HOMERTON COLLEGE

Homerton Union of Students Freshers Guide 2020-21

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1| Welcome from the JCR President

Dear Freshers,

Congratulations, and welcome to Homerton! I am sure that you will have an amazing time here, make lifelong friends, and hopefully learn a thing or two- whether you'll be here for three years or six, or many more.

What can't be overstated is how incredibly well you have done to be here; your hard work has paid off and you have made it to one of the best universities in the world. I should also congratulate you for persevering through the most turbulent and unexpected year.

My name is Joe and I will be your HUS President for 2020/21. I studied Mathematics and graduated in July 2020. My job is to represent you to College and University staff through all sorts of committees that span everything from educational policy to catering. More generally, I oversee the HUS team. The HUS provides welfare support, puts on great ents (including freshers' week), organises access and outreach programmes, funds societies and sports teams in Homerton, and so much more. This year we're committed to hearing what you want us to do, and letting you know how to get involved every step of the way.

My experience at Homerton has been fantastic. I remember how anxious I was when I arrived three years ago, worried that I wouldn't fit in. How wrong I was. It's an overused phrase, but there really is a club or society for every conceivable interest and there is always something going on.

Homerton itself is a great College to be at. It is an informal, welcoming, and progressive academic community with modern accommodation in expansive and beautiful grounds. Whether it was the only College you ever considered applying to, or if you were pulled out of the pool, you will have a brilliant time. I hope that very soon it will begin to feel like home.

COVID-19 has changed what your first-year university experience will look like, and I sympathise with you that some classic Cambridge experiences have had to be put on hold for now. I encourage you to let us know what you want us to do to mitigate

the impact this pandemic will have on your welfare, your education, and your university experience.

If you're unsure of anything (or just overloaded with information, and need a question answering) please, please get in touch. Contact information for all of the HUS officers can be found later in this document, and if you don't know who to contact feel free to get in touch with me.

Looking forwards to meeting you,

Joe Saxby

HUS JCR President 2020-21

HUS-President@homerton.cam.ac.uk

2| The Homerton Union of Students (HUS)

Who are the HUS?

The HUS, short for Homerton Union of Students, is composed of 23 people (15 elected positions and 8 Liberation Officers) who are responsible for representing the Homerton student body in both the college and the wider university. We are unique in Cambridge in having a sabbatical President and an Office Manager; we have a substantial budget, and a large degree of autonomy. We have one of the largest and most dedicated student unions of all the colleges in Cambridge – we urge you to make the most of it!

We meet on a weekly basis to discuss any issues that have arisen, to organise events such as bops and to check in on the progress of the term. We also have designated hours in which we work in the office during the week.

As an elected Students' Union, we are very keen to represent you and any causes you may have when we interact with the college. Members of the HUS Exec are on several College committees, including the Educational Policy Committee and College Council, and can feedback such issues to Fellows and Staff directly. Otherwise, our members also meet up more informally with College Staff; as an example, the President meets with the Senior Tutor on a weekly basis.

How we can help

There are plenty of ways for you to take things up with us. You can mention issues to us whenever you see us in the corridor, you can come into the office, you can drop us a message via HUS emails and Facebook, use HUS Questions on the www.hus-jcr.co.uk website, you can attend our open meetings and you can run for positions on the HUS executive later in the year. We have no problem with being approached about any issue, so take advantage of it! If you have, for example, an idea for a new society and want support to set it up, we can provide it! We aim to publish reports of what the HUS is up to so that you are always in the loop! This year we want to engage with the student body more than ever before, so we urge you to come and see us, even if it's just for a friendly chat.

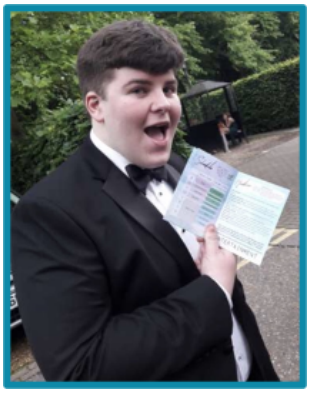
Meet your President and Support Team!

