



# ST HUGH'S COLLEGE

**ALTERNATIVE  
PROSPECTUS**









# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ALT PROSPECTUS

Welcome to the St Hugh's College Alternative Prospectus! We know that thinking about applying to Oxford can seem intimidating and, at times, a confusing experience; we want to make things as easy as possible for you and to show you what life here is really like. All the articles in this prospectus are written by students at St Hugh's, or Hughsies, as we call ourselves!

Hopefully you'll see over the next few pages that Hugh's is a warm and friendly college that aims welcome all students, regardless of their background. St Hugh's was founded to provide an education to women unable to afford the higher fees at other Oxford colleges. The College's mission today is influenced by this progressive history; we constantly strive to provide opportunities to students from non-traditional backgrounds and to create an inclusive, friendly environment for all Hughsies.

If you have any questions (don't worry, we had loads!), please get in touch with the College directly ([admissions@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)) or take a look at our website ([www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](http://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)). We really want to do everything we can to demystify Oxford and show you that there is a place for you here!



# WHY HUGH'S

## Location

We are a 15-20 minute walk (or 10 minute cycle) from the city centre, and tucked up in North Oxford, a leafy and tranquil haven. Jericho is very close by with its numerous pubs, bars and restaurants. The huge green spaces of Port Meadow and University Parks are also not too far away, providing a perfect escape from work and the hustle-and-bustle of city life.

## Grounds

Hugh's is one of the largest colleges in terms of space, with stunning grounds and sprawling lawns on which we are permitted to walk (a rare luxury in Oxford!). If you need to escape the library during the summer, the gardens make for an ideal work spot. An additional benefit is that accommodation is offered for every year of your course: no tedious house-hunting here!

## The Vibe

Everyone lives on the main College site, making it very easy to bump into people you know, fostering a warm, friendly and caring environment. The size and diversity of the student body means that all are welcome.

## Food

It's impossible to go hungry at Hugh's! As well as Hall and the famous St Hugh's weekend brunch, we have a café in the Dickson Poon Building — 'Burger Thursday' is not to be missed.

## Academic Resources

Our library is one of the largest in Oxford, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for when that essay crisis hits! You can also order in any book if the library doesn't already have it!



