
Keble College Middle Common Room

Fresher's Handbook

2021 - 2022



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Disclaimer: The information in this handbook is correct at time of distribution (July 2021), though certain aspects are subject to government regulations and guidance.

Welcome!

Dear Keble Freshers,

Congratulations on your offer to study at Oxford and welcome to the Keble College Middle Common Room (MCR)!

Keble College, which was established in 1870, boasts around 340 full-time and 110 part-time graduate students making it one of the largest graduate student bodies within the university. Founded in memory of John Keble as a way of extending access to Oxford University, Keble College is a community known for its inclusivity and diversity. Regardless of background or upbringing, you are now part of the Keble family!

At the heart of graduate life at Keble is the MCR—our student body, of which you are now a member; it is a great base to build your Oxford experience. In this community of postgraduate students, you will have the chance to meet students from all corners of the world, studying a wide range of subjects. I have no doubt that you will meet interesting people, widen your intellectual horizons, and form close, lifelong friendships.

The MCR is also a collection of physical spaces, with social and study rooms on the Parks Road (aka Main) Keble Site and the H B Allen Centre (HBAC). Feel free to use these facilities for relaxing, studying, and socialising. Alongside the MCR are the Junior Common Room (JCR) for undergraduate students and the Senior Common Room (SCR) for academic staff; you will have plenty of opportunities to engage with both groups.

The MCR is run by a fantastic committee, who organise a variety of events (both in person and virtual) for you all through the year, including movie nights, pub quizzes, games nights, arts and cultural events, sports activities, and much more. Our events are fun, free, and open to absolutely everyone; they're here to provide a fun, engaging, and friendly atmosphere.

This brief guide is designed to introduce you to the MCR, College, HBAC, and moving to Oxford. In light of the current pandemic, we understand that many of you may have concerns or questions about your time in Oxford. Despite these continually challenging times, the MCR is committed to delivering social events, in line with any relevant College, University, and government guidelines. We have scheduled several Freshers' events for the beginning of the academic year to ease your transition and to give you the opportunity to meet lots of new people. You will also be able to get more information about Keble life, the ins and outs of Oxford, and Oxford clubs and associations. I strongly encourage you to come to as many events so you can and meet as many fellow MCR members as you can! To keep up to date with the latest events and announcement, please join our [Facebook Group](#).

Further, we invite all our Fresher's to also join the [WhatsApp Group Chat](#) to share any information amongst yourselves before and during your time at Keble.

The MCR is also a significant resource for mental and emotional welfare. We have an incredible Welfare Team, peer supporters, and a whole community of friends and colleagues to help you navigate the ups and downs of student life. The MCR is here to help you make the most of your time at Oxford, so please don't hesitate to approach any member of the committee with questions or concerns. Additionally, this handbook has a list of contactable people in College who can help you sort out any queries such as accommodation, finances, registration, and academic concerns.

I am looking forward to meeting every one of you and welcoming you to the best college community in Oxford!

Sam White

MCR President 2021/22

Keble College

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The committee holds MCR meetings, occurring twice per term, and oversees the MCR budget. They also represent the MCR to the Governing Body of College, attending meetings with the Warden, Bursar, and Domestic Bursar.

On a more personal note, the Executive Committee officers are here to represent you and are willing to assist you with any issues you may have! Executive Committee officers are returning students to Keble MCR and know the ropes. Never hesitate to reach out with comments, ideas, and questions!

2021-2022 Officers



President - Sam White (president@mcr.keble.ox.ac.uk)

Sam is a second-year DPhil student in Engineering Science, studying alternative fuels. Having also studied for his MEng here, Sam is somewhat of a Keble veteran. Aside from leading the committee, Sam is here to answer any questions about the workings of the college or the MCR and can point you in the right direction if you need any help or advice. When he's not working, Sam enjoys walking, photography and spending time with friends.



Vice-President - Varun Shankar (vp@mcr.keble.ox.ac.uk)

Varun is a second-year DPhil candidate in Engineering Science from Zambia who is keen to represent the MCR at various College meetings and re-introduce in-person events as restrictions ease. After joining the MCR committee early into his first year here, he has enjoyed organising events and is keen to support the committee further through this role. Outside of MCR, he enjoys playing cricket, cooking, DJing and travelling.



Treasurer - Grace Henry (treasurer@mcr.keble.ox.ac.uk)

Grace is a chemical engineer from Australia who has taken on the role of MCR treasurer. She is always talking about energy and is about to back up her MSc Energy Systems with the Master of Public Policy (MPP). Grace is excited to support the MCR committee with (hopefully) more in person events. Outside of study, Grace loves to bake, exercise (to work off the baked goods), and explore new places with friends.

Oxford Student Union Liaison - Kevin Wang (kevin.wang@keble.ox.ac.uk)

The MCR Welfare Team

The MCR Welfare Team complements the College and University Welfare offices which includes College sub- and junior deans, the College nurse, and counsellors as well as harassment advisers. The College and University Welfare offices are thus the first point of contact for serious concerns, health, and welfare issues. For more information, please click [here](#).

The team is comprised of our Welfare and Equality Officers and a trained team of Peer Supporters. Whatever difficulty, problem, or stress you may be encountering in life – personal, academic, emotional, health, financial or otherwise – we are here for you, and hope you will feel encouraged to get in touch with any of us. We will see you in confidence, listen and support, and try to help in any way we can, and we hope to continue helping build a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable community for all of you – one that values looking out for one another.

