

# Balliol MCR Freshers' Week Events

This document contains an explainer of all the Balliol MCR fresher events. If you have any questions, please contact [mara.kelly@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mara.kelly@balliol.ox.ac.uk). The timetable can be found at <https://balliolmcr.com/new-students/freshers-week-timetable>

## Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

Committee Welcome 19:00-22:00, MCR - **Compulsory**

Come to the MCR for a chance to meet the MCR committee members who will be running events during Freshers Week and beyond. Food will be served. Afterward, the college bar will be open so that you can meet your fellow freshers.

## Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September

College Parent Lunch, 12:00-14:00, MCR

College parents are students in later years of their studies who are here to answer any of your questions. We'll meet in Holywell Manor - ask your college parents exactly where. If all has gone to plan you should know who your college parents are and have joined a family WhatsApp group. If you're having trouble finding your parents, please contact [Brendan.mcgrath@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Brendan.mcgrath@balliol.ox.ac.uk) for assistance.

Household Dinner, 19:00-20:30

A chance to meet the people you share a kitchen with and probably a good idea to sort out whose cupboard is whose. There will be pizzas to collect from the MCR bar. If you live out, we haven't forgotten about you! We will have pizzas in the MCR, but come by the MCR bar all the same to pick up the pizzas.

Bar Evening, 21:00-23:30, Megaron Bar

Come to the Holywell Manor bar to meet other Freshers and older students.

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October

MCR Drop-In, 10:00-11:00, MCR

MCR committee members will be in the MCR to chat if you have any questions or want to say hello!

Welfare Walk, 11:00-13:00, meet at Manor

Meet at Holywell Manor Lodge at 11:00 to go on a walk organised by our welfare officers. It will be nothing too strenuous, just a quiet Sunday stroll around Christ Church Meadow.

Sports Facilities Tour, 14:30-15:30, Meet at Manor

This short tour will showcase all the sports facilities available at Balliol College MCR, along with explanations on how to book these facilities and where to access keys and equipment.

MCR Olympics, 15:30-17:30

Fun and games on the Master's Field, with no skill or athletic ability necessary. We'll play in teams, so it's a great opportunity to socialize outside. Best performing team will receive a special prize.

LGBTQ Dinner, 19:00-20:30, MCR

LGBTQ freshers and returning students are invited to a fun dinner organized by the LGBTQ officer.

Board Games, 21:00-22:30, D-Block common room

Come along to play some board games! Our D-Block common room is very well stocked - from Catan to Monopoly - so you're guaranteed to find something you'll enjoy. There'll also be a few snacks so do come join!

## **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

Praefectus' Welcome, 17:30-18:30, Master's Field Pavilion

Introduction to graduate life at Balliol by the Praefectus, Elena Lombardi. This is a great opportunity to meet Elena and hear about the events she has planned for the upcoming year. Prosecco will be served as well.

College Family Normal Hall, 18:30, Hall

Hall can be a fantastic way to eat cheaply and to get to know people while in Oxford. On Monday evening your college parents will be taking you to Hall to show you how the system works. Your college parents will arrange the details with you. Again, [Brendan.mcgrath@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Brendan.mcgrath@balliol.ox.ac.uk) is your contact if you encounter any hurdles.

To pay in Hall you must put money onto your Bod card, to do so follow this link <https://payments.balliol.ox.ac.uk/> and head to the 'card top up and prepayment plans' section.

Pub Quiz 21:00-23:00, Holywell Manor Bar

Come to the Holywell Manor bar for a pub quiz run by our bar manager Henrik. You will split up into small teams of 4-6 people and be quizzed on a variety of subject areas ranging from Balliol

trivia to English Literature, Sports, and Geography. Feel free to continue hanging out in the bar afterwards with your fellow Balliolites!

## Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Oxford Bar Crawl, 20:30, All of Oxford!

Oxford is full of pubs, from quintessential British classics (Weatherspoon's) to historic watering holes (Eagle & Child) - it has it all. To help Freshers become acquainted with some of the more salubrious establishments this side of the M40, we have decided to run a little pub crawl. You will split up into teams and search for a "hidden" pub of our choosing based on clues that we give you. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/Er9ivXHh51Deiyq37>

Boat Club Drinks 20:30-22:30, JCR Bar

Rowing can be a great way to meet new people and stay active during your time in Oxford. If you would like to learn more, come along to drinks held by the Balliol College Boatclub in the JCR Bar.

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October

College Nurse Drop-In, 9:00-10:00, Broad Street Buttery

If you have any medical questions for the college nurse, she will be holding a drop-in session in the Buttery (the room below Hall).

Manor and Welfare Staff Introductions, 10:30-12:00, MCR - **Compulsory**

The Praefectus, Manor Staff, and Welfare Staff will introduce themselves and provide an overview of the roles they play at Balliol.

Junior Dean Coffee, 12:00-13:00, D-Block Common Room

Stop by for coffee and pastries with the Junior Deans.

Fire Safety, 14:00-15:00, Hall - **Compulsory**

Balliol has many nice old buildings. Balliol would prefer it if you didn't burn any of them down.

Academic Orientation 15:00-16:00, Hall - **Compulsory**

Introduction to the academic college officers. They will explain the different support structures that are in place to help you during your academic studies at Oxford.

