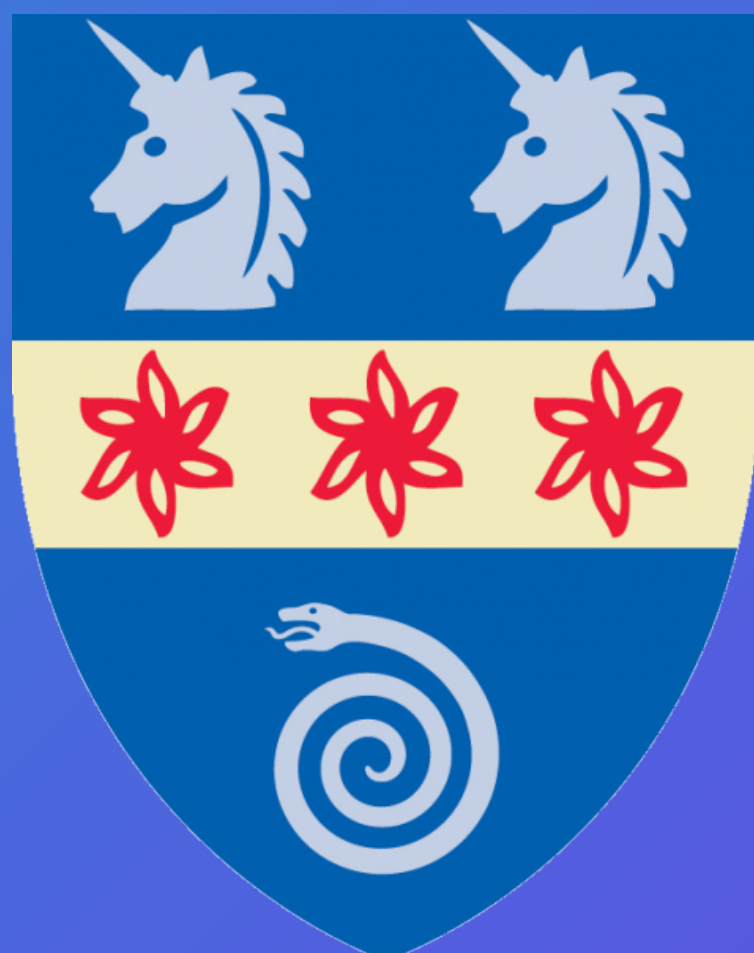


ST HILDA'S COLLEGE

ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS





Written by St Hilda's JCR 2021
Edited by Rachel Fernandes & Saarah Karim

For any enquiries please email:
undergraduate.admissions@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk

Welcome!

Welcome to St Hilda's Alternative Prospectus! In this booklet you'll find everything you need to know about the college. We, the students of St Hilda's, hope that this booklet will give you a realistic insight into what living and studying here is like, dispelling the myth of Oxford being a place of academic work alone! Priding ourselves on diversity and inclusivity, having been a women's college until 2008, St Hilda's has a reputation for its wholesome community and attitude to studying at Oxford – anyone in Oxford will tell you that Hildabeasts (our name for the students of Hilda's) are super friendly and down-to-earth. This attitude is reflected throughout college life – we're one of the very few colleges where you can walk on the grass, have free punts on site during the summer term, our amazing college cat Teabag (check out @teabag_the_hildas_cat on insta!), and amazing pastoral support. From first-hand experiences, we hope to show you some of the enriching opportunities the college has to offer, and to help you make an informed decision on your application!

– Rachel, Access Officer

ACCOMMODATION

FIRST YEAR ACCOMMODATION

The majority of first years live in either Wolfson Building or Garden Building, with some also living in South Building. Rooms are randomly allocated in first year and have the same facilities, including a sink, drawers, hanging space, a desk, lamp and a chair. The appliances (hobs and ovens) available on the kitchen of each floor vary between buildings, however everyone is catered for in the dining hall, and has fridge/freezer space as well as kettles and microwaves in their kitchen accommodation. Unlike other colleges, first years are spread across three different styled buildings, all overlooking each other – this makes for a nice variety of styles and rooms available, with brilliant views



Garden Building



South Building



Wolfson Building

There are usually around 14 people to a floor in each building, sharing three toilets and three showers. The corridor layout of the accommodation makes it a lot easier to make friends and meet people, especially when you first move in. There are also onsite laundry facilities, including washing machines and dryers. If you're an international student, the college offers some storage rooms for you to leave things you can't take home over the holidays. Because of the length of term and accommodation contracts, students have to move out at the end of every term which is different to other universities, but does mean that you can save money on rent by only paying for the time that you are staying in college!