Welfare Officers act as a point of contact for all matters pertaining to welfare within the graduate community and liaise between central University and the MCR to continually improve Keble's welfare provision. They represent the MCR at Health & Safety, Domestic, and Welfare Committee meetings. Together with the Equality Officer, they seek to raise issues that affect the welfare of members of our community, and work towards ensuring that the needs of all members are heard fairly at College and University levels. To enhance community life and to bring members together, Welfare Officers organize weekly Welfare Teas/Brunches which provide opportunities for the Keble MCR community to come together. They also provide contraception, pregnancy tests, panic alarms, lube, and dental dams on confidential request.

The role of the Equality Officer is to be a source of advice for those who require support in equality matters, to promote equal participation of members in all aspects of the MCR, and to discourage discrimination against any particular group though it remains the responsibility of

every member of the MCR to discourage discrimination as any form of discrimination will not be tolerated by the Keble MCR.

Peer Support offers an easily accessible and relatively informal opportunity to talk through issues which may be concerning you. Peer supporters have been selected and trained to hold this role and receive ongoing support and supervision. For further information, visit <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling/peersupport/>. For 2021/22, Keble MCR's Peer Supporters can be contacted by peersupport@keble.ox.ac.uk, and are:

Luke Moss

Alexios Vourvoukelis

Aleksander Zagajewski

Anais Lemyre

Jessica Myatt

Caitlin Ashcroft

Michaelmas 2021 Officers:

Welfare Officer - Emanuele Presiozo

welfare.keble.mcr@gmail.com

Emanuele is reading towards a DPhil in (cognitive) Archaeology. When not busy organising conferences on the cognitive sciences or putting on random projects involving the mind (whatever it is), he enjoys running, hiking, climbing, or dreaming to be somewhere chasing potters in Crete.



Equality and Diversity Officer - Roxana Akhmetova

roxana.akhmetova@keble.ox.ac.uk

Roxana is a second-year D.Phil candidate in Migration Studies from Canada who is excited to continue increasing diversity and inclusion within the MCR for the second year in a row. Roxana is keen to encourage equal participation and representation of members in all aspects of the MCR and discourage discrimination against any group. She loves to talk about all things AI, politics, self-development, and up-skilling, cooking and travel.



The Social Team

Whilst there are termly large-scale events to look forward to (Oxmas! Black Tie Dinners! Exchanges!) the Keble MCR typically aims to host smaller social events within the weeks of term. We host a wide variety of events, which includes our popular weekly games night, craft evenings, cultural trips, nature walks and picnics. Our events are often subsidised by the MCR and always are both alcohol-friendly and -free, as well as considerate of other dietarys when applicable.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Keble MCR community has come together to host a range of safe, socially distant in-person events when possible but has also hosted a range of engaging virtual events. Our priority remains ensuring the safety of our members so whilst the times are uncertain, we are, however, certain that we will have a fun and memorable social season (virtual or not)! Please do keep an eye on your emails and the [Facebook Group](#) for information about events.

Whilst the social team is committed to developing the best social season possible, we value the input of our members so if you have an idea or would like to run an event, please reach out to the social team. Positions on the social team are also available, so please reach out to the team or the MCR secretary to get more information.

Michaelmas 2021 Officers

Social Secretary - (entz@mcr.keble.ox.ac.uk)

The social secretary oversees the “Entz” (entertainment) team and is involved with the organisation and running of social activities for the Keble MCR. It is a great position to fully immerse yourself in the Keble and Oxford community in addition to adding some excitement and fun to both your year and your fellow Keblites’! It is also often done in pairs, though individual social secretaries are well supported by the team to maximise MCR fun.

If you’re interested in this position or finding out more, do not hesitate to reach out to any MCR officer (especially as some have previously fulfilled this position and will happily drop tips!).

Black Tie Dinner Officer - Amanda Westcott (black-tie-dinner@mcr.keble.ox.ac.uk)

Amanda is a second-year DPhil candidate in History, studying the court of George III and British country houses in the late eighteenth century. After benefiting from all of the entertaining and enriching functions hosted by the MCR (first during her Master's and now as a DPhil student), she is keen to give back to the Keble community as a committee member and bring some fun to the College’s black tie dinners and many other events!



Exchange Dinners (Oxford) - Philip Winchester (exchange-dinner@mcr.keble.ox.ac.uk)

Hey, I'm Phil! I'm about to start my third year of my DPhil in Maths and am looking forward to serving as your Exchange Dinner officer this term. Woohoo! Exchange dinners are events arranged with other colleges which allow MCR members to enjoy a reduced hall meal at different colleges, as well as to meet other University students. They are usually super fun and tend to fill up quickly, so keep an eye out for sign-up links in your inboxes!



Arts & Culture Officer - Amanda Matthes (amanda.matthes@keble.ox.ac.uk)

Amanda is a DPhil student with the AIMS CDT in the Engineering and the Computer Science Departments. She is this year's Arts & Culture Officer, so I hope you like musicals, because Amanda definitely does. Contact her if there are any particular events you would like to see. Amanda is also on the committees of the Powerlifting Club and the Physics Society, so feel free to ask her about those as well!



Environment Officer - James Taylor (james.taylor@keble.ox.ac.uk)

Hi, I'm James, the MCR environmental officer. I am about to start the second year of my DPhil in Maths. My role consists of working with the college and MCR to minimise our environmental impact and promoting awareness of environmental issues. If you would like to get involved, have good ideas for environmental events you would like to see, or would just like to talk about sustainability, please get in touch!