The support team exists to help out the President and the HUS Executive to fulfill their manifesto promises and help the students of Homerton!

Joe Saxby (HUS-President@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi! I'm **Joe (He/Him)** and I am the **HUS President 2020-21**. Unlike the rest of the HUS team, I've finished my degree - I graduated last June with a BA in Mathematics. I can (usually) be found in the office, pop in and distract me please! If I'm not, I will be wandering over to the buttery for a quick snack or playing football with the Homerton IIs. Throughout the year, I will be spending a lot of my time also having meetings with staff across the College and the University as a point of liaison between staff and students. Let me know what you want me to devote my time and effort towards - I'm full time representing you, and I hope to make life at Homerton the best experience possible for student

Harry Convey (HUS-internal@homerton.cam.ac.uk)



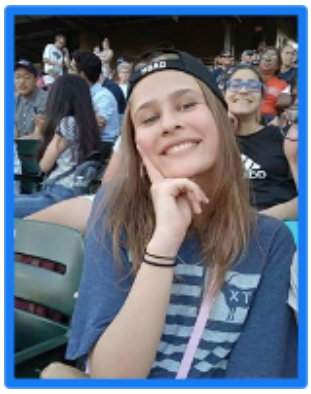
Hi! I'm **Harry (He/Him**), a third year Chem Nat Sci and I'll be your **Vice-President Internal (VPI)** this year. I'll be representing the views of Homerton students and ensuring our voice is heard with staff, as well as helping organise Freshers week and support the Executive members of the HUS as we work to make Homerton better for you. When procrastinating you'll find me hanging out in the buttery, playing Mario Kart or thinking about how to win the cardboard boat race and invariably wearing a red hoodie and jeans. If you ever have questions, please catch me in the corridor or send me an email or message and I'll reply as soon as I can to help you out!

Seb Kobler (HUS-external@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hey everyone! **I'm Seb (He/Him),** I'm a third year English student and I'm your **Vice President External** for this year! This is my 2nd year in a row on the HUS so let's hope they're not already sick of me! I'm here to represent your interests at a uni-wide level and beyond (pressuring Public Health England to reopen clubs is one of my priorities) so if you have anything at all you want to raise, please get in touch. You can usually find me in the Homerton library desperate for any sort of distraction or wandering aimlessly around college, otherwise I'm

always a fb message away. Can't wait to meet you all, I know you'll have a great year at Homerton!

Arina Machine (HUS-treasurer@homerton.cam.ac.uk)



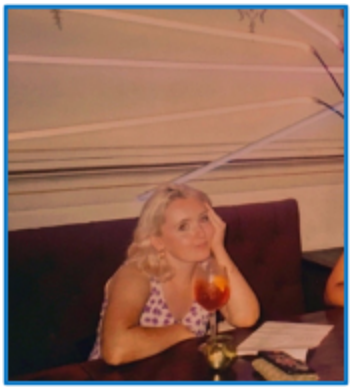
Hi! I'm **Arina (She/Her),** a final year Plant Scientist, and I'll be your **Treasurer**. My main job is to work with societies and sports at Homerton, as well as help with the day to day financial running of the HUS. When I'm not working, you'll probably find me dreaming of May Week, especially about the cardboard boat race. Other hobbies of mine include trying to care for plants, attending research seminars solely for the pizza, reminding people I'm foreign, and so many more unproductive things. If you ever want to talk about anything from ideas for the HUS to starting a new society, I'd love to hear from you!

Meet the HUS Executive!