SECOND & THIRD YEAR ACCOMMODATION



LOCATION

At St Hilda's, we are lucky to be positioned inbetween East Oxford, a 5 minute walk, and the city centre 10 minutes away – just over Magdalene bridge! Being located right next to Cowley Road, there are loads of amazing cuisines available at our doorstep including Antep Kitchen (Turkish restaurant and the highest rated restaurant in Oxford), Kazbar (Moroccan food with amazing cocktails) Za'atar Bake (Palestinian Bakery with a very lively atmosphere), The Paste Tree (super cheap Italian stone-baked pizzas) & Oxford's iconic Ahmed's BBQ kebab van! Not forgetting Nandos, just a short walk from college....

Most second year students live in private rented accommodation in East Oxford, along Cowley and Iffley roads (which gives you the opportunity to have the experience of 'living out' like at other unis). College can accommodate some of those who require onsite accommodation for personal reasons in 2nd year, in the few rooms available in the Christina Barratt Building and our swanky new Anniversary Building. These buildings, alongside our offsite accommodation are used to house third year students.

'living out has allowed me to grow amazing friendships whilst gaining independence at the same time' – Christabel, Northern Ireland



FOOD

THE DINING HALL

'The food in college is varied and so much nicer than I had anticipated - there's always a lot of options that cater to different dietary requirements and cuisines!' - Melodie, London

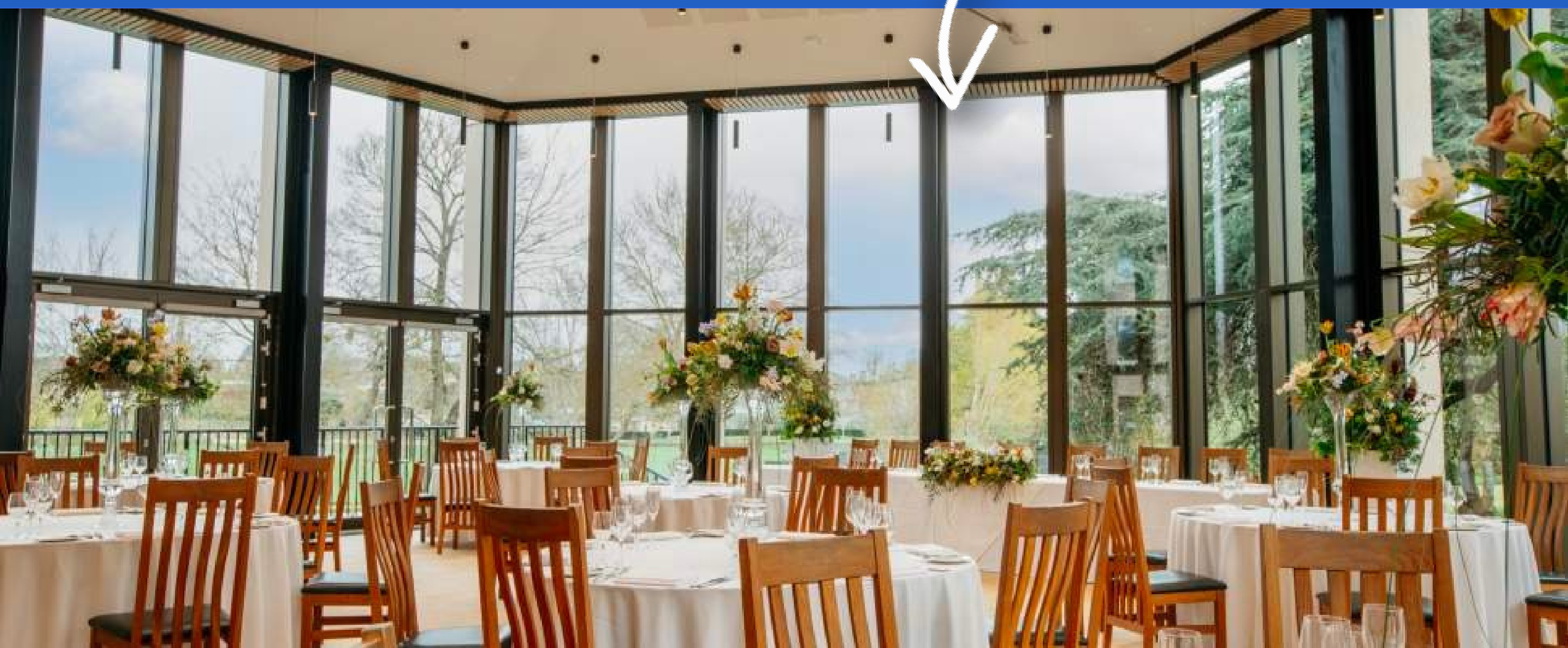


The dining hall at St Hilda's is the only one in Oxford to have round tables. This makes meal times much more sociable as there are usually 8 people to one table. Hall serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, usually for 2 hours per meal throughout the day. Brunch on Saturday mornings is a particular highlight for most students in college (...especially after a night out!)