Cellar Steward - Alex Hayes (alexander.hayes@keble.ox.ac.uk)

Alex is a 6th year medical student currently based at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Headington. He has always had a passion for the art of cellar stewardship and is excited to explore the possibilities of this role in the upcoming academic year. Please feel free to get in touch with Alex if you think there are any upcoming sporting or other televised events that could be shown in the HBAC common room, and he would be happy to look into the possibility of providing food and/or drinks.



Sports Team

At Oxford, you can play sport at University ('Blues') or college level. While the Blues teams tend to be a bit more serious, taking part in college sport is a great way to stay active, fuel your competitive edge and meet new people - all teams also have a great social scene! In Keble, there are various MCR specific teams including men's and women's Football and Cricket. When combined with the JCR you can get involved with anything from Rowing and Hockey to Dancesport and Croquet. That doesn't mean there aren't other new sports on offer if you fancy them: Keble MCR members have joined university teams such as Quidditch, Ultimate Frisbee and Australian Rules Football so there should definitely be something on offer for you! If you want to know more of what is available in Keble and Oxford have a look at the Sports page on the MCR website or get in touch with the Sports Officer.

Punting, one of the iconic activities of Oxford, is also offered for social use through the College; Keble MCR has a punt rented at the Cherwell Boathouse that can be booked during the Trinity Term (TT) and Summer of 2022.

Michaelmas 2021 Officer - Jamie Kwon (sports@mcr.keble.ox.ac.uk)



Jamie is a second-year DPhil student from South Korea studying in the Department of Oncology. Having thoroughly enjoyed his time playing football for both Keble and the University, Jamie decided to join the MCR committee to help fellow Keblites make the most of the wide variety of sporting activities that are on offer at Keble. Joining a sports team is a great way to meet new people, have fun in socials and get involved with the college community. Do get in touch with Jamie if you are interested or have any questions relating to sports at Oxford!

Sport facilities - College and beyond

College Sport Grounds

The College's sports ground is 10 minutes north of the main site on the Woodstock Road. In the summer Cricket is played and the sports ground offers two artificial cricket nets and two grass nets. Other team sports, notably rugby and hockey, are played in the University Parks, opposite the main site.

Squash Courts

Keble College members have access to a squash court with showers, changing rooms, and observation gallery. It is accessed via St. Cross Road, backing onto the University Club Sports Ground. A Membership Application Form, along with Terms and Conditions, can be obtained on the Keble website or from the Porter's Lodge. The membership fee is £15/year, irrespective of the time of year you choose to join and is payable by a charge to your college account (*battels*).

Boathouses

The College has two boat houses, one on the banks of the Isis (Thames) in amongst the main college boathouses, and another on the Isis at Godstow. There are opportunities for novices to begin rowing in eights.

University Sports Facilities

Graduates can make use of the University's sport facilities, many of which are located at the Iffley road site 10-15 minutes from Keble.

IT and Social Networks of the MCR

As the default way for communication within the MCR, we have two different mailing lists. The first one is the "[official](#)" one and we would like to encourage you not to unsubscribe from it as important information is conveyed through this channel.

The second one is the "[social](#)" one, that is used for sending out information about social events. By the end of September, you should receive an email informing you that you have been added to both mailing lists. If it was not the case, please do not hesitate to contact our IT officer, who will add you.

Besides that, the best way to stay in touch with what is going on is to subscribe to the [MCR calendar](#) and check our [Facebook](#) page.

Michaelmas 2021 Officer - James Fox (james.fox@keble.ox.ac.uk)

Fresher's (incoming graduates) Welcoming

In order to make you feel welcome from your first day in Oxford, we are organising various welcome events before and at the beginning of Michaelmas Term. These events will commence mid- to end-September until the beginning of term (0th Week, 3-9 October), after which events will be hosted by the MCR social team. In the interim, be sure to join the College Facebook Group and Fresher's [WhatsApp chat](#).

We will further ensure that all students who are required to self-isolate are able to attend organised online events. Fresher Welcome events will be in accordance with government guidance and thus might be smaller gatherings; more details will be shared closer to September & keep an eye out for the full schedule on the Facebook page and in your email. This is a great opportunity for you to get to know people at your college, understand how life in College works and ask any burning questions you may have! We are organising 'Drop-in-Desks' on several evenings (both virtual and in-person) where current members of Keble MCR are more than happy to answer your questions. We hope to have plenty of Meet and Greets, receptions, and tours of College and Oxford so be ready to (safely socially distanced) meet lots of great people!

Apart from socialising, there are a few other things you need to do in the first couple of weeks, such as registering with a GP, opening a bank account, getting a cellular mobile contract, meeting the college nurse, and attending the official College welcome event (including the fire safety talk). Further details will be released and be sure to refer to this handbook for further administrative information.

Fresher's Week President - Lauren Lester (lauen.lester@keble.ox.ac.uk)

After enjoying her time as the social secretary for 2020-2021 and being a Keblite too much, Lauren has decided to transfer her 1-year MSc to a MPhil in Water Science, Policy, and Management to enjoy another year with her fellow Keblites! Looking forward to sharing her enthusiasm for the MCR, she cannot wait to meet the incoming Keblites and utilise all her new (virtual) social event-planning skills + fresher's budget to arrange fun-and-games (and, surely, snacks!) for the MCR freshers. She will also strive to support the incoming freshers to integrate into the MCR and Oxford life, so do not hesitate to reach out.

When not fangirling about the MCR, she can be found fangirling about food, travelling, and Disney...or hanging out in one of the libraries (unless it's sunny – then she is surely on the HBAC Terrace or in Uni Parks).



