



St John's College JCR

MT26, GM1 Minutes

Monday 19 October 2026

jcr-secretary@sjc.ox.ac.uk

1. Ratification of Chair

Vice-President took the Chair as the Chair was vacant.

Jack Pentland nominated himself for Chair. No objections were heard so Jack was ratified as Chair.

2. Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes available [here](#). Motions A and B passed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

4. Reports from the Officers

President (Sanjay): Currently at PresCom so can't be there in person. Main point of role is communication between JCR members and College. Does a lot of little jobs, manages JCR General Committee.

Vice-President (Ruth): Responsible for Freshers' Week and housing ballot, as well as helping Sanjay. Did Freshers' Week, which was a success and stayed within budget. [As explanation of JCR] There are multiple different Officer roles and lots of Rep roles, which are smaller and are often to help Officers. Meetings are held four times per term mainly for JCR updates and members' Financial Motions.

Secretary (Mia): Role is mainly to do the "boring" admin things for the JCR, like setting up agendas, managing minutes, setting up voting, etc. Nothing specific to report this week.

Treasurer (Andras): Role is mainly to manage the JCR budget. Allocate the budget's spending areas and then spend it. The budget is in a [spreadsheet](#) (see the [minutes from the first meeting of Hilary 2026](#) for details). Officers, Reps, and some specific events get allocated money. Other JCR members can request money for things from the Financial Motions Budget and the Student Arts Fund, which then gets voted on by the JCR. If voting is successful, they get the money. Have mainly been helping out with Freshers Week things recently.

Academic Affairs (Maxim): Mostly do the academic feedback form in Hilary, and also liaise with people in College regarding academic affairs. Going to be organising a teaching careers talk with alumni in week 6, as well as careers and CV sessions with the Careers Service. Talking with the Library and Archive teams for internships with the College collections to make them more accessible.

Arts (Pascal): Organising Arts Week with a large team of people. Putting together an "adventurous week" of arts in fourth week of Hilary. Liaising with Maxim and Georgy Kantor for College arts collection. Dolphin Gallery is starting exhibitions this week, send an email if there's anything you'd like to exhibit.

Access (Inaya): Role is mainly to liaise with access teams (relating to both primary and secondary school). Students can take part in events to become an Access Ambassador. Also attend steering meeting for access, and looking to reform role. Want to send out survey about JCR and involvement.

Charities (Vincent): JCR has a Charity Levy. Charities Officer runs form to determine where that money will be sent. Reach out for potential charities events.

Domestic Officers: Mainly run guest dinners, airbed loan scheme, and food forum (sixth week of term). "Distribute toothpaste."

Entz: Run Bops, have had successful freshers' Bop. Also run a pub quiz. Halloween and Christmas Bops are being planned. Plush Bop tomorrow (20 October), with Tuesdays [weekly [OULGBTQ+](#) event] there afterwards.

Environment and Ethics (Isaac): In charge of student sustainability in College, sustainability concerns in food forum, as well as garden perambulation.

Equality and Diversity (Lia): Run BAME and LGBTQ+ dinners in Hilary. Running socials this term, want to work with LGBTQ+ Reps to run some.

IT (Fred): Manage website and IT loan scheme. Scam websites were impersonating our old JCR website, but have now been taken down. Fixed SEO so the JCR website appears in search results!

Publicity (Sam): Run the JCR Instagram, try to do Instagram takeovers ("days in the life") and would like volunteers for them. Dealt with admin for Freshers' Week group chats and circulated events during it.

Sports (Emily): Manage JCR sports budget—there is a social budget and normal budget for

sports. Currently working with college to finalise the sports budgets.

Welfare: Run welfare events around college, including new weekly Zumba sessions. “Currently still doing karaoke sometimes”. Sign-making will be happening in fourth week.

Womens (Rhythm):** Mainly run socials (such as upcoming craft night with Wadham and Trinity), run Women’s Network with alumni but want to turn it into a formal mentoring program. Run the period product scheme. Can reimburse sexual health products if receipts are provided. Run Women**s dinner in Hilary.

Returning Officer (Alex): Every Officer position (except Returning Officer) will be up for election this term. Nominations for Executive Committee (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer) elections will open on Sunday 25 October.