FORMALS

Formal dinners consist of a 3 course evening meal and are a tradition at Oxford. Students usually get dressed up for the occasion and enjoy a drinks reception, followed by the meal. St Hilda's has a newly built Pavilion, where these formals can be hosted, overlooking the riverside view of the rest of Oxford. Unlike other colleges, we only have these twice a week and they're entirely optional.

Our new pavillion makes for a beautiful formal setting, unique to the traditional set up of other colleges!

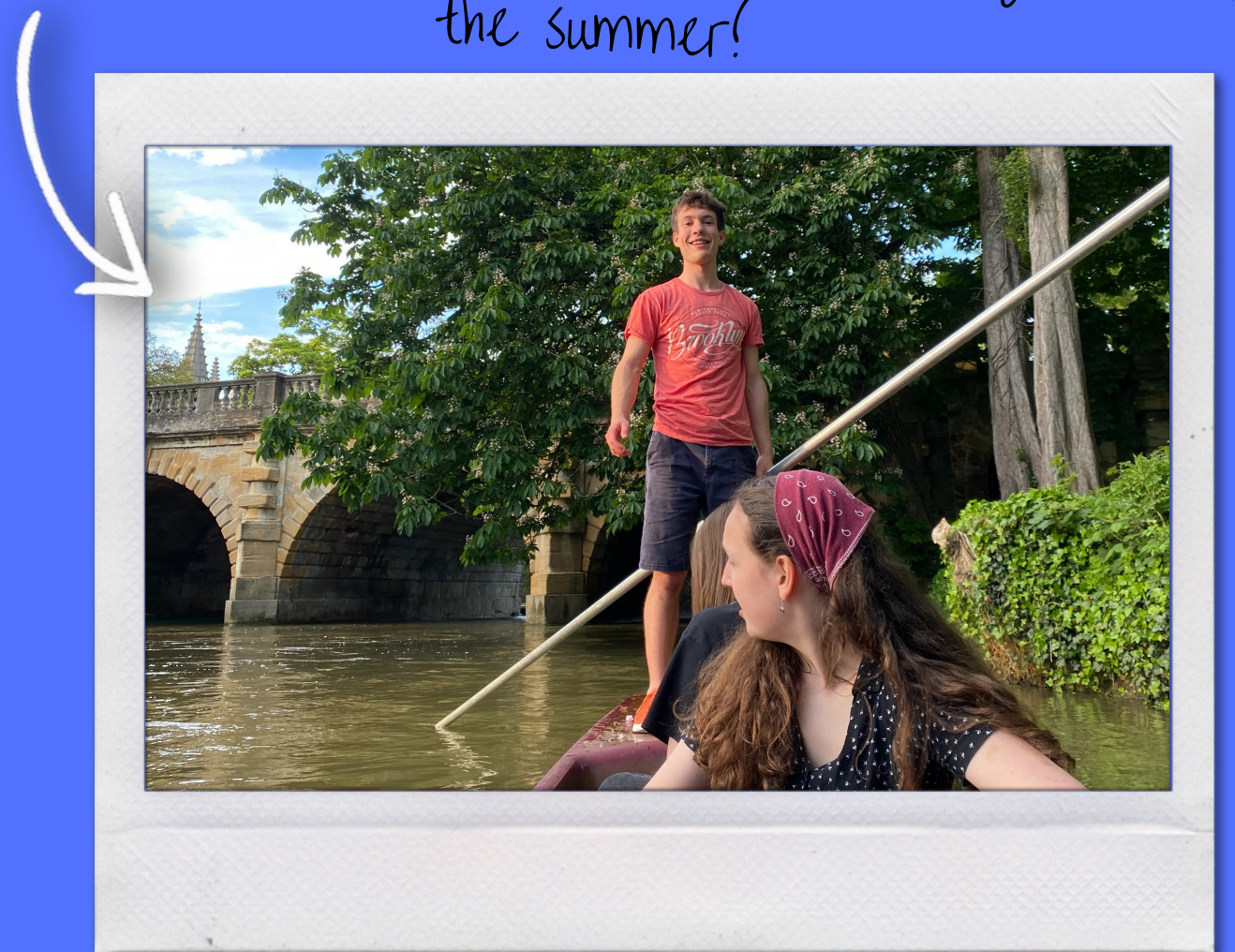


COLLEGE LIFE

JUNIOR COMMON ROOM (JCR) & OLD LAW LIBRARY (OLL)

The JCR is the focal point of the student community at St Hilda's, where most social events are held throughout the year, including 'Thursday Night Live' (aka TNL, an open mic night for students who want to perform) and BOPs (Big Organised Parties), which are basically like big themed houseparties, but in college! The JCR is also home to a pool table, table football, college bar and the buttery. It is also where college welfare events and fortnightly JCR meetings take place. The OLL (which despite popular belief, is not actually a library!) is an adjacent social room with a TV, sofas and ping pong tables.