Facilities

Keble Main Site

Common Room (Main Site MCR)

The main room of the Keble MCR is the reading room and has many comfy sofas and an open fireplace which is often lit in the winter. It is an excellent place to work/relax in Oxford! Other Keble MCR facilities include a TV room with a Sky TV, Blu-ray player and Wii, a kitchen with a refrigerator, microwave and dishwasher, which everyone is free to use. Disabled access to the Keble MCR is via Hayward Quad.

Porters' Lodge

The college porters are some of the most helpful people in college. The Porters' Lodge, located at the entrance to the College, is mainly responsible for security and post but can provide you with most of the practical information you need. Don't be afraid to ask questions. The Lodge is open 24 hours a day and the porters are there to help and support you. Disabled access is via the entrance to staircase 1 in Liddon Quad. The front college gate is locked after dusk, but members can enter using their University student card (AKA Bod card).

All keys for the squash court, gym, music room, etc. can be collected here.
Call in case of emergency, phone number +44 1865 272727

Keble Library

Accessed using your University (Bod) card, Keble library is open 24 hours a day throughout the year, something you will really appreciate when university libraries close early during the holidays. The books within the library are largely geared towards undergraduate courses, although many graduates admit to being pleasantly surprised by its resources.

Graduates can request the library to stock a book for them, if it is sufficiently relevant to their studies. Similarly, you can ask your college advisor to place a request on your behalf. The library has a printer and two computers (printer use only) in the basement. Copying and printing costs will be charged to your college account (known as *battels*). You can also borrow DVDs, travel guides, and novels from the library.

Computer Room

There is a computer room (including printers) beneath the Warden's Lodgings, which you access with your University (Bod) card. It does not have disabled access. The college IT offices are also located here, and they are a good first contact to help you with any computer problems for free. You get a university email account once you have registered. This is done through the Oxford University [Computer Services](#) and you will be sent all the necessary instructions before your arrival. Since email is the default means of communication within the university, it is important to activate your account as quickly as possible.

Keble Bar

Keble bar is a good social space in the college which provides an alternative to the MCR. With £2.50 pints and a pizza bar (usually open during weeks 1-8 of term though this will be subject to government guidance), this is a great place for a drink and a bite to eat at the end of the day. The bar is also complete with various games equipment including a billiard's table and a darts board.

Chapel

The Keble chapel is one of the most impressive buildings in college and is open daily to everyone. The side chapel boasts the original 'Light of the World' painting by Holman Hunt, a reproduction of which is in St. Paul's Cathedral. The Chapel holds daily services in accordance with the Church of England, including a Eucharist on Sunday evenings during term time at 5.30pm and Choral Evensong on Wednesdays at 6.00pm. The College Chaplain is Revd. Nevsky Everett (nevsky.everett@keble.ox.ac.uk). At the end of Michaelmas, there is a candlelit Advent carol service for Christmas which is always popular.

Dining Hall

The College serves three meals a day, five times a week, and two meals (brunch and dinner) over the weekends with Sunday evenings having the option of a roast dinner. The meals offered by the College Hall are diverse and accommodating of all dietary requirements. Mondays are meat-free as part of the College's commitment to sustainability.

Currently, members are required to book Tuesday-Friday lunch/dinner meals by 09:30 morning of, and meals for Saturday-Monday need to be booked by 16:30 of the preceding Friday. Breakfast and brunch currently do not require booking. Booking of meals is done through the [College portal](#) and is charged to your student account (*battels*), which can be viewed through the same portal under *Fees & Charges*. The price of hall meals varies, though for 2020-2021, vegetarian lunches and dinners were approximately £4, whilst meat was £4.75. Formals and Black Tie Dinners will cost more and are typically, at least, three course dinners.

The times of the hall, as well as the availability of dining in-hall are subject to government guidance during the pandemic though the hall remained open for socially distanced in-hall dining for 2020-2021. The dining times (collection of food) were typically:

Breakfast : 08:00-09:00

Brunch : 11:00-11:30

Lunch : 12:30-13:00

Dinner : 18:00-18:30

Further, opportunities for formals, Black Tie Dinners, allowance for guests, and MCR High Table dining are all contingent on the government guidance.

HB Allen Centre Facilities

As the HB Allen Centre (HBAC) is where many MCR Members live, many (but not all) events will be held here. Those of you who do not live here will still have access to many of the facilities in HBAC and can register for a FOB (access disc) at the HBAC Porters' Lodge (see below).

Porters' Lodge

The Porters at HBAC are a great resource for helping you settle at HBAC, even if you will not be living there. You can request your FOB from the Porters, which will give you access to MCR spaces. Packages will be delivered here, and all graduate pidges (mailboxes) are located in the Acland building. If you can't locate something, the Porters are sure to point you in the right direction!

Post

All graduate 'Pidges' (mailboxes) are located in the Sarah Acland building on the ground floor. Whether you live in HBAC or not, your campus and external post will be sent to your pidge here.

Common Room (HBAC MCR)

There is an MCR located within HBAC. Equipped with large sofas, billiards's table, table football, TV, tables, and kitchenette, the HBAC MCR is a great space to meet with friends and relax. We do, however, ask that all MCR members take responsibility to clean up after themselves and keep the MCR neat and pleasant for everyone.

QCR

The Quiet Common Room (QCR) is a designated quiet study space in HBAC. We encourage members to respect the agreed upon "quiet space" as voted by the MCR. There are plenty of tables, chairs, and sofas available for use as well as a kettle and sink for late night tea. There is also a coffee machine within the QCR generously sponsored by our alumni.