5. Ratifications

Sam Dayan graduated in 2026 so is no longer Bike Rep as of Saturday 20 June.

The following people nominated themselves as Reps:

- Art Rep: Marina Harrison
- Bike Rep: Pascal Sleight
- Entz Rep: Anya Macaulay and Luca Branton-Speak
- Sports Rep: Emma Boaler
- LGBTQ+ Rep: Noah Sheard

No objections were heard, so all Rep roles were ratified. All existing Reps remain in their roles.

Ruth Magedera resigned as Social Media Rep.

6. Agenda items

A. The “**LGBTQ Society**” Financial Motion

Proposer: Noah Sheard

Seconded: Kiera Dallas

This JCR notes that:

- a. There are 7 events planned, for each remaining week of Michaelmas term, as detailed in the provisional term card provided. Financial support would provide materials and refreshments for these events. One of these events is in collaboration with other college LGBTQ societies, whose JCRs will also contribute to its expenses.

This JCR believes that:

- b. Having a LGBTQ society will be to the benefit of LGBTQ students at St John's, helping to build community. We have been made aware of various complaints from JCR members about the lack of LGBTQ specific events at St John's, and think it would be beneficial to provide a free to access, supportive community.

Therefore, we believe the JCR should support our Financial Motion in order to make these events a possibility and free to JCR members.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- c. Give £100 to the SJC LGBTQ Society from the Financial Motions Budget.

Andras: Sounds good.

B. The “*Support the Bake Sale for Bangladesh Floods Appeal*” Financial Motion

Proposer: Rahima Ahmed

Seconded: Mahnoor Kamran

This JCR notes that:

- a. Since July 2026, devastating monsoon floods across Bangladesh have affected approximately 1.7 million people and claimed over 50 lives, destroying homes, infrastructure and livelihoods. Many families face urgent shortages of food, clean water and essential supplies.
- b. Islamic Relief has launched an emergency appeal to support affected communities, providing emergency food assistance, hygiene and dignity kits, financial assistance and protection for vulnerable people. The floods have also severely affected Cox's Bazar, home to over one million Rohingya refugees already facing significant hardship.
- c. Oxford University Bangla Society (BSoc) recently organised a charity bake sale to raise funds and awareness for Islamic Relief's Bangladesh Floods Appeal. St John's students were actively involved in organising, baking, selling and promoting the event, dedicating their time and effort to supporting this important cause.
- d. Student volunteers personally covered the costs of baking ingredients to maximise the funds raised for charity. BSoc is seeking a modest, one-off contribution from St John's JCR to reimburse these expenses, with the exact amount supported by receipts and an itemised breakdown.

This JCR believes that:

- e. Islamic Relief's humanitarian efforts provide vital assistance to vulnerable communities affected by the floods. Supporting this cause reflects the JCR's values of compassion, solidarity and social responsibility.
- f. Student-led charitable initiatives such as the BSoc bake sale benefit the St John's community by bringing students together, encouraging volunteering and collaboration, raising awareness of humanitarian issues and strengthening connections across the wider Oxford community.

- g. Students should not face financial barriers to participating in charitable activities. Reimbursing reasonable ingredient costs recognises the significant voluntary contributions of St John's students and makes future fundraising more accessible and inclusive, regardless of students' financial circumstances.
- h. A contribution towards documented expenses represents a responsible use of JCR funding, supporting student engagement and encouraging further charitable initiatives while ensuring that money raised through the bake sale remains dedicated to the humanitarian appeal.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. Allocate £82.66 from the JCR Financial Motions Budget to reimburse the baking ingredient costs incurred by student volunteers for the BSoc charity bake sale in aid of Islamic Relief's Bangladesh Floods Appeal, subject to the provision of receipts and an itemised breakdown of expenses.
- j. Recognise and support the contributions of St John's students to charitable fundraising and encourage continued student-led volunteering, community engagement and humanitarian initiatives.

[Information about the BSoc is listed [here](#), and information about the Bangladesh Floods Appeal is listed [here](#).]

Rahima: The money was spent to buy baked goods but would like SJC to reimburse.

Maxim: Does the society have a budget?

Rahima: Not enough to cover reimbursements.

Fred: Does this not count as a direct donation to a charity from the JCR?

Rahima: It's a fundraiser so the money is only indirectly going to a charity.

