Dear Freshers,

First of all, on behalf of the Freshers’ Committee, congratulations on getting into Magdalene! After a very rigorous application process, you have now crossed the finish-line, so well done indeed! For 2021, your Freshers’ Representatives are Fran Southwood, a second year English Literature student and Felix Matheson, a second year Spanish and Arabic student. They are here to talk to if you have any questions or worries (no matter how small). Feel free to get in touch with them at any time, either via email jer-freshers@magd.cam.ac.uk, fas45@cam.ac.uk, ftm24@cam.ac.uk or on Facebook and they’ll be more than happy to help.

All new freshers will receive arrival information from the Academic Office. If you plan on arriving by car, Magdalene Street tends to be very busy; luckily, there are several places to park in the vicinity, including along Chesterton Road and the Park Street car park. You will be advised by the College closer to the time the procedure for arriving at College and collecting your key.

Together, the Freshers’ Committee has arranged an exciting, fun-filled Freshers’ Week to introduce you to the Magdalene and Cambridge student life and to ensure you have a memorable first week in your new home. Don’t be nervous as everyone is in the same boat and experiencing the same thoughts and feelings!

One of the first things to expect when you come to Magdalene is the college family system. You will be put into a ‘family’ with fellow freshers (your ‘siblings’) and second or third years (your ‘parents’) (keep an eye out for a fun online questionnaire to follow in order to match you with them!). Your ‘parents’ may invite you to a Facebook group, so don’t be surprised. They are also there to answer any questions you may have and ensure you settle into College well during the first few weeks.

Magdalene is a relatively small college and as a result all of its students, across the years, are friendly and welcoming.

At Cambridge, you will have Lecturers, Supervisors (who will set you work, mark your work and go through your work with you in small study group sessions known as supervisions), a Director of Studies (or DoS, who will oversee and help with all of your academic work) and a College Tutor (who is there to ensure your personal welfare, chat to and give you advice). Teaching won’t begin until Thursday October 7 or later, and you will be shown your department in advance. This will take place during Freshers’ Week and will be clearly labelled on the timetable.

To find out more about Magdalene in general, or what you can expect when you first arrive and what you need to bring, have a read of the Freshers’ Guide, written by the Freshers’ Representatives, which is accessible on the Magdalene website. Join the Magdalene College Freshers 2021 page on Facebook and follow the Magdalene Freshers 2021 Instagram too (both links can be found on the JCR website), as this will be constantly updated with important information about the goings on of College throughout Fresher’s Week and the entire year. This will also aid your college parents finding you on Facebook or on your preferable form of social media.

Wishing you a wonderful rest of summer and really looking forward to welcoming you all to the Magdalene family,

The Magdalene Freshers’ Committee