Not only does being situated on the banks of the river Cherwell mean that we get the most beautiful riverside sunsets, but the college owns 6 punts which are available for all Hilda's students to use for absolutely free during the summer!



COLLEGE BAR & BUTTERY

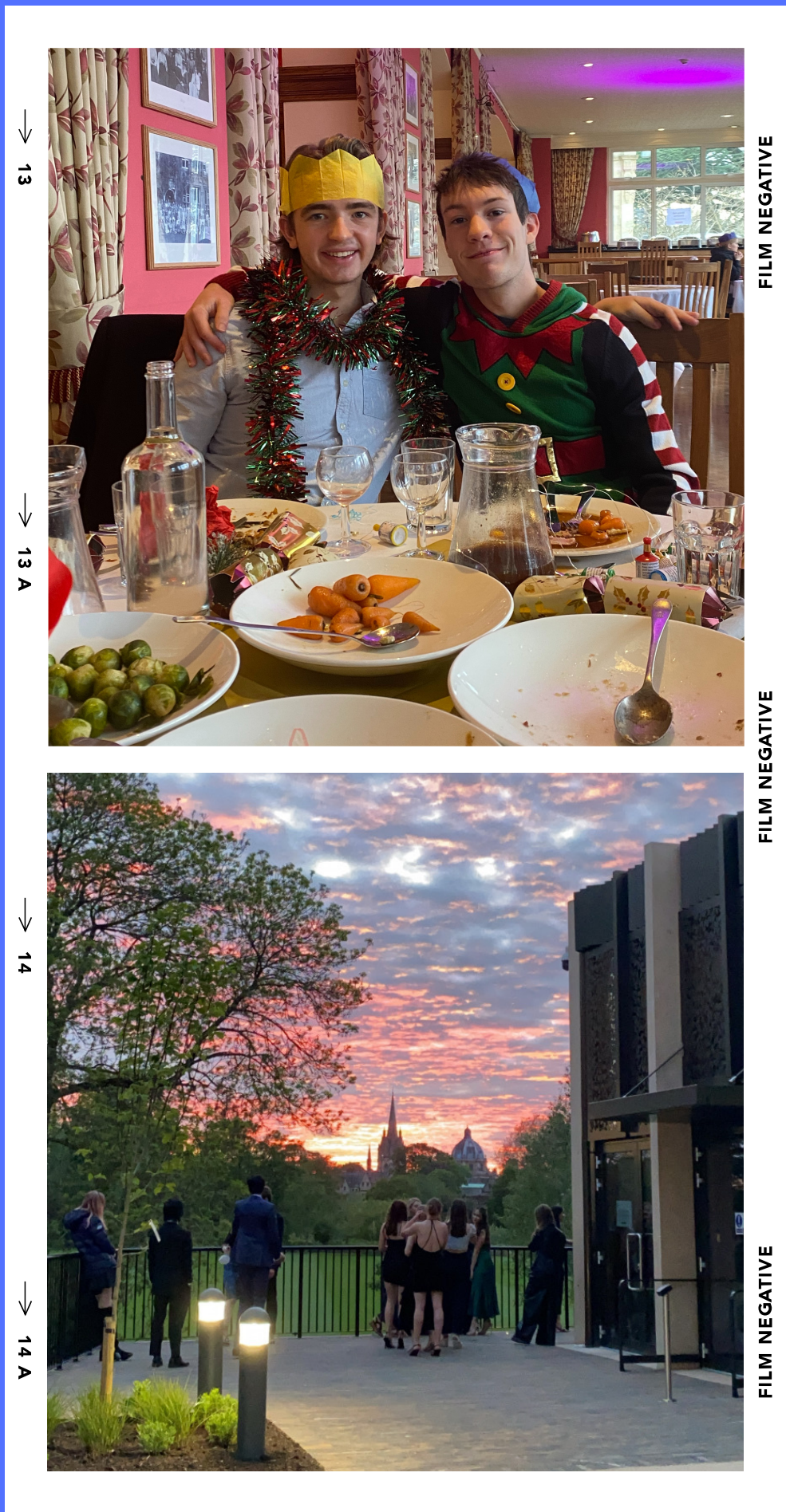
St Hilda's Bar is one of the cheapest college bars around, offering both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks – our most famous cocktails being the 'Rhino' and a Hilda's spin on a classic, a 'sex on the cherwell'. The buttery is a student run snack station (bacon baps etc.), open outside of dining hall hours providing students with food and snacks at really low prices (to get your late night or mid morning fix!) where students can also earn some money by working shifts in their free time.