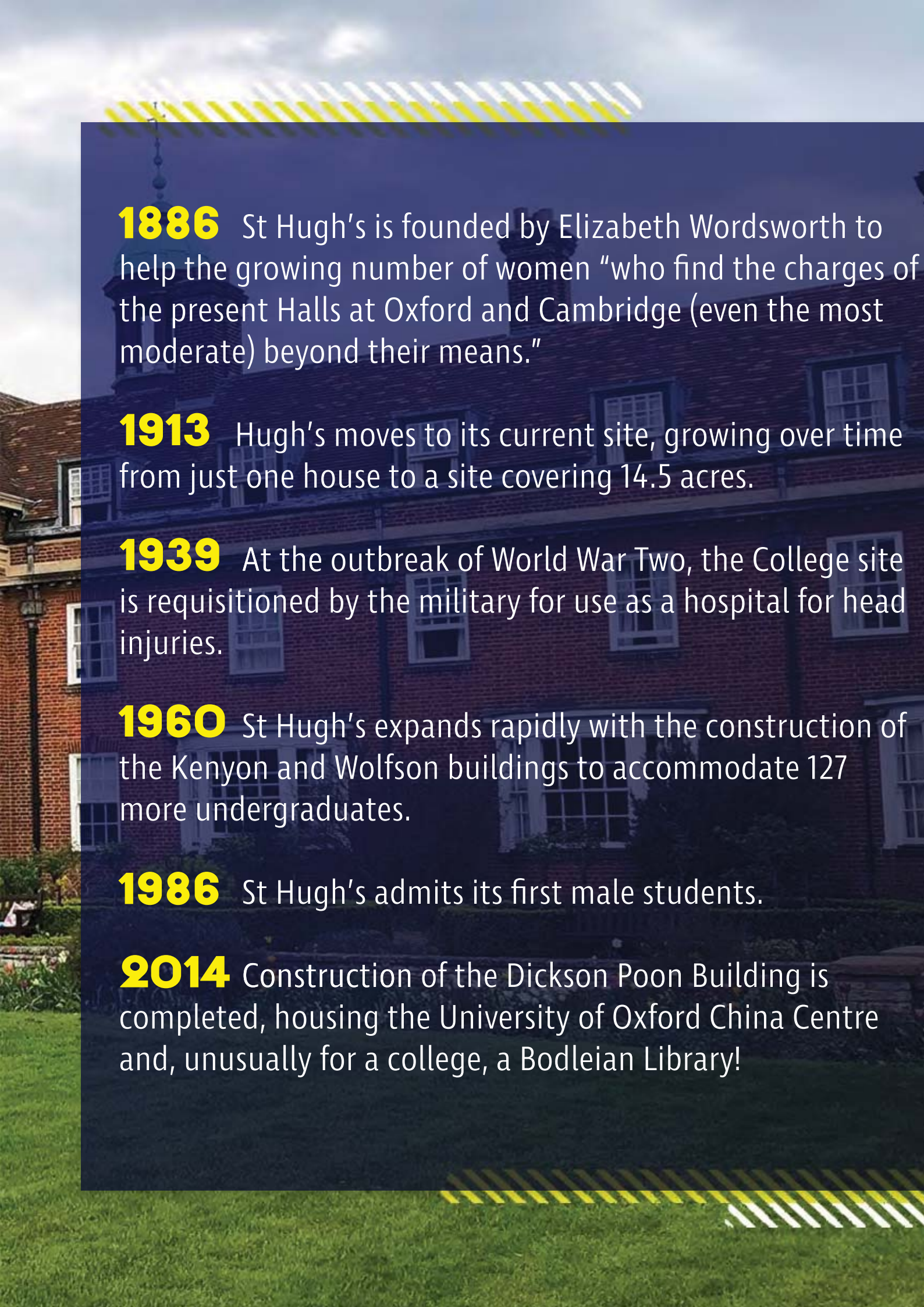






# HISTORY





**1886** St Hugh's is founded by Elizabeth Wordsworth to help the growing number of women "who find the charges of the present Halls at Oxford and Cambridge (even the most moderate) beyond their means."

**1913** Hugh's moves to its current site, growing over time from just one house to a site covering 14.5 acres.

**1939** At the outbreak of World War Two, the College site is requisitioned by the military for use as a hospital for head injuries.

**1960** St Hugh's expands rapidly with the construction of the Kenyon and Wolfson buildings to accommodate 127 more undergraduates.

**1986** St Hugh's admits its first male students.

**2014** Construction of the Dickson Poon Building is completed, housing the University of Oxford China Centre and, unusually for a college, a Bodleian Library!





# MARTHA

## 1ST YEAR CLASSICS

Wake up, shower. I usually eat with a friend or at least check-in and have a chat before I head into town.

**9.30**

Walk into town for my lecture. My lectures can be in different colleges, the Classics Faculty, or Exam Schools.

**11.00**

After my lecture, I usually have coffee/lunch with course friends at central colleges, and occasionally prep for a class. I vary the library I work in, depending on my mood.

**12.00**

I usually have an afternoon class of some description. A class can last one to two hours and can be on topics we're studying or general grammar or reading. Once a week, I also have a tutorial with my tutor which, this term, has been with one other student.

**14.00**

Dinner in hall in College. At least a few of my friends go every evening, though some cook - we have great kitchens!

**18.00**

In the evening, we usually do a bit of work and then get together at about 9pm for a game of pool or to watch a film. It all varies but I rarely go from library to bed without a socialising interlude!

**19.00**

# A DAY IN THE LIFE



# ROXY

## 2ND YEAR PPE



**6.00**

Woken up by an alarm that I'll snooze twice, before actually getting up and going to the river to row.