Mia Cook (HUS-Access@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

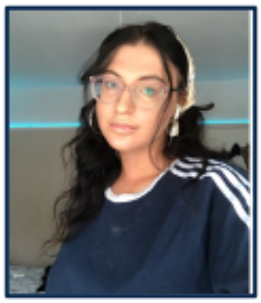
Hiya! I'm **Mia (She/Her)** and I'm in my second year studying Education. Outside of my degree you will probably find me making food (attempting to recreate the Wagamama's menu has been the key to not spending my entire student loan on takeaway!), campaigning with the Oxfam Society and procrastinating in the Children's Literature section of the Homerton library - I'd really recommend finding a childhood favourite to re-read for some nostalgic comfort when things get busy! I'm the **Target and Access Officer** this year which means I'll be working on outreach events and encouraging people from under-represented backgrounds to apply to Cambridge. I'll also be working with the liberation officers to make sure everyone from access backgrounds settles into life at Homerton. If you have any thoughts about anything access related or would like to get involved feel free to message me or speak to me in person! Can't wait to meet you all!

Jennifer White (HUS-Academic@homerton.cam.ac.uk)



Hi, I'm **Jennifer (She/Her)** and I'm a 2nd year English student and your new **Academic Affairs Officer**. That basically means I'm the go to gal for all questions and issues related to academics, as well as anything you might want communicating to college staff. When I'm not being obnoxious about literature you might find me moaning about my lack of cycling proficiency, in the griff with an increasingly large glass of wine, or wailing along to Joni Mitchell in my bedroom. I'm always happy to answer questions or just say hi, and I can't wait to meet you all!

Eliza Castell (HUS-Ents@homerton.cam.ac.uk)



Hi, I'm **Eliza (She/Her)** and I'm one of two **ENTs officers** for this year. I'm a HSPS student and am looking forward to making this year as enjoyable as possible despite the rona. I'll be working on social events and hopefully club nights at one point this year but feel free to message me about any questions about Homerton even if they're not ENTS related. Can't wait to meet you all!!

Greg Taylor (HUS-Ents@homerton.cam.uk)

Hi! I'm **Greg (He/Him**) and I'm one of your two **ENTS officers**, a position title that sounds a little too militaristic for what effectively means that Eliza and I sell you nightclub tickets and generally come up with reasons for you to procrastinate your degree. A second year HSPS student, I can usually be found humiliating myself in the Cindies smoking area, trying and failing to learn lines for some play (I've recently convinced myself I can act despite numerous eyewitness accounts to the contrary) or indeed finding literally any excuse to avoid my degree - thankfully as your ENTs officer, I now have something genuinely productive to do with my artificially constructed free time! If you ever see me around, don't be afraid to come and say hi – it's you or the POL 8 reading list, so let's be honest, I'll be happy to have a chat!

Natasha Bloomfield (HUS-Services@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi, I'm **Natasha! (She/Her)** I'm a second year studying History and French, and I'll be your **Services and Green Officer** this year. When I'm not wandering the Homerton grounds, you'll find me at Sidgwick eating the signature jacket potatoes, or bopping at Friday Fez. I'm so excited to get to know everyone next year, so if you see me around, or have suggestions for making Homerton greener/queries about services, feel free to come and say hi!

Lily Wilkinson (HUS-Sports@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi! I'm **Lily (She/Her)**, a second year Education and Psychology student and I have the pleasure of being your **Sports Officer** for this upcoming academic year. Sport and fitness have formed a huge part of my life so I look forward to undertaking this role and working to ensure sport is the best it can be for you in college. You'll often see my pink barnet rushing around Homerton, often forgetting where I'm going, trying to find a supo room or pondering what's on the Great Hall menu. Don't hesitate to ask me any questions, whether sport related or not; I'll be happy to help or point you in the right direction (perhaps not geographically!). It took me a while to feel settled at Homerton, despite the welcoming environment, but once you do Homerton genuinely feels like a safe place that you can call Hom(e). I hope that despite possible changes, your first-year experience is still as jam packed as any other and you have a fantastic time at Homerton and Uni as a whole.

Bronagh Leneghan (HUS-Comms@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi, I'm **Bronagh (She/Her)**, a second year Linguistics student and I'll be your **Communications Officer** this year; expect to hear from me in the virtual realm weekly! I'll be updating you on what's happening in and around college and relaying important info to you all!! When I'm not making sure the HUS' instagram is #feedgoals, you can find me having a drink (or two) in the Griff, trawling charity shops for my latest fashion fix or in my gyp

trying to make cooking as creative as it can be without an oven (!!). Always feel free to say hello, I can't wait to meet you all!

