**COVID-19 CRISIS: UPDATE ON COLLEGE ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS**

**Cancelling College tenancy agreements**

As many of you will already know, in the exceptional circumstances created by the current Covid-19 crisis the College has agreed that any student who has a tenancy agreement with the College may terminate it without penalty. This gives students a clear and simple choice based on a documented contractual arrangement.

In the case of undergraduates, this will apply to Trinity Term rents provided notice is received by the due date for payment of rent (8th May). In the case of postgraduate students, the agreement will terminate at the end of the month during which notice is given.

Two questions arise for those thinking of terminating their tenancy agreements:

1. What if I can’t remove my belongings from the room because of travel restrictions?

If the College needs to use the room it will arrange for the belongings to be packed and either stored to await collection or (at the student’s expense) shipped to the desired destination. Unless and until the room is needed the belongings may be left undisturbed until travel restrictions are lifted, but students would then be expected to return to remove their belongings as soon as reasonably practical.

1. What if the restrictions are lifted and I want to return to College?

Anyone who has cancelled their contract will be welcome to request a new contract for what remains of their academic year if they wish to return and are permitted to travel.  The College of course wants to help its students as much as it can and it seems most unlikely, given the circumstances, that we would not be able to accommodate such requests, though not necessarily in the same room as previously.

**College facilities during the crisis**

The following sets out the constraints under which the College is currently operating. As national and local circumstances change, there will no doubt be adjustments to these which may make them less or more stringent. Whatever the constraints, it is essential for the health and safety of the entire College community that all residents accept and follow the rules without question.

1. Government rules must be followed at all times. As things currently stand, these require you strictly to observe social distancing rules and not to leave the College except for shopping for basic necessities, for one form of exercise per day, or for medical purposes.
2. Whilst your tenancy agreement entitles you to a room in College, it may be necessary (and is permitted under the agreement) to move you from the room you have hitherto occupied to another room in College. In such circumstances your rent would be the lower of your current rent and the normal rent for the room you were being moved to. Such moves may be needed to ensure that we can manage the safety of the buildings (in particular, water systems) with such staff as we still have available.
3. The Hall is currently closed for the safety of both students and staff. All meals are being provided in take-away boxes. You will be able to sign up for meals on the website and will be charged the cost price.
4. The Library and collaborative learning spaces are currently closed, which means that academic work would, for the most part, have to be undertaken in your room.
5. Similarly, University libraries, laboratories and other learning spaces are currently closed, and likely to remain so for much of Trinity Term.
6. The common rooms, café, bar, Chapel, gym etc. are currently closed to prevent the transmission of the virus by social interaction.
7. All sports facilities are currently closed.
8. The quads, however, are open and being maintained by the Gardens & Grounds staff as normal.

In short, the College is able to provide meals, lodging and a place for undisturbed remote learning and private study, plus outdoor space for you to enjoy good weather but, until the situation improves, very little else. This needs to be borne in mind as you consider whether to continue with your tenancy or not.

**Bursar**

**15th April, 2020**