Terraces

There are two terraces at HBAC available Trinity term (May to September 2022): the How High Terrace and Clara's Terrace. Clara's Terrace is available to all members of the MCR and their guests during daylight hours. The terrace is accessed via Staircase 5.

The door onto the terrace will be unlocked by the Porters at the start of the day and locked at its end - the hours of opening and closing are published at the Porter's Lodge at the HBAC. Members on the terrace at closing time should respect the instructions of the porters and/or the Sub Dean.

The terrace may be used for relaxation, private or group study, and meetings with friends and colleagues. How High Terrace is available to members of the MCR and their guests for organised gatherings, the details of which must have been approved by the Sub-Dean at least seven days in advance. Such gatherings may, at the Sub-Dean's absolute discretion and subject to availability, also have access to the adjacent Visitors' Common Room. The terrace may be used for receptions, drinks parties, buffets etc. These should normally be sponsored by the MCR Committee or by a Fellow of the College.

Cafe

The Cafe is located between the Porters' Lodge and the MCR. Snacks and pre-made food including pizzas, salads, and sandwiches, are available here and can be purchased with your University (Bod) card. There are plenty of tables and seating for MCR use.

Laundry

HBAC has laundry facilities in the basement with four washers and dryers (although shared kitchens also have dryers). Laundry services (washing) are payable by card or Apple/Android/Google Pay and open 24 hours a day.

Gym

HBAC has its own gym, and more information will follow concerning orientation, cost, and hours so keep an eye on your email! In compliance with current conditions, the gym currently operates on a booking system, with a limited number of individuals allowed inside at a time though this is subject to change.

Accommodation

College Accommodation

The newly built H B Allen Centre brings 2/3rds of Keble's graduate students onto one site offering top-quality accommodation and fantastic supporting facilities. It has 231 en-suite rooms for postgraduate students. Of these, 191 are arranged in 32 self-contained flats, each with a spacious communal kitchen/dining room. The remaining 40 are individual rooms with their own kitchenette. For further information, see the Keble [dedicated website](#).

University Accommodation

As a University member, you may also be able to get accommodation owned and managed centrally by the university. For that, you must apply to the [University Accommodation Office](#). This is typically not in association with Keble College and is separate to college accommodation.

Private Accommodation

Private accommodation varies widely in cost, quality, and convenience. If you are living out of the College, it is worth coming to Oxford as early as possible to find a place to live. Accommodation in Oxford is expensive (average about £120 a week for students) and finding a place near your College or department can be difficult. The University Accommodation Office is the best resource and has a database of what is available. Another useful source of information is the [Daily Info](#) website. The most practical way to find accommodation is through the [OxGradHousing](#) Facebook group. Research students and those on two-year courses may need to secure this kind of housing in their second and subsequent years. There is also a comprehensive guide available from OUSU that will be distributed around the time of the room ballot.

Travelling to Oxford

The below information is under normal circumstances; please check government information before making any travel plans.

- One hour by train from Paddington Station. Booking in advance with the [National Rail](#) or [Trainline](#) is the cheapest option (both of these have Android/Apple applications that can be downloaded to virtually secure your ticket).
- Around two hours by bus from Victoria. The options are '[Oxford Bus Company](#)' (X90) or '[Oxford Tube](#).'
- Heathrow (LHR) and Gatwick (LGW): The bus service - Oxford Bus Company's '[The Airline](#)' is one of the easiest ways to navigate to Oxford. Travel from Heathrow takes 90 minutes and costs £23 (single) and from Gatwick takes 2.5 hours and costs £28 (single). Different types of return tickets can be bought, depending on when you will be returning to the airport.
- Birmingham (BHX): The train is the easiest option and it only takes one hour.
- National Express coach service offers regular services from all of the major airports: Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton and Stanstead.
- Gloucester Green Bus Station is the closest stop for those heading to Keble or the HB Allen Center. Anyone arriving on a bus/coach from the North (i.e. Banbury/Woodstock) get off the 'Keble Road' stop or the stop opposite the old Radcliffe Infirmary. Keble and the HB Allen Centre are both about a safe 15 minute walk from Gloucester Green bus station or 20 minutes from the train station. A taxi from the bus station or train station to Keble should cost around £5. (001 Taxi's phone number: 01865 240000).
- Rail and bus passes can be useful if you plan to travel in the UK while at Oxford. A Young Person's [Railcard](#) is available at the rail station for those 25 and under or full time mature students for about £30 and will entitle you to one third reduction with off-peak rates. You can buy a one-year [National Express](#) Coachcard for £10, which gives you discounts of up to 30% on National Express fares throughout Great Britain. Two passport-sized photos are typically required though given the pandemic, remote registration is possible for some of these. Uploading a passable passport photo and processing payment allows a virtual Railcard to immediately be accessed through the mobile app. Further, bus passes are also available from the Oxford Tube, Oxford Bus Company, Stagecoach and Oxford Citylink companies.
- If you arrive by car, a limited number of short-stay parking places are available outside the college on Keble Road for you to unload your car. Arrangements can be made with the Porters of the H B Allen Centre should you need to unload your belongings.

Living in Oxford - General

Weather

In the summer months (May - August), Oxford can be hot and sunny and in the winter (October - February) it can be cold and snowy (snowing heavily every few years, with 2021 January bringing a day of heavy snow followed by some flurries), and it will also rain at any time of the year (October 2020 being one of the heaviest on record!). So while you are also packing thick jumpers for the coming term you may exchange these for cotton shirts and swimming costumes come Trinity term. It is also worth noting that whilst the H B Allen Centre provides radiators in each room and can provide fans upon request in the summer months, dressing appropriately is the best.