**8.00**

Finish on the river and go to a café in town for some breakfast and to start some work. Most of my work is essay-based, especially as I've dropped Economics and now take modules in only Politics and Philosophy. Few PPE students take all three subjects for all years of their degree.

**10.00**

Lecture at Exam Schools. Each module usually has one lecture a week for a specific term, but the spread isn't always even, so some terms are often heavier than others.

**11.00**

Cycle back to College for a pre-lunch nap - not totally necessary but very helpful after an early-morning outing!

**12.30**

Lunch, either in Hall or the cafe in the Dickson Poon Building - Thursday Burgers at 'Dicky P' are my favourite!

**13.00**

Head to my room to prep for my tutorial ('tute'). I tend to re-read mine and my tute partner's essays, and have another look through the lecture slides on the topic.

**13.45**

Set off for my tute, which normally lasts between an hour and an hour and a half.

**15.15**

Back from tute, head to the library and crack on with some reading for the next essay.

**18.30**

Dinner! Go to Hall with my friends.

**19.00**

JCR Committee meeting - this evening we're talking about having another Alpaca welfare event in College!

**20.30**

Start getting ready for a night out ... Or a movie night with friends, featuring a lot of snacks and blankets!





WOLFSON  
BUILDING

## ACCOMMODATION

St Hugh's is able to accommodate all undergraduates for the duration of their course. All bedrooms have easy kitchen access, and accommodation for undergraduates is non-tiered (meaning that everyone pays the same for their rooms, which you have for 9 weeks each term). As a result, no-one is restricted from living with College friends for financial reasons.

Freshers are usually housed together in the historic Main Building, the Grade II Listed Kenyon Building, and the shiny Maplethorpe Building. Living together with other first years makes it easy to meet new friends from your very first day. For undergrads in their second year and above, the room ballot system we operate is perfect if you fancy living with a group of friends!

All this contributes to a warm collegiate atmosphere, and the layout of the accommodation makes it easy to become friends with fellow undergrads, regardless of their subject and year-group.



KENYON  
BUILDING



# THE JCR

Kitted out with sofas, a pool table, enough boardgames to keep you occupied for weeks on end, and a television with a PS4 and subscriptions to Sky, BT Sport and Netflix, the Junior Common Room is a central hub for all Hugh's undergrads.

## DINING HALL



Hall is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner Monday to Friday, and runs a delicious brunch service over the weekends. Food at Hugh's is of high quality for very affordable prices: a hot meal can be purchased for around £3 and our pay-as-you-go system means you only pay for the meals you eat!

An optional formal three-course dinner takes place once a week, a great chance to eat food of an exceptional quality and catch up with your friends. Formals to look out for are those celebrating Burns Night, Chinese New Year, and Christmas!

## THE LIBRARY



The extensive Howard Piper Library is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – perfect for early-birds and night-owls alike! The College Library boasts a separate law library, different environments for silent working and discussion, and several well-stocked floors that cater for any subject, no matter how obscure. As a result of this, we save a lot of money, very rarely having to buy books ourselves.



# BAR



Run by students for students, the St Hugh's underground bar, just beneath the JCR, is a great place to chill with friends in the evenings. Alongside a selection of affordable drinks, the bar features a football table, dart boards, pool tables, and a ping-pong table.

The bar also plays host to Bops (college fancy-dress parties), open mic nights, pub quizzes, comedy events, jazz nights, and more!

# GYM

The gym is popular at St Hugh's, particularly amongst our rowers. It consists of three rooms and a moderate collection of gym equipment. Membership to the College Gym is very reasonably priced – cheap exercise for your entire degree!