Libby Warr (HUS-Welfare@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi, I'm **Libby (She/Her),** I'm a second year Education, Psychology and Learning student and one of your **Welfare officers!** If you have any questions or worries don't hesitate to come and ask me! I spent a while in my first year working out what societies I had time for but I eventually realised that, since there are 24 hours in a day, I had time for whatever I wanted to do, including having time to look after myself. Next year will probably look a little bit different for everyone, but that doesn't mean it will be any less fun! I am always here for a chat or a laugh so don't hesitate to come and say hi!

Rati Aftab (HUS-Welfare@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi, I'm **Rati (She/Her),** a second year HisPol and I'll be your **Welfare Officer** this year!! As an international student from Pakistan, moving halfway across the world was daunting and coming to uni fully emphasised the importance of self-care and welfare despite all the work you have going on! Also, it can sometimes feel v. lonely, but a lot of people around you may be feeling the same things as you, so def do reach out to people around you but if you feel you can't do that, we're always around for you to talk to! Other than that, I love talking to people, and procrastinating so if you ever see me around college (idk how social distancing will be, but I assume we'll be spending a lot of time in college), def do come and say hi! See you all vv soon - looking forward to (safely) meeting you!

Mikha'el Seth (HUS-Welfare@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi guys! My name's **Mikha'el (He/Him),** I'm a 2nd year medic and one of your **Welfare Officers** this year. I know things might be a little weird this year but don't worry, we want you to have as much fun as possible whilst also keeping you safe. If you have any questions or are ever feeling down know that you can always chat to me - Cambridge can be a scary place, but we're here to help. Our goal is to make sure everyone in College feels safe, happy, and not overly stressed. Please feel free to reach out to us, whether you're struggling with something, need a friend, or even just want to chat. I sing in choir, play ukulele, and I absolutely love Disney movies. I also love making people smile and laugh - I hope

you like puns because I certainly do! Most of all I'm super excited to meet you all, and I'm very grateful to be your Welfare Officer.

Meet your Liberation Officers!

Tatiana Kasujja (HUS-BME@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hey! My name is **Tatiana (She/Her),** a second year HSPS student and I will be one of your **BME Officers** this year. Throughout first year I was known along my corridor for always having an open-door policy, and this is something that I am very much looking forward to bringing to my role in order to assist you in the best way possible and ensure that all BME students feel welcome and at home here in Homerton. If you see me walking around college grounds, please feel free to say hello, I'm always willing to make time and have a chat. You can also message me on Facebook or email me at tk563@cam.ac.uk!

Teofisto Consistente VI (HUS-BME@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi all! My name is **Teofisto (He/Him),** I am a second year Bio Natsci and I am one of two **BME officers** in the HUS JCR. Along with Tatiana, we will be working towards building a social and academic community of students of colour here at Homerton. I want to make sure that all students of colour feel welcome and have a strong support network that allows them to feel assured of their position and welfare in this institution. I am super excited to work in this role and look forward to meeting you all!

Hannah McCombs (HUS-Class@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi! I'm **Hannah (She/Her),** and I'm a third year NatSci, specialising in Chemistry. I'm your **Class Act Officer** for this year, and I hope to make all working class students feel at home in Homerton. Being from low socio-economic backgrounds comes with additional challenges at university. As your CA officer, I hope to offer support through holding events targeted at eradicating imposter syndrome throughout the year. I hope to be someone you feel comfortable talking to if you ever feel like an outsider because of your social background. I love watching Liverpool matches in the buttery and listening to Taylor Swift. I look forward to meeting you soon!