For the first term (Michaelmas - MT) warm layers, a reliable, waterproof jacket are essential. Second term (Hilary - HT) may still be chilly, especially for those from warmer climates though there are sporadic days reaching 20' C. The third, and final, term (Trinity - TT) is often warmer - especially when relative heat waves pass through Oxford and the UK. Temperatures have been known to reach 30' C in such conditions, though some buildings in Oxford can feel warmer.

Dress

Dress around the University is informal. There are several occasions such as guest dinners, subject and club dinners, and balls where the dress code is black tie (tuxedo / formal cocktail dress); attendance at these events is however completely optional. Tuxedos can usually be hired, though second hand/cheaper ones can be bought in town. Other useful items of clothing are a smart jacket and tie and a full length dress, according to your preference.

Specific attire is also required for formal university occasions such as matriculation and examinations (see '[sub fusc](#)' in the glossary), which typically comprises of a gown, white blouse/button-up/shirt, black trousers/skirt, black shoes, dark socks/black stockings, white bow tie/black ribbon and a mortar board/soft cap. Such garments can usually be obtained in Oxford, though most students opt to only purchase the gown, mortar board/cap, and bow tie/ribbon at the [store](#).

Bicycles

The bicycle is synonymous with Oxford. Cycling is a very popular means of transport in Oxford as it is a fast and affordable way to get around town. While it is more affordable to bring your own bicycle from home, this isn't always an option and there are a number of bike shops around the city. Unfortunately, where there are bicycles there is bicycle theft and it is advised that you spend a little money on a D-lock and always lock your bike to a solid object such as a rack.

There is a large second-hand bike turnover in Oxford. The Facebook group '[Buy and Sell Cycling Stuff in Oxfordshire](#)', is a good place to look for a bike if you want to buy one second hand. Or you can always check the Facebook Marketplace for available bikes. There are bicycle racks around the perimeter of the College and plenty of bike racks at Keble Main Site and HBAC. These racks are particularly secure as it is only accessible to members of Keble, and the area is monitored by CCTV. If you wish to use these facilities, please register your bike with the Porters' Lodge (main site and in HBAC) when you arrive. A helmet is also strongly recommended, and it is a legal requirement to use bike lights (white at the front and red at the back) after dark. You can be stopped and fined for not using them. Removable bike lights (to prevent theft), locks, and other things can be purchased from the [university security services](#) at a reduced rate.

Cars

Parts of the city centre are only accessible to pedestrians and public transport, and parking space is limited. There are short-stay parking spaces close to college and HBAC. There are also spaces at Norham Gardens which is a five-minute walk. To use these parking spaces, you need to purchase a parking ticket, which tends to be quite expensive. If you are living in private

accommodation, you may be entitled to a resident's parking permit, and you should speak to your landlord. Students are not able to park cars within College grounds.

Buses and Walking

For those who wish to avoid having a car or bicycle in Oxford, it is quite possible to walk to most locations. Most destinations are within 5 to 20 minutes walking from Keble, although distant locations such as the JR Hospital, Churchill Hospital, and Headington are easily accessible by the comprehensive city bus system (or by bicycle).

Passport photographs

You will probably find it useful to bring copies of recent passport-sized photographs. Membership and discount cards often require a photo of this kind. An instant-photo machine is also available in Boots, the pharmacy on Cornmarket street.

Electricity

British electricity is 240/220 volts and 50 Hz and runs through the large three-pin outlets (rectangular shaped pins).

Visas, Customs, and Immigration

If coming from abroad, ensure that you have the appropriate entry documents on hand before leaving home. Depending on your country of origin, this may include your letter of admission to the college or your department in addition to your Tier 4 visa. Before travelling to the UK, check the UK Border Agency website and/or your local UK Embassy for more information. Remember (at least for your UKBA Landing Card) that your address in College/HB Allen Centre is: Keble College, Parks Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 3PG or HB Allen Centre, 25 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6NN. It is advisable when clearing border control to carry all the documentation used when applying for the student visa, particularly CAS documentation.

Financial - bank accounts

All the main banks in Oxford (Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds and Santander) are located on Cornmarket Street and generally offer accounts for students. If you are a non-EU student on a one-year course, you may not be eligible for a student account, but it is worth researching the banks in advance to check. If you are an international student, be prepared to provide evidence of your address in the UK and your student visa in order to set up a bank account (the best combination of documents to take are your passport, college enrolment certificate, and lease agreement).

Keble also has a number of travel and study awards available to students. The Keble Association is a registered charity that regularly supports students and can award grants to help with study and travel costs. The Faith Ivens-Franklin Travel Fund is for current graduates to help with any travel in connection to your academic work and the Graduate Study Support Fund awards grants for everything from course-related equipment to conference attendance. More information can be found at: <https://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/Financial-Guide.pdf>. There are also various funds that you can apply for if you find yourself facing

financial hardship and more information can be found in the financial guide (linked in the previous statement).

Shopping

There will be time in the first few days to shop for essentials, such as gowns, mortar boards, books, bicycles etc. There will usually be a bike sale at the Oxford Union (St Michael's Street) at the end of 0th Week. Alternatively, you can buy a bike from bike shops (Cowley Road or Walton Street). Argos online, Tesco, Sainsbury's, and John Lewis in the Westgate Mall are good places to purchase kettles, cooking utensils, linen and other essentials for your room. The Facebook group Oxford swap shop is a platform for students to cheaply buy and sell all sorts of things and is worth becoming a member of if interested. Gowns can be bought in the University Campus Stores and similar shops on Broad Street and High Street. All major shops in Oxford are based around Cornmarket, Queens (including the Westgate Mall) and the High Street.

