.

A great way to get involved in the college community is by participating in JCR meetings or joining the JCR Committee. We're in charge of undergraduate events, welfare, charities, outreach, and more. You can have your say in how college works, suggest events, and gain invaluable experience as part of the Committee. Many JCR Officers are first-year students when elected; I'd love to see more freshers at JCR meetings (with free pizza and drinks) and standing for election at the end of Michaelmas term!

Overall, please don't stress if everything feels a bit overwhelming right now – things will make more sense when you get here! We'll be sending out a couple more things before you arrive: a Freshers' Guide with info about life at St John's, and our Freshers' Week timetable with plenty of events and opportunities to settle into college life. It's also important to flag that we have [JCR Welfare Officers](#) on hand, as well as two full-time college welfare employees ([Rob](#) and [Hanne](#)) to provide support throughout the week, and your following years at St John's.

If you haven't yet, make sure to join the WhatsApp group through the link which has been emailed to you. We will be sharing essential information here and will answer your questions up to and during Freshers' Week.

I can't wait to meet you all soon, and I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sanjay Karthikappallil

JCR President

St John's College, University of Oxford