# GARDENS



St Hugh's is famous for its stunning grounds, stretching across 14.5 acres, with grass we can walk on any time (an Oxford rarity!). The gardens at Hugh's are particularly popular in the summertime, with students often seen lounging on the lawns with a book, having a casual kickabout, or even occasionally following a pack of visiting welfare alpacas! Every other year, the College grounds play host to St Hugh's famous Summer Ball, with the sprawling gardens making it one of Oxford's largest and most decadent, with tickets some of the cheapest.



# DICKSON POON

Opened in 2014, the Dickson Poon Building features a dedicated library and reading room for a large proportion of the Bodleian Libraries' Chinese book collection, a 100-seat lecture theatre, a state-of-the-art language lab, and an ecologically-efficient roof terrace, alongside rooms for graduate students at the college.



Most importantly for undergrads, the Dickson Poon Building (affectionately known as 'Dicky P') is home to the Wordsworth Tea Room – a café and study space, open all day during the week, great for an afternoon cake-break!

## MUSIC ROOMS



St Hugh's prides itself on fostering creativity in all artistic fields, with several rooms dotted around College reserved specifically for music rehearsals. The largest of these spaces are the Band Room and the Eloise Susanna Gale Music Room. The dedicated music rooms, the Mordan Hall, and the ground floor of the Maplethorpe Building all house various upright and grand pianos for student use.



**2.96**

the average price  
of a meal in Hall

**1886**

the year our college  
was founded.

**15**

the number of pubs and  
bars within a 10 minute walk  
of College

**24**

the number of official societies  
for students in College

**4**

the number of  
visiting alpacas

**432**

the number of undergraduates  
at St Hugh's

**5**

the number of dogs often  
walked on College grounds

**22**

the number of keyboard  
instruments around College

**BY THE NUMBERS**



**43**

the number of events held  
in College during Freshers' Week

**17**

the number of JCR  
committee members

**2**

the number of libraries  
in College

**23**

the number of individual subjects  
offered at St Hugh's (not including  
joint schools!)

**24/7**

the opening hours of the  
Howard Piper Library

**14.5**

the number of acres  
College covers

**10**

the number of accommodation buildings  
for undergraduates on College site



- 8.00** Wake up and get ready. Grab anything I might need before my 9am lecture (which I have at least three mornings a week!) and then jump on my bike at 8.55am. Pelt it to the Medical Sciences Teaching Centre.
- 9.00** First lecture of the day. Usually I have between one and four lectures a day, though it can vary each year and each term, and also depends on whether I have a practical.
- 10.00** Practical class, where we do anything from microscope work to dissections to measuring each other's breathing. It will usually be related to what our lectures are covering that week.
- 12.30** Cycle back to College for lunch with friends. When I'm late, I remind them of the fact that I study Medicine and have been doing 'Very Important Science' all morning. This will definitely be well-received, and all will be forgiven.
- 13.30** Chill for a bit in my room and do some quick prep before my 3pm tutorial. I usually read over the essay that I've written in preparation for the tutorial and make sure I understand it.
- 15.00** Go to my tutorial in College with the other three medics in my year. For Medicine, we generally have three tutes a week and they tend to last two hours each. We usually go through the content of the essays, and each take a list of specific questions we want to ask. Our tea 'n' cake breaks in the middle definitely make the two hours a bit more manageable!
- 17.00** Go back to my room and do an hour or so of work for my next essay. We usually have two or three a week to write. They're usually around two sides long, and are set to help you to make sure you thoroughly understand a topic, and to give you practice for when the exams arrive at the end of the year.
- 18.15** Get ready for Formal Hall, to which we've invited another college's medics. In Medicine you're likely to make loads of friends in other colleges seeing as you spend so much time in the Teaching Centre, so it's a really nice way to spend time together outside of contact hours.
- 21.00** Go and find everyone in the College bar, before heading to bed a few hours later.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

CHARLOTTE

2ND YEAR MEDIC





# HUGH'S JCR

The St Hugh's JCR, or Junior Common Room, is the undergraduate body of College, a bit like a mini student union. We work directly with College on topics such as student accommodation and food, room balloting, social events and outreach programmes. There is also the literal JCR room at the heart of the college where you can relax, watch TV, and play FIFA or pool.