Maxx Naoe (HUS-Gender@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi, I'm **Maxx (She/Her)**, a second year studying History of Art, and I'll be your **Gender Equality Officer** this year. My role involves supporting students who identify as female or non-binary by ensuring that they feel welcome, safe, and heard in college. I'll be working with the HUS to make this happen, so please do get in touch if there's anything we can do for you! Outside of the HUS, you'll find me living the EdgY Humanities Life™ of collecting tote bags and traipsing around Cambridge's lovely galleries. Come say hello if you want to talk about art, or anything else that's living in your head rent free- I can't wait to see you all at Hom soon!

Sophia Till (HUS-LGBT@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi, I'm **Sophia (She/Her)** and I am a second year MML student. I am also one of **your LGBT+ Officers** this year. There is a reason as to why 'home' is in the name Homerton and therefore, it is my job to ensure that all students who identify as LGBT+ find college to be the accepting, safe and inclusive place it should be. When I'm not shoulders deep in books or rushing to and from Sidg, you can be sure to find me in an overpriced coffee shop, getting my groove on in Cindies or eating soup out of the problematic bowls in the Arc. Failing that, I'll be in the furthest corner of the Beit library hiding from my deadlines. I'm always happy to chat - French, Spanish, German or English – over a coffee or something stronger - whatever you are in the mood for. We're going to have a fab year!

Jesi Bailey (HUS-LGBT@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hey!! I'm **Jesi (She/Her),** second year Education student, noted Queer Disaster™, and one of your **LGBT+ officers**! I'm here to ensure the LGBT+ community at Homerton is as friendly, inclusive, and fun as possible, whether through putting on events, advocating our needs to the college and university, or just being around for a classic chat/rant/cry combo. Whatever you need, feel free to drop me a message or knock on my door- I've got weighted blankets and tea!- and we'll figure it out together.

Emily Harris (HUS-Disabilities@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi everyone! I'm **Emily (She/Her),** both a townie and a gownie, and a third year Bio Natsci. I'll be your **Disabilities Liberation Officer** this year - university is a big adjustment, but for those with disabilities there are additional worries and struggles. I had a lot of fears about managing my disability at Cambridge and it definitely heightened my imposter syndrome. I am very excited to ensure that lectures, uni buildings and events are as accessible as possible, and help you navigate communication between the college, exams department and DRC to arrange the most ideal exam conditions for you. Feel free to come up and ask me any questions (related to my role, experience at Cambridge with dyslexia or just about anything at all!) or email me at emh77@cam.ac.uk. You will probably find me at Sunday brunch discussing my love for the Homerton hash browns, my newest trash reality TV show or the emotional journey of accepting I am now technically more of a PBS student than a Natsci.

Lily Zhang (HUS-International@homerton.cam.ac.uk)

Hi! I'm **Lily (She/Her),** a second year phys Natsci. I will be your **International Students' Officer** this year. My job is to make sure every Homertonian feels at home by helping you through all your questions and doubts. As someone who's been living in China for the past 18 years, I can totally understand how difficult it is to fit into a new environment, be it the endless winter days, the lack of international cuisines, or the struggle it takes to understand a punchline every native gets but you don't. So if you feel a bit lonely, homesick, or stressed out, just drop an email or message and I'll be there for you. Some of my hobbies include film watching, songwriting, shopping, watching the ducks near the bike shed. If you see me wandering around in college grounds, feel free to come and say hello, or have a chat! Looking forward to meeting you in Homerton!

Included below is a table with all the names and contact details of your HUS for 2020-21!