THE LIBRARY

St Hilda's has a relatively big library, with over 70,000 books and 158 seats. Since St Hilda's was a female-only college and women weren't allowed to use the main university libraries, we have a large collection of materials, as well as the online library. Standard opening times in term time are 7am-1am every day (accommodating any night owls), and there are a number of different study spaces to suit everyone!



COLLEGE EVENTS



WELFARE

There are many events run across the year, including welfare week led by the welfare reps in 5th week, as well as BAME and disabili-'tea'-s, which are a chance for those who identify within those groups to get together and socialise (with free snacks of course!).

ARTS

St Hilda's Arts Week is an annual event that brings the whole college together through creative and artistic enterprises. This includes lots of different art related opportunities, including showcases, plays, recitals, poetry readings, acting workshops, writing groups and more!

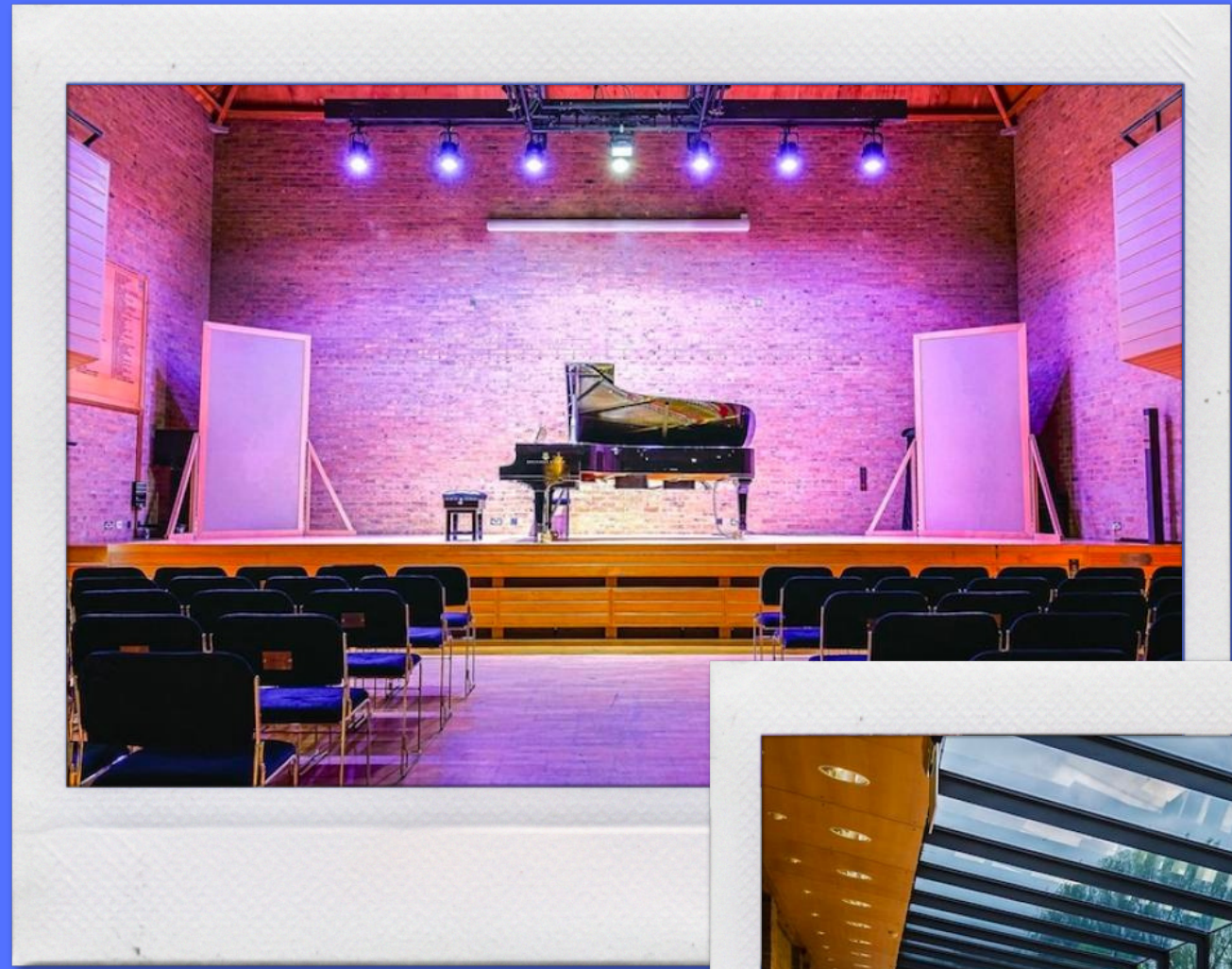
CHRISTMAS (AKA 'OXMAS')