Sam: Have other JCRs been asked?

Rahima: I am the society's president, so would ideally like it reimbursed from St John's.

C. The “Funding Oxford PopCult” Financial Motion

Proposer: Nina Luong

Seconded: Jun Yi Lee

This JCR notes that:

- a. PopCult is a society dedicated to popular culture and the entertainment industry, forming part of a growing inter-university collective that spans Oxford, Warwick, and Cambridge.

- b. Oxford Popcult aims to organise a range of events throughout the academic year, including an anniversary party celebrating Amy Winehouse's Back to Black album.
- c. Funding would help the society kick-start itself for this term, and plan and deliver events that students can attend and enjoy.

This JCR believes that:

- d. The co-president of Oxford PopCult is a member of St John's College. Additionally, PopCult as a society operates across multiple colleges with events being open to students from any colleges, including John's.
- e. Oxford PopCult aims to create a space for students who have an interest in popular culture (such as film and music) regardless of how well-versed they are in pop culture, thus creating a welcoming environment where students from different can bond over shared interests.
- f. As PopCult is a new society that just started up this Michaelmas, funding would greatly help the society whilst we secure things such as sponsorships and launch our membership so that we are able to become self-sufficient in regards to funding.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- g. Give £200 to Oxford PopCult from the Student Arts Fund.

[Information about Oxford PopCult can be found [here](#).]

Nina: New society, starting from ground up. Looking for events budget for this term.

Maxim: Isn't there a new SU scheme for society funding?

Nina: Yes, but that takes time.

Andras: What is the long-term funding plan?

Nina: Membership, but not many events yet or many ticketed events, so would feel bad about charging for fairly little past events to show for it. Also looking into other JCRs for funding.

Ruth: Is funding available from Warwick or Cambridge?

Nina: Not officially part of the SUs in the other unis so can't really get funding there.

Ruth: Are you registered with the Proctors?

Nina: Yes.

Jack: How many John's students are involved?

Nina: Just me.

Fred: How many people are there from the other involved universities? And general membership?

Nina: There is a reasonably large committee at Oxford, but not closely linked with the other unis. Don't yet have formal membership so exact numbers are difficult.

D. The “*Fund OUDS Cuppers*” Financial Motion

Proposer: Nicole Palka

Seconded: Milana Challenger

This JCR notes that:

- a. Nicole Palka and Milana Challenger from St John's College are involved in the SJC team for cuppers made up of 7 St John's freshers competing in OUDS cuppers in Week 6. Cuppers is the first opportunity to put on a show and requires no prior experience. Groups of up to 10 freshers from each college compete against other in putting on a creative drama festival with 20-minute performances. The aim of this is to actively recruit students newer to Oxford theatre and allow them to work with more experienced members, enabling them to access the world of Oxford drama. The St John's team used £50 to support their production and did very well. Last year the St John's team were invited to perform in the 'Best of..' showcase and won a prize for best set, we hope for similar success this year.

This JCR believes that:

- b. It is important to encourage students' artistic endeavours outside of their studies. College support allows the directorial vision of production to be realised and no cast or crew member would need to contribute personal funds for theatre. It is important to encourage fresher access to Oxford societies and brilliant to foster a St John's presence in these societies.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- c. Give 'OUDS cuppers team' £50 from the Student Arts Fund in order to support its production.

[Information about Oxford University Dramatic Society can be found [here](#).]

Nicole: Just need £50 to reimburse props and set hire for the production. St John's could hopefully win!

7. Any other business

Ruth: From Sanjay, “Tommy White marquee is now gone. People are scared of the badgers. Hopefully they’ll leave now that the marquee is no longer there.”

Isaac: Meeting about the badgers in two weeks’ time.

Ruth: College is looking into potentially getting badger-proof bins.

Sam: “Stop badgering them”.

Ruth: Tommy White noise complaints, so room regrading subcommittee this term will reassess room points regarding noise. If there are other major complaints, contact VP before next year’s room ballot. Any point downgrade will be rejected immediately unless there is proof that things have been tried to resolve the issue, such as emailing Works. Other noise, such as noise from bar already taken into account in current room points. These regradings will only be temporary (for as long as the works continue for). When the bar moves to the old gym, nearby rooms will be regraded.