Financial Information

Soon after your arrival, you should contact the Bursary to check that your *Battels (Student Account)* is in order. You will be required to pay a £150 damage deposit, whether or not you live in college accommodation and key deposits (£15) for your room key if living in College. If there is a delay in setting up your bank account or some other kind of problem with your finances, you should inform the Bursary immediately, as the staff can usually make arrangements. More useful information can be found [here](#).

At the end of each term you will have to pay your *battels* (you will receive an email) but you can do it before if you prefer. You can see all your charges and pay your *battels* [here](#).

College Doctor

When you come to Keble, you must register with an Oxford doctor. Keble recommends that you register with the Jericho Health Centre on Walton Street (less than half a mile away). Information about how to do this will be provided by the college before you arrive. If you need to see a doctor, you can always call and make an appointment (01865 429993).

There is also a College nurse (Rachel Slater, somenurse@nhs.net), available for a couple of hours every weekday during term time (weeks 1 to 8) for minor treatments. The nurse will be holding her surgeries in Somerville College, a two-minute walk from Keble.

UK residents, and some overseas students are entitled to free health care under the National Health Service, so be sure to find out if you are covered. You can also ask the nurse for recommendations of dentists and other specialists.

Associate members

Some individuals who are not current graduate students at Keble but who are connected with college are able to become associate members of the MCR for a small fee. They are able to enjoy many aspects of the MCR; they are added to the mailing list, can play in the sports teams and are able to attend all events. To become an associate member, individuals must either be a previous MCR member or the partner of a current MCR member. Please see the application form on the MCR website or contact the secretary for more details. This is a particularly good opportunity if you have a long-term partner or spouse coming to Oxford with you (sometimes it can be more difficult for them to integrate into a social scene). The associate membership gives them an excellent opportunity to quickly integrate into a common social scene.

Leaving the MCR

Throughout your time here, former students will be supporting you and all current students through the Talbot Fund. Keble alumni fund student scholarships, bursaries, prizes, our outreach programme, extra-curricular activities (sport, music and drama) and help to restore and refurbish the wonderful buildings in which we live and work. In 2016, the MCR voted for all its members to start their own tradition of alumni support for the next generation by opting in to making a donation of £20 to the Talbot Fund as they leave. By way of thanks, MCR Leavers who make such a gift will receive a Keble 'brick' and become honorary members of the Talbot Society. Members will be notified about the MCR Leavers Gift before they leave and receive details of how to allocate your gift to an area of choice and how to opt-out should you wish. For further information please contact the Alumni & Development Office.

Contacts at Keble College

Welfare

Position	Name	Contact email
Sub-dean & Lead of Welfare	Simon Hackett	simon.hackett@keble.ox.ac.uk
Welfare fellow & Chaplain	Nevsky Everett	chaplain@keble.ox.ac.uk
Senior Dean	Simon Butt	senior.dean@keble.ox.ac.uk
Senior Tutor	Ali Rogers	senior.tutor@keble.ox.ac.uk
Harassment Officers	Alfonso Bueno Orovio	Alfonso.bueno@cs.ox.ac.uk
	Diane Purkiss	dianepurkiss@btinternet.com
Junior Deans	Daria Jensen	junior.deans@keble.ox.ac.uk
	George Webster	
	Bogdan Draghici	
	Juliana Pars	
Welfare & Disability Officer	Trish Long	welfare@keble.ox.ac.uk
College Nurse	Rachel Slater	somenurse@nhs.net
College Counsellor	Nicola Psaila	counsellor@keble.ox.ac.uk

Other (administrative)

Position	Name	Contact
Financial Controller	Julie Hernandez	julie.hernandex@keble.ox.ac.uk
Accounts Assistant	Hien Le	hien.le@keble.ox.ac.uk
College Office	Penn Bateman	college.office@keble.ox.ac.uk
	Vicky Archibald (admissions)	
	Kristy Scott	

	Caroline Reve	
College Office	India Collins-Davies	
IT Office	<i>various</i>	it-support@keble.ox.ac.uk
HBAC Manager	Zdenka Miseje	zdenka.miseje@keble.ox.ac.uk
Housekeeping (HBAC)	Cheryl Hall	cheryl.hall@keble.ox.ac.uk
Porters Lodge (HBAC)	<i>various</i>	hbac.porters@keble.ox.ac.uk
Porters Lodge (Main Site)	<i>various</i>	porter.lodge@keble.ox.ac.uk
Academic Director (HBAC)	Ian Archer	ian.archer@keble.ox.ac.uk
Maintenance	<i>Log via online form</i>	<u>Online form</u>