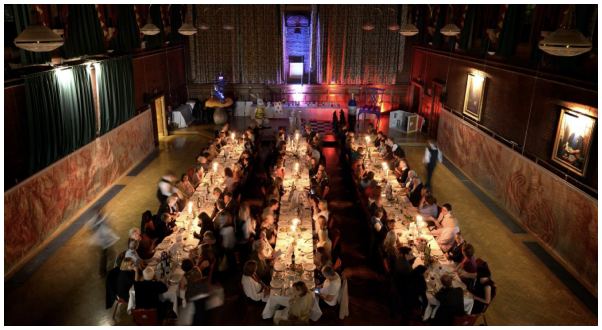
Role	Name	Email (X@homerton.cam.ac.uk)
President	Joseph Saxby	HUS-President
Vice President Internal	Harry Convey	HUS-Internal
Vice President External	Seb Kobler	HUS-External
Treasurer	Arina Machine	HUS-Treasurer
Welfare	Rati Aftab	HUS-Welfare
Welfare	Mikha'el Seth	HUS-Welfare
Welfare	Libby Warr	HUS-Welfare
Communications	Bronagh Leneghan	HUS-Comms
Services and Green	Natasha Bloomfield	HUS-Services
Academic Affairs & Liaison	Jennifer White	HUS-Academic
Target & Access	Mia Cook	HUS-Access
Ents	Eliza Castell	HUS-Ents
Ents	Greg Taylor	HUS-Ents
Sports	Lily Wilkinson	HUS-Sports
International	Lily Zhang	HUS-International
Gender Equality	Maxx Naoe	HUS-Gender
Disabilities	Emily Harris	HUS-Disabilities
BME	Teofisto Consistente VI	HUS-BME
BME	Tatiana Kasujja	HUS-BME
Class Act	Hannah McCombs	HUS-Class
LGBT+	Jesi Bailey	HUS-LGBT
LGBT+	Sophia Till	HUS-LGBT

3| Homerton

Known as Cambridge's friendliest and newest college, Homerton will be the place you will come to know and love - many students call it a Hom(e) from home! Homerton is about a 15-minute cycle from Cambridge City Centre, located on Hills Road, nestled in one of Cambridge's more residential areas. It is this distance from the busy city centre that helps Homerton's community thrive, aided of course by Homerton being the largest college by student numbers! All of Homerton's facilities and its undergraduate accommodation are contained in the spacious Hills Road site which also adds to our close community feel; it's not unusual to bump into many fellow Homertonians as you go about your day here. Homerton is also lucky to boast luscious greenery on site, with its own orchard and playing fields and unlike most other Cambridge colleges, students are allowed to walk on the grass!

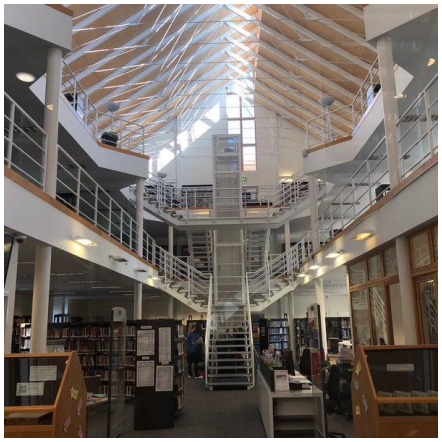
A. The Great Hall

The Great Hall is the dining facility in college, where breakfast, lunch and dinner are served every weekday as well as lunch on Saturday and brunch on Sunday. Going to Hall is a great way to socialise and also to get a nice, hot meal for a reasonable price. Sadly, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Great Hall will be open for take-away only, and other spaces will be made available elsewhere in college for eating together safely. The Great Hall is also the space in which Formal Hall is held, a sit-down three course dinner held weekly for students, formal hall costs around £16. Formals have also been postponed for Michaelmas term. The Hall itself is a beautiful space, home to Homerton's famous rose window and you will still get to access it, albeit for takeout, throughout Michaelmas.



B. The Library

The library is a lovely open space to work in if you wish to. It is located right next to the Porters' Lodge, and is open 24/7, for you to work in and borrow books from however new opening hours soon and a booking system will be published in light of the pandemic. Staff are there on weekdays, but the self-service terminal means you can grab any books you need at any time. You can have 15 volumes out at any one time for two-week loan periods, and longer over vacations. You will have a virtual library induction in Freshers' Week to get you better acquainted with the system. During your induction, you will hear about the changes to the library policies in response to the pandemic, but be rest assured all academic resources will be available to you.



