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*St. John's College
Oxford, OX1 3JP*

From The Senior Dean

Welcome to St John's! As Senior Dean, I look forward to your arriving in Oxford. I am writing to you to introduce myself and our four Junior Deans: Giustina Monti, Nina Schneider, Jacob Taylor, and Sa'eed Husaini. Our aim is to make St John's a place where everyone can pursue their studies, enjoy their free time, and flourish both socially and intellectually. To that end, the Deans have an important welfare role and are responsible for discipline in College, and it will be helpful for you to know what it is that we do.

Life at Oxford is different from life at almost any other university. The work can seem harder and there's talk of feeling pressurized; intellectually our courses are demanding. But it is also, we hope, more rewarding and more enjoyable. What makes this possible is the College — a real academic community in which we both work and live together. It is the responsibility of the Deans to sustain that community life. Our aim is to make St John's a place where everyone can pursue their studies, enjoy their free time, and flourish socially and intellectually.

The Junior Deans, who are graduate students, working towards higher degrees, are in charge of day-to-day matters like room bookings and lesser disciplinary matters. They are on hand at night in case of emergency (and can be contacted through the Porters' Lodge). The Senior Dean is a Fellow of the College and is involved in more serious disciplinary matters, formulating policy, co-ordinating welfare issues and convening the hardship committee.

We sincerely hope that your arrival and your career at St John's will be trouble-free. But sometimes things feel as if they are going wrong and you might need someone to talk to. Both Senior and Junior Deans, along with the chaplain, Elizabeth Macfarlane, are very ready to listen if you need a sympathetic ear. We are good at suggesting how to solve some problems, and we can refer you to other people who can offer more specialist advice. If you have something you want to talk about, whether it concerns you directly, or you have a friend you're worried about, details about how to contact any of us – by email is usually best - can be found on the College website and in the Lodge. The College welfare team includes the college doctor, nurse and counsellor. They too will be very willing to see you to talk about your concerns.

When it comes to discipline, our role is simple: we are here to ensure that everyone can enjoy life within the College, untroubled by selfish and anti-social behaviour. Common sense and consideration for others should keep you on the right side of the regulations. We shall expect you, however, to read through the Student Handbook, so that you know what is and is not allowed. St John's is a happy, hard-working, and enjoyable place to be, and the College's rules are designed to make life run smoothly for everyone. We look forward to greeting you in October.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Schnell', written in a cursive style.

Jason Schnell (Senior Dean)