We have a large JCR Committee, a bit like a school council, who you can meet on our website ([www.jcr.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](http://www.jcr.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)). We hold elections once a year, which all Hughsies are encouraged to get involved with. We have JCR meetings in the JCR (surprise, surprise) every two weeks, where we eat free pizza, discuss motions that people have submitted and bathe in the greatness of inclusive student democracy.





# SPORT

At Oxford, there's so much more to life than essays and problem sheets. One of the best ways to relax, make friends and enjoy yourself is through the sporting opportunities offered here at St Hugh's. Alongside our huge College grounds, we also have sports fields with tennis and netball courts up the road and a boat house by the river.

There's an endless array of College sports here including Football, Lacrosse, Netball, Cricket, Tennis, Rugby, Ultimate Frisbee, Rounders and Rowing, to name but a few. It doesn't matter whether you've been playing a sport for years or want to try something out for the first time; the sport here is accessible to those with a range of abilities. This inclusive atmosphere often leads to great success on the sports field and the river. Recent highlights included winning races in the summer regatta, and competing in the quarter finals of the men's football knockout competition.

However, sport at St Hugh's is about more than just the on-field experience. Each club builds a strong sense of community around the team, hosting social events including team dinners and nights out. This is a great way for years to mix together and get to know others within College.





# ARTS

Whether you're into music, poetry, or visual art, St Hugh's will cater for your talents. The Arts Society is one of the most popular in College, and puts on several events per term, open to all. If you want to perform some pieces you've been working on, we have two termly recitals in College. We also host an annual music prize, poetry and spoken word recitals, and even a termly jazz evening in the College Bar. If casual choral singing is your thing, then look no further than our chapel choir – one service a week, one rehearsal, and two free meals! Plus, we're always welcome to new ideas for exhibitions or student projects.

St Hugh's also boasts great connections to Oxford University Drama Society (OUDS), with a recent President and many active members being Hughsies. OUDS supports both large and small-scale national and international tours, and annually has one of the most prominent presences at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Opportunities to get involved include in the variety of on-stage roles, as well as the even greater plethora of those behind-the-scenes, including directing, producing and technical theatre. The Inter-College Drama 'Cuppers' competition will be your first opportunity to ease your way into Oxford Drama, allowing you to get to know fellow stagey people at Hugh's and at rival colleges.





# WELFARE

At Hugh's, the welfare of students is a top priority, meaning we have loads of events throughout the year to make sure everyone is feeling happy and included.



Even before arriving at St Hugh's, you'll be contacted by your College Parents: 2nd years studying your subject who will be there to guide you through your first steps at Oxford, the occasional essay crisis, and celebrating when you finish exams at the end of the year.

You'll also get the chance to meet your grandparents, and great-grandparents if you're on a 4-year course, not to mention siblings, aunts and uncles!

The JCR hosts a variety of events to get students from every year together. Our welfare teas, for example, are a great opportunity to drop in for a chat over a cuppa and some free snacks, alongside chances to do arts-and-crafts, yoga, and walk our Principal's adorable dogs. Hugh's also has a mysterious Cookie Fairy, always leaving you a treat when you or your friend need one most!

Alongside these schemes, the college has a formal welfare structure in place if any student needs more support at any time for whatever reason. Further information about welfare and disability support is available at

[www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/currentstudents/welfare/](http://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/currentstudents/welfare/)





# FINANCES

St Hugh's is committed to ensuring that a student's financial background should not limit their time at Oxford. While Oxford as a city is an expensive place, Oxford as a university should not be! A great thing about studying here is the amount of resources the University and College provide, so you don't have to buy them, as seen by the library's book request system. Oxford has one of the most generous bursary schemes in the country, given to home students automatically, dependent on household income. Extra support is also available to certain students whose household income is less than £16,000 per year through the Moritz-Heyman Scholarship and care leavers are also eligible for year-round accommodation. Check out the Fees, Funding, and Scholarship search on the University website to find out what funding you are eligible for.