C. The Plodge (Porters' Lodge)

The Plodge is located in the Mary Allan Building. It is home to Homerton's Porters who can help you with whatever problems you might encounter, at any time of the day or night (a luxury of being at Homerton!). If anything goes wrong, they should always be your first port of call for advice. They are able to organise things like emergency taxis to the GP surgery (or literally anything else) if you are in need. You will get to meet the Head Porter, Carl Hodson, in Freshers Week and you will quickly find yourself becoming familiar with the rest of the wonderful porters over your time here!

D. The JCR (Junior Common Room)

The JCR is situated in the Buttery and Old Bar, and is a room in College for everyone to relax in. It was recently refurbished and has sofas, a pool table, 2 large screen TVs (one with Sky Sports and one with BT Sport). People often congregate here to watch sport on weekends, and the HUS often runs popular events in the JCR throughout the year. This is a focal point of Homerton life and we are trying hard to provide as much of this service as possible during the pandemic, however it is likely that occupancy will be limited at the beginning of Michaelmas.

E. The Griffin Bar

The new Griffin Bar is a brand-new bar that was opened in late 2018 and is perfect for a few drinks in the evening in wood panelled splendour. With outdoor seating for the warmer summer months the Griffin bar is a brilliant facility. It also doubles as a lovely work-space on weekdays! Numbers will be limited during the pandemic and the bar section of the Griffin will be takeaway only, but will remain open to serve students and the outdoor seating area will remain open throughout the year as well.

F. The Gym

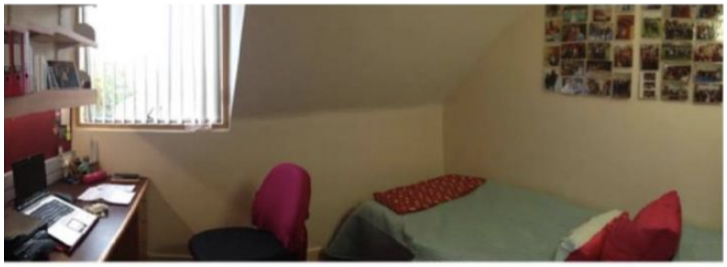
The Homerton Gym will unfortunately be closed for at least the start of Michaelmas term due to the pandemic. In the meantime, there is a PureGym only a few minutes walk down the road and we are working hard to provide a safe and fair way for people to access the gym. Homerton's gym is well-equipped with three cross-trainers, two treadmills, two bikes, and a separate weights room with four rowing machines and is free for Homerton residents.

G. The HUS Office

The HUS office is located in the Cavendish building, just around the corner from the Principal's Office. There will always be a member of the HUS on duty there (The President will be around 9-5 on weekdays and the rest of the HUS 10-7). It's a good place to ask for advice about any issues you may be having. The HUS operates a very reasonably priced shop where you can buy everything from stamps, pads and rulers to birthday cards, paperweights and of course, stash! We have extended our office hours dramatically this year to help cope with the need to spread people out.

4| West House - “Best House”

A. West House Rooms



West House will be your new home! It might not be as grand as some of the other Colleges’ old buildings, but it’s fairly new, so you can be sure that the (under-floor!) heating works, the windows are double-glazed, and the showers will be flowing. What’s more, all the rooms are en-suite - a luxury few other Colleges can boast. Another bonus is that its layout makes it easy to get to know everyone, as you can’t walk in and out without bumping into someone.

Rooms would usually be cleaned for you but unfortunately that’s just not possible this year. There will still be a process whereby you can have your bins emptied and essentials (e.g. toilet paper and cleaning supplies) restocked but in room cleaning is cancelled for the foreseeable future for everyone’s safety. Bedding and towels provided by college will also be able to be changed and if you bring your own bedding you’ll have to wash it yourself!

Unfortunately, you can’t stick posters and pictures all over your walls, but you can hang them from the picture rail or pin them to the notice board (if you damage the walls with blu-tac or tape you might be charged).