At Hilda's, we have a number of holiday traditions for students to come together in the festive spirit even if you don't celebrate Christmas! Carols on the stairs takes place at the end of first term, where students and staff get together to celebrate our college community, listening to our college choir singing in the main building staircase. We also have our Oxmas christmas dinner including crackers, mulled wine and a three course meal, as well as themed bops!

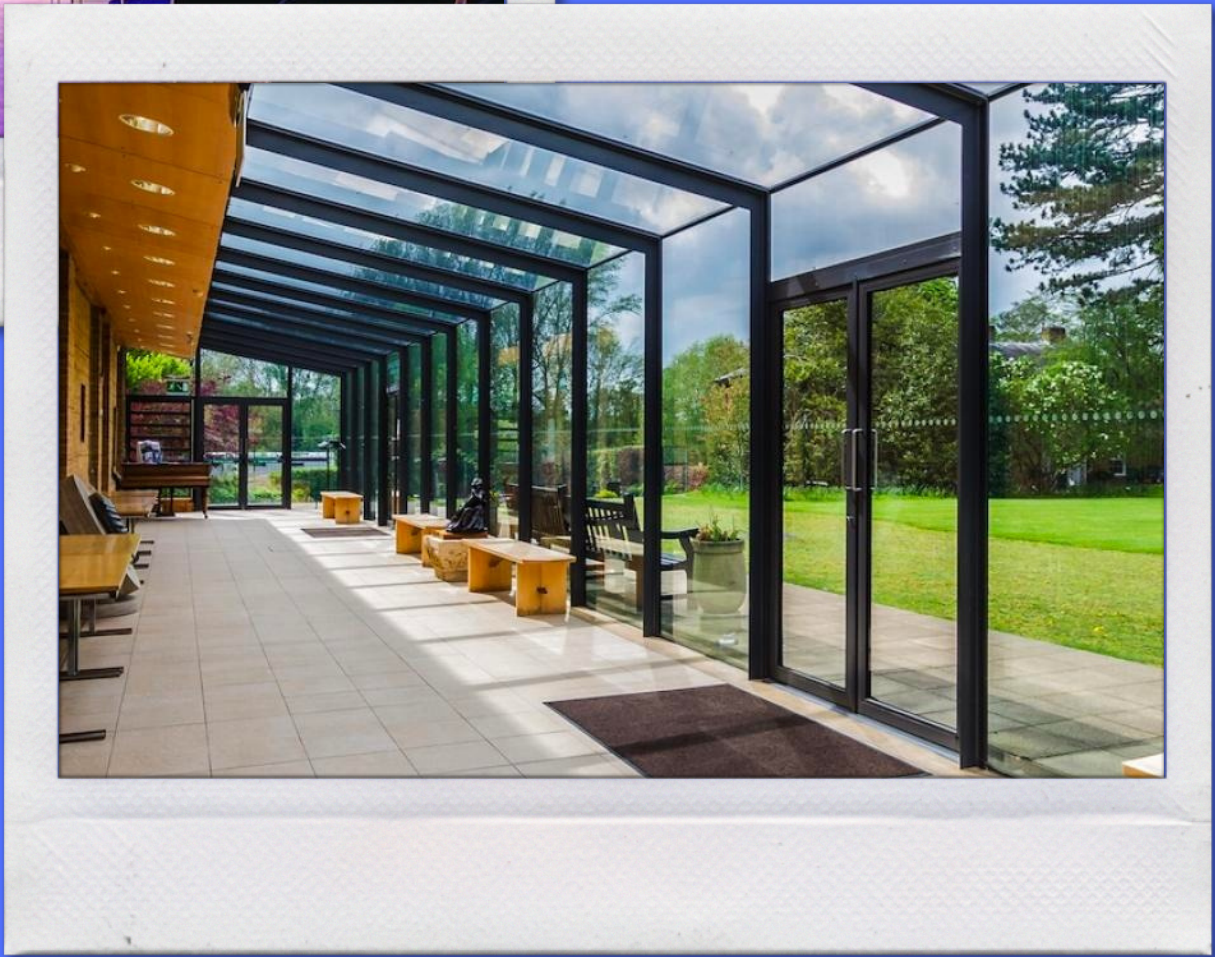
CHARITY

Our JCR committee members also host various charity events such as Pink Week (raising money for breast cancer awareness), Movember fundraising, food bank donation collections, and most notably, Hilda's iconic FemFest - an annual week-long intersectional feminist festival, reflecting the female history of the college with amazing speaker events - for example, we most recently hosted Golda Rosheuvel from Bridgerton and Hilda's' own alumni Katherine Parkinson from the IT Crowd!