College and Faculties can also provide financial support to help with your studies, or sometimes just to do some fun things! Travel grants, vacation residence grants, and study support grants are available from College. The JCR can provide further travel grants, motion grants (i.e. money for something you propose that is successfully voted on), and Blues funds to support taking part in university-level sports.

Whatever your background, finances should not put you off applying to St Hugh's; there are so many people (and pots of money!) to support you so that you enjoy your time here without financial worries.



**THERE ARE LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES OUT THERE FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OXFORD AND APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY. WE REALLY ENCOURAGE STUDENTS FROM SCHOOLS WITH LITTLE OR NO HISTORY OF STUDENTS GOING ON TO OXFORD TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US (OUTREACH@ST-HUGHS.OX.AC.UK) AND ARRANGE A FREE VISIT TO OUR COLLEGE. ALONGSIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT HUGH'S, HERE ARE JUST A FEW FREE ACCESS SCHEMES THAT SOME HUGHSIES FOUND HELPFUL BEFORE THEY APPLIED.**

**TARGET OXBRIDGE** – run by Rare recruitment, this is a programme that works with high-achieving black African and Caribbean students to help them apply to Oxford and Cambridge universities. Find out more here: [www.targetoxbridge.co.uk](http://www.targetoxbridge.co.uk)

**UNIQ** – Oxford University's flagship access programme, UNIQ offers Year 12 students the opportunity to experience life at Oxford for a week during summer, overnight during Spring, or receive support from current students over a number of months as part of UNIQ Digital. Find out more here: [www.uniq.ox.ac.uk](http://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk)

**OXFORD PATHWAYS** – the Pathways Programme offers opportunities to attend events aiming to widen access to higher education for students in Year 10 to Year 13 at non-selective state schools. Find out more here: [www.pathways.ox.ac.uk](http://www.pathways.ox.ac.uk)

**TARGET SCHOOLS** – run by the Oxford Students Union, this scheme offers Year 12 state-educated students the opportunity to shadow current undergraduates studying a subject of their choice for a morning, eat lunch in an Oxford College, and attend admissions workshops in the afternoon. Find out more here: [www.oxfordsu.org/communities/targetschools/](http://www.oxfordsu.org/communities/targetschools/)

**OXFORD ACS ANNUAL ACCESS CONFERENCE** – a day-long event run by students from the Afro-Caribbean Society, the AAC aims to give black state-educated students from disadvantaged backgrounds the tools they need to go on to higher education and make decisions about their future. Find out more here: [www.oxfordacs.com/annual-access-conference/](http://www.oxfordacs.com/annual-access-conference/)



# ACCESS & OUTREACH

**OXVLOG** – this is a student-run YouTube channel aiming to give prospective students insight into life at Oxford. Find out more here: [www.youtube.com/user/oxvlog](http://www.youtube.com/user/oxvlog)

**EXPLORE** – the home of big questions, Explore aims to encourage 11-18 year olds to think outside of the box and the school curriculum through live streams with Oxford academics and online quizzes. Find out more here: [www.explore.org](http://www.explore.org)

**SUTTON TRUST SUMMER SCHOOLS** – the Sutton Trust runs subject-specific summer schools at a number of leading universities for Year 12 students from underrepresented backgrounds. Find out more here: [www.summerschools.suttontrust.com](http://www.summerschools.suttontrust.com)

**THE SOCIAL MOBILITY FOUNDATION** – the SMF offers Year 12 students from disadvantaged backgrounds a number of different programmes to increase their chances of attending highly selective universities and go on to top professions. Find out more here: [www.socialmobility.org.uk](http://www.socialmobility.org.uk)

**PROJECT ACCESS** – an international online mentoring scheme pairing bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds with current students at top universities. Find out more here: [www.projectaccess.co](http://www.projectaccess.co)





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