Glossary/common colloquialisms

- **Battels:** Term for accounts/bills for students and academics at their individual colleges, which can encompass anything from meals and accommodation to punt hire
- **Beadel:** Official servant of the Vice-Chancellor
- **Bod card:** University card, named after the Bodleian library
- **BOP:** A party/disco held by a college, typically themed fancy dress
- **Bursar:** Chief financial officer of a college
- **College Advisor:** Postgraduate tutor in your field of study who is your point of contact within college for any academic issues and/or welfare concerns you may have whilst in Oxford
- **Colour-coded flowers:** A non-obligatory tradition for Oxford exams. You pin a white carnation (flower) [to your gown] for your first exam, pink for your interim exam(s), and red for your final. The colour of the flower symbolises the blood from the heart of a student as they bleed all the knowledge they have acquired onto the exam paper: hence the darker the flower, the closer to their final exam.
- **Come Up:** To arrive at Oxford
- **Congregation:** Supreme governing body of the University, consisting of all academic staff and senior academic-related staff
- **Cuppers:** Inter-college competition
- **Degree Day:** Dates throughout the course of the year when students may be presented with their degrees
- **Don:** An academic or tutor.
- **Fellows:** Senior academics/appointed staff who serve as the trustees and governing body of a college
- **Go Down:** To leave Oxford
- **Graduation:** 1) The process of graduating; 2) Ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre taking place on Degree Days where students are awarded their degrees
- **Lodge:** Base of operations for college

- **Pigeon Hole (pidge):** The University's internal mail system
- **Punting:** The activity of going along a river in a punt (= a long boat with a flat bottom that is moved by pushing against the bottom of the river with a long pole, similar to a gondola). Keble MCR has a punt at Cherwell Boathouse that can be use during Trinity and summer
- **Sub fusc:** Oxford's academic dress. Oxford students must wear subfusc to all formal academic occasions; matriculation, some exams, DPhil vivas graduation etc. This consists of black shoes, dark socks or tights, dark trousers or skirt, white shirt with a bow tie or black ribbon, a black jacket or cardigan, mortarboard and academic gown. Subfusc is not required for formal dinner in the hall, where you just need your gown. This dress code is checked and enforced so it is a good idea to obtain the appropriate dress. Graduates wear an 'advanced student's gown', which costs about £35. A mortarboard costs about £10. These can be bought from University shops such as the varsity shop on Broad street as a pack. Alternatively, if you wish, you may wear the gown and hood from your previous university.
- **Tab:** Student at Cambridge University
- **Tutor:** Academic who teaches students individually or in very small groups. They act as both teacher and academic advisor

Maps

Keble College Map



Figure 1: Map of Keble College Main Site



Figure 2: Location of H.B. Allen Centre

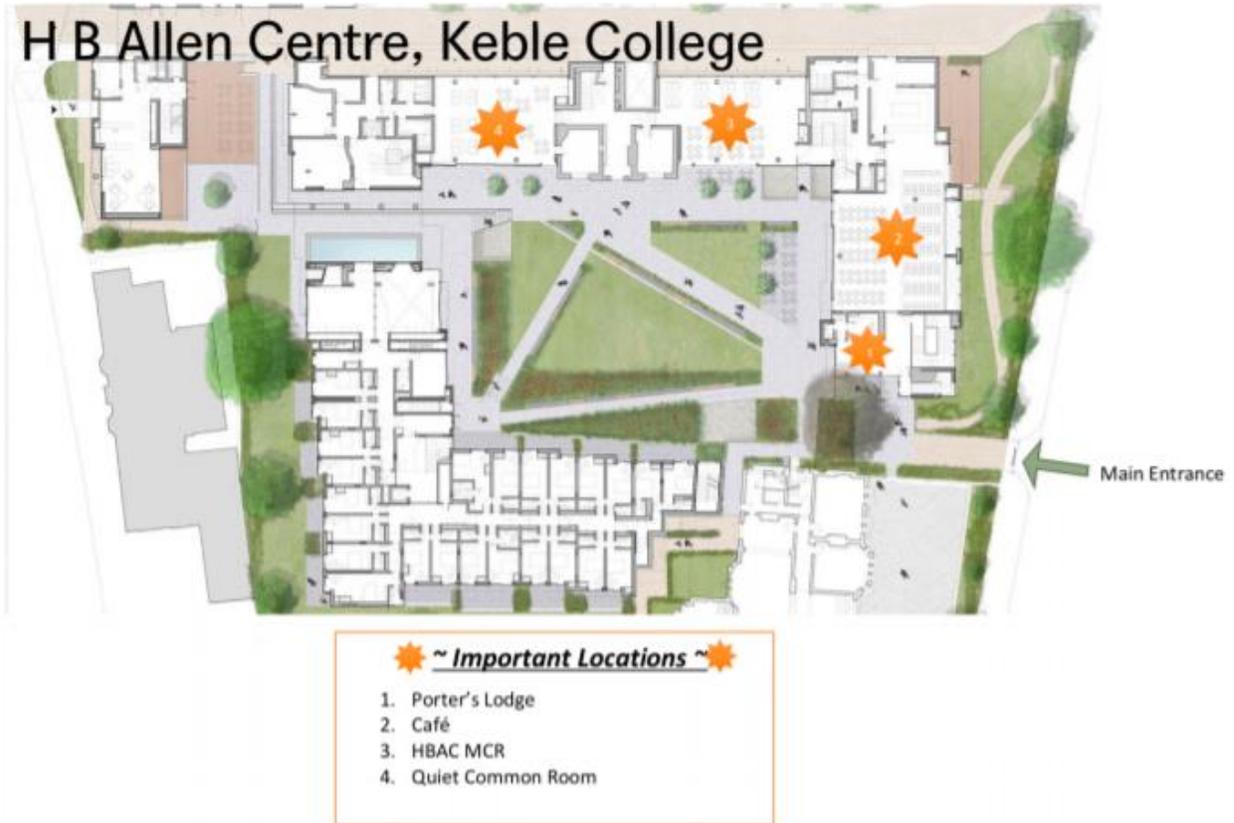


Figure 3: Map of H.B. Allen Centre