MUSIC



'As a music student I find the JDP a very convenient and pleasant place to rehearse and perform. It also allowed me to meet like-minded individuals and pursue musical activities of all kinds, such as jazz band!' - Zack, Dorset



St Hilda's is home to the Jacqueline Du Pre building (aka the 'JDP') which is the first purpose-built concert hall in Oxford since the time of Handel! It houses 5 music practice rooms, plus a recording studio, which are available to all students for practice, as well as our college choir. There is also a fully equipped stage, which hosts weekly music recitals and plays by our drama society across the year!

SPORT

At Hilda's we have a number of college sports teams and wider societies to get involved in, regardless of your ability level. Our welcoming attitude extends to sports, where students are always welcome to try out sports as a complete beginner. Some of our notable teams include rowing, hockey, rugby, trampolining, skiing, football (our team won the inter-collegiate 'cuppers' competition in 2020 which we're - still - going on about years later!), badminton and netball. And for those who want to share their own favourite sport with the college community, thanks to JCR funding, you can even start your own sports society (or any society for that matter) if you put forward a proposal to the student body; most recently we've even started our own kayaking club thanks to our location on the river, where students can book out kayaks for free - there really is something for everyone at St Hilda's!




'I've loved sports at St. Hilda's, competing at badminton competitions, having a laugh playing college football - even taking out college kayaks for a paddle! There's so much choice, and great friends to be made too' - Max, Gloucestershire



FINANCES

At Hilda's we understand that university can come with certain financial pressures – to help alleviate these, there are various different sources of funding available in college to help you with living expenses during times of hardship. For example, if you are a Home student from a lower income household, you will be eligible to receive an annual non-repayable Oxford Bursary to help with living costs. As well as this, there are a number of general college funds that students are eligible for:

The student Inreach Officer is responsible for signposting the relevant financial support to undergraduate students



'Thanks to the amazing libraries in Oxford, and because everything is within walking distance, I've barely found myself spending much on books or public transport whilst at uni' – Rachel, Surrey

College Hardship Fund –
for students experiencing financial hardship to help with living expenses.

JCR Financial Support Fund –
available for JCR members who are experiencing financial difficulties. This fund is administered by the JCR Treasurer and Welfare Officers and applicants can be awarded up to £300. Applications remain confidential.

Travel, Research and Study Grant –
assists students with travel or other costs that are related to their subject or general academic and professional development. Priority may be given to students who can demonstrate a connection with their course of study.

Extra-Curricular Activities Fund –
can contribute towards the costs of extra-curricular activities of any student. Awards are usually less than £50.

Vacation Study Residence Grant –
allows undergraduate students to apply for free or subsidised college accommodation between terms for academic or welfare reasons.

Book Grant –
allows first year undergraduate or graduate students to apply for up to £60 to help pay for course books.

Music Grant –
allows Music students to claim up to £220 per term for music tuition but not travel expenses.

Language Courses Grant –
each student is entitled to £50 per year for a fast track language course (which takes 1 year to complete) through the Oxford University Language Centre

STUDENT INSIGHTS

Rachel, Law

“ College life has definitely looked a little different this year because of Covid, but thanks to the freds (Fresher’s Reps) we were able to have a (fairly) normal fresher’s week: meeting people on our course and in our buildings, using the college bar and having tables booked out for us in Plush (one of Oxford’s clubs) made for some great nights out and chances to meet new people! The college parent system (where you get partnered with a second year student in your subject) meant that you always had someone to go to with any questions, who were also able to help you with textbooks and other materials for your course. More importantly, they’re a friend who you can go to chat about any worries. My tutorials were virtual, but the small teaching groups meant that they were still really interactive and didn’t change much compared to normal. Another bonus was that lectures were online, meaning you could watch them whenever and wherever, without even having to leave your room (or your bed...). Despite corona restrictions, the JCR made sure that there was plenty on offer in terms of social events: pub quiz nights with the entz reps in the college bar, welfare teas, movie nights, and plenty of Oxmas celebrations all made us feel part of the University and its traditions. Everyone was quick to adapt their social lives to the pandemic, despite which, everyone was able to make friends and settle in really well, and we definitely made the most of being able to get involved in societies and socialising as restrictions were lifted! ”



