Dear Hertford Graduate Fresher,

Welcome to Hertford MCR! I would like to start by congratulating you on being accepted to study at Hertford College! Whether you chose us or we chose you, I am certain that you will quickly come to find what a warm and welcoming community Hertford is.

My name is Liisa and I am a third year DPhil student in the Department of Biochemistry as well as the president of the Middle Common Room (MCR) at Hertford. This means that I, with the help of the MCR Committee, am in charge of ensuring that everything runs smoothly in the MCR, as well as representing the views of graduate students in College and beyond, and listening to your ideas and concerns. The MCR exists as a social and academic hub for graduate students at the College that aims to support you throughout your studies and enrich your experience of Oxford. It functions foremost as a community of graduates—we enjoy spending time together eating, studying, socialising, and often also living. Through these shared experiences close friendships are created that you will be able to take with you beyond Oxford.

Throughout the year the MCR will be hosting a range of events that will allow you to meet a wealth of graduates from a variety of academic backgrounds. All of these events are organised by students, for students, and so, if there are any events that you think would be a success, please do let us know!

MCR events will be starting in -1\textsuperscript{st} Week, on 25\textsuperscript{th} September, so do try to get here by then if you can. This will give you plenty of time to get settled in to your accommodation and meet loads of new people before the formal start of term. On a practical note – if you are in a College room, you can collect your room keys at any time from the Lodge on the main College site on Catte Street.

Attached to this letter is the draft version of the Freshers’ Week calendar. More information about the events of Hertford MCR Freshers’ Week will be available in the weeks before the start of term when you will also receive the finalised version of the termcard. The MCR Committee and I aim to ensure that your time at Hertford will be remembered as more than just an academic one, and so I encourage you to attend as many of the planned activities as possible! Almost all of the events are free of charge, and we have planned a range of activities to cater to all interests. Some will require you to sign up to attend and instructions for this will be circulated soon. For more information about everything MCR please take a look at our website: http://hertfordmcr.org; or join the Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/261373221016643/.

If you have any questions, or would just like to say hi, don’t hesitate to email me at liisa.parts@hertford.ox.ac.uk. My room is conveniently located right above the MCR quarters in NB Quad: please do drop in and visit me if you would like a chat and/or a cup of tea or coffee. I cannot promise to solve every problem, but I may well know someone who can help!

I look forward to welcoming you in Michaelmas term!

Best wishes,
Liisa Parts
Hertford College MCR President