College Advisors Welcome, 16:00-17:30, Hall - **Compulsory**

Your College Advisors would like to welcome you to Balliol.

Consent Workshop 17:30-18:30 - **Compulsory**

The Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre will lead a consent training.

BBQ Dinner, 18:30-20:00, Holywell Manor Garden

The MCR will host a BBQ in the Holywell manor garden, there will be food for all dietary requirements. If the weather turns wet, we will move the event inside.

Knitting Night, 20:30-22:30, MCR

Learn the basics of knitting and start your own project with Heather Hutchings, DPhil student in Classics, over some tea and artisanal cake. Needles, crochet hooks, and yarn are provided (we picked some of the most beautiful colours) and knitters at all levels are welcome! This is the first event of our regular Balliol MCR knitting nights. For more information, please join WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HwozMYALtXKfIPXdYLIW8>.

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Ashmolean Tour, 8:00-10:15, Hall

Join Mr Matthew Winterbottom, Assistant Keeper and Curator at the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, and Christopher Lu, Arts and Research Officer, on a guided highlight tour at the Ashmolean before it opens to the public. The tour will be preceded by breakfast at Balliol Hall starting from 8am. Due to size limitation, this event will be for MCR freshers only and there are 20 places offered by ballot, but we will organise similar tours open to all MCR members later in the year. Please enter the ballot here by 23.59, Tuesday, 3 Oct:

<https://forms.gle/3cjBPTGXYNEEHTyU9>.

University Freshers' Fair 11:00-12:00, University Parks

Head to University parks for the Freshers' fair. All the different University societies will be there so it is a great chance to see what's going on and maybe even find a new hobby!

Bodleian Libraries Tours, 12:30-13:30, Bodleian Old Library

The Bodleian staff will lead two tours, one leaving at 12:30 and one leaving at 13:00. You will need to sign up in advance to be assigned to one of the tours. This is a great way to get introduced to the beautiful library facilities at Oxford.

SOLO Induction, 14:00-15:00, Online

The Balliol Librarians will lead an online training to SOLO, Oxford's online library search tool.

Balliol Library Tour, 15:30-16:30, Balliol Library

Self-explanatory.....

BAME Dinner, 19:00-20:30, MCR

Come and enjoy a nice dinner with other members of Balliol's BAME community! Freshers and long-standing members of the MCR are welcome.

Living Out Drinks, 21:00-23:00, The Chequers

The living out rep has booked tables at The Chequers (High street). Come along for a chance to mingle with your fellow living outers and get a free drink in the process! You can meet us directly in the Chequers at 21:00, or, if you prefer to walk there together, outside Holywell Manor at 20:45. If you get there first, ask for the tables that are booked for Elena.

## **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

Women's Brunch, 10:00-11:00, D-Block CR

All women identifying members of the MCR are invited to a brunch in the D-Block Common Room! This is a great chance to get to know other women in the MCR, and bond over pastries and a cup of coffee.

SOLO Induction, 11:00-12:00, Online

The Balliol Librarians will lead an online training to SOLO, Oxford's online library search tool.

Tour of Oxford 16:00-17:00, Leaving Holywell Manor Porter's Lodge

If you fancy a relaxed tour of Oxford come to the Holywell Manor Porter's Lodge and an MCR committee member will show you around.

Dinner Pre-Drinks, 19:00-19:45, Buttery

Join fellow freshers and College advisors for pre-drinks before dinner.

Graduate Dinner, 19:45-22:30, Hall

A lovely way to finish off what has hopefully been a delightful freshers' week. You will be seated with students in your same faculty and your College advisors. The dress code is smart, which means students usually wear mid-length dresses or suits. You do not need to wear your academic gowns.

After Dinner Drinks 22:30-00:00, MCR

Come to the MCR for some more fun (and lots of port).

## **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

Disabilities Coffee 10:00-11:00, D-Block Common Room

Welcoming our community of students who identify as having a disability, specific learning difficulty, or health condition, and all disability allies for a drop-in coffee break and chat from 10.30am-11.30am with delicious cakes from Barefoot Bakery and fresh fruit treats in D Block Common Room (Master's Field). A chance to connect with fellow students, grow your support group and join our friendly community to learn more about our activities and ask any questions you may have.

Boat Club BBQ, 15:00-18:00, Balliol Boathouse

Join the Boat Club for a BBQ.

MCR BOP 20:45-02:00, Holywell Manor

Likely will be the best night of your life so far. More information will be sent out separately.

## **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

Welfare Brunch 11:30-12:30, D-Block Common Room

If you are feeling a little fragile post BOP, our women's officer will be providing a welfare brunch for all MCR members to help us all recover and get ready for the week ahead.

Punting, 13:00-14:00, Meet at Manor

If you still have some energy after the BOP, come to take part in the Oxford tradition of punting! Don't worry if you never punted before, as this will be your opportunity to begin learning (or to take advantage of the experienced punters in your group). We will leave from the Manor at 13:00 to go to the Magdalen Boathouse.

MCR OGM, 19:00 - 20:30

First OGM of the term -- join for free food and to witness the beauty of MCR democracy.