Elisa, Geography

“ I didn’t know what to expect when I came to Hilda’s – I’d had an open offer and obviously with covid, everything was up in the air!! As soon as I got to college, I felt like I was welcomed as a valued member of the college by staff and students alike (as well as Teabag the cat). The vibes are unmatched – I expected my social life at Oxford to be non-existent, but in reality, events are organised from the get go and everyone is so friendly that I’ve never once felt alone. As well as this, whenever I’ve ever had any problems, they’ve been sorted within the blink of an eye. From the minute you get to Hilda’s, you’re encouraged to wholly immerse yourself into college life through things like our friendly sports teams or by hanging out in the JCR or even through applying to JCR positions for the next year. I’m so glad I have the privilege of being a Hildabeast! ”

YOUR JCR COMMITTEE

The JCR committee is the student body that represents undergrads at Hilda's – the committee is mostly made up of second year students who take on their role for a year, and elections (called 'hustings') are held in the summer term, where all students are welcome to run for a role they're passionate about! Here are some short descriptions of the roles that aim to represent all parts of our student community:

The **President** is responsible for representing the voice of the JCR, and its members, to College and also working with the other members of the executive committee (VP, Treasurer and Secretary) to oversee the work of the JCR committee throughout the year!

The **Environment and Ethics Reps'** duty is to ensure Hilda's is being as environmentally and ethically conscious as possible! They put on educational E&E events, promoting more vegan/veggie options in Hall, establishing a Hilda's allotment and many more fun things

The **Liberation Officers** – LGBTQ+ rep, Trans Rep, BME rep, Women's Officer and Disabilities Rep are responsible for representing the voices of specific groups within our student community, making sure that the college is an inclusive space for all students. Their roles are varied and involve putting on social events (such as Tues-Gay Drinks, the LGBTQ+ Formal, FemFest and the (in)famous Queer Bop!) as well as providing welfare support and increasing awareness of issues affecting their communities!

The **Fresher's Reps'** job is to make sure you have the most enjoyable Freshers' Week possible! They aim to support you as best as they can during what will be a huge (positive!) change in your lives. They also organise Halfway Hall for second year students when they are halfway through their degree – and Finalists' Week to help support finalists during their exam period.

The **BME Rep's** role is to be there for the poc community at Hilda's. Not only does this include welfare support and representation, but also organising events such as the Cultural Fair, talks over tea (aptly named BAME-Teas), get-togethers with graduates doing cool things, and more!

The **Welfare Reps** are here to provide welfare support to anyone in the JCR by listening to any issues or worries you may have. Other parts of our role include maintaining and improving the College's welfare structure, promoting welfare campaigns in college, organising welfare events (including weekly welfare teas and legendary family formals during Welfare Week! (week 5 of every term)), and providing sexual health resources and contraceptives.

The **Entz reps'** main job is to organise entertainment and social events for everyone in college and basically to make sure everyone has a sick time this year. These events mostly involve BOPs (big organised party) which are essentially themed fancy dress parties held in the JCR a few times each term. They also organise Carols on the Stairs at Christmas and other events such as pub quizzes, matchmaking events and a summer BBQ. The other main part of the role is selling club tickets each week at subsidised prices

The **Access Officer** is in charge of all things access and outreach, which means working with schools, running the open days and helping organise our offer holder's day. They also help to run our college social media accounts to give applicants more of an insight into what life at Hilda's is really like.

The **International/overseas Rep**, will ensure that international students' voices are heard when decisions are being made. For example, focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on international students, and relaying any relevant updates from uni/college to you as quickly as possible. As well as working with students to bring their home cultures to Hilda's.

Together, the male and female **Sports Officers** aim to promote sport and physical activity around the college, encouraging as many people as possible to get involved. Our main focus is to help as many people as possible participate in sport as well as organising a range of exciting events and activities, from ice skating trips to hosting the Sports Awards Dinner in Trinity. We equally manage the sports budget, which is important in helping keep the college sports teams funded.

The **Charities Reps** are responsible for raising money for the 4 charities voted in by the JCR at the beginning of the year, through designing and selling college stash (what we call oxford/college branded merch) and organising college events, such as charity formals. They also help to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities and encourage fundraising events.

Goodbye!

We hope that this booklet has given you an insight into what life at St. Hilda's is really like! If you have any questions about life in college or the application process, please email undergraduate.admissions@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk. Don't forget to check out our YouTube page and follow us @sthildasoxfordjcr on Instagram for more insights into student life!

P.S. Come along to visit our college (and me!) at one of our July or September Open Days, or get in touch with the undergraduate admissions team to arrange a school visit or tour!
- love, Teabag