The rooms themselves have a desk and chair, three shelves and a strip lamp above the desk, a bed, a bedside table, a noticeboard for pinning things on, two lockable drawers under the bed, six drawers and a cupboard, plus two wardrobes. There’s also a TV aerial point (you’ll need a TV licence if you want to use this).

The bathroom is a wet room with a shower toilet and sink, cabinet for toiletries and a shelf and mirror above the sink. There’s also a full-length mirror inside the bathroom and there are loads of power sockets so don’t worry about bringing multi plug extension cables.

Your residency agreement means you only pay for your room during term time (which does mean you spend less on accommodation). Most people go home for the vacation, but it is possible to pay for extra nights between terms. You can leave some stuff in the two

lockable drawers under your bed and the lockable drawer under the desk, and if you can't take everything home then the HUS offers holiday storage, but we do have to charge for it. It's worth bearing this in mind before you bring your entire sound system, plasma TV, collection of antique furniture or anything else that you might struggle to get home or fit into a drawer at the end of term!

B. West House Kitchens

West House also has a Gyp Room (a small kitchenette) for 8 or so people, with a fridge, a kettle, microwave, 4 ring electric hob and toaster. There is no freezer or oven which can be limiting, but the facilities are perfect for things like pasta, curry, omelettes, sandwiches – be creative! You also get your own lockable cupboard to keep pesky food thieves off your snacks. It's rare, but it can happen, so keep your cupboard locked!

Unfortunately, there is no furniture in the kitchen, so students tend to either stand and eat at the counter in the kitchen where they can talk to others while they cook, or eat at their desk in their room. There are no utensils for you to use, so you'll have to bring your own pots, pans, cutlery, plates, bowls, etc. The nearest shops are Sainsbury's, Tesco and the Co-op, all only a five-minute walk away. They aren't superstores but are more than enough for most student needs.

C. What to bring (and what not to)

Less important, but still worth considering, are your own exciting duvet covers (not necessary, but for some people this is a nice personal touch) and towels too if you like (some say the College towels are a tad small). Extra towels are especially useful if you are going to be sporty. Don't forget, however, that this will only create more laundry for yourself! West House has a laundry area behind the lifts on the ground floor, with 4 machines and 4 tumble dryers - but you need to provide your own washing powder and fabric conditioner; to wash and dry a load it costs about £4. It also has ironing boards and irons.

Very few people do not have a laptop (almost all your work will have to be emailed to your supervisors), and some also have a cheap printer - though for a small fee you can always print stuff out at the library, which many students do and most departments generally print all notes, which is expected to continue this year. Cambridge has a reputation for being oddly cold, so you'll need a warm coat, and plenty of jumpers (especially since you'll probably be spending a lot of time outside this term!), and a suit or other smart attire. Even without formals running this term, Cambridge loves any excuse to get dressed up so it's a good idea to bring this formal attire anyway!

Other things it may be good to consider are an alarm, coat hangers and some form of photo ID (your CamCard will not count and its extremely common for Freshers to be turned away from pubs when they try to use their CamCards). Finally, a doorstop is a great way to help make friends on your corridor in the first few weeks!

DON'T bring your own furniture – there simply isn't room for anything else!

DON'T bring candles or anything that poses a fire risk! Homerton is highly conscious of fire safety and you could land yourself in trouble (especially if people find out it's you that has forced everyone outside at 4am with the fire alarm!).

DON'T bring anything big and bulky that you might find hard to store/get back home again at the end of term (although, the HUS does offer a storage service for the vacation periods).

5| Support in College

Moving away to University is a big life change, as well as adjusting to the Cambridge workload. College, and the HUS, want to make sure that you have the support network and the resources you need in college to make sure not only the transition to University life is as smooth as possible, but also to make sure that you have the best support network available to you as is possible! When you arrive you will receive a 'Welfare Pack' that include much more detail about the welfare resources available to you.

HUS Welfare

The HUS runs a student welfare service and has three elected student welfare officers, Rati Aftab, Mikha'el Seth and Libby Warr. They are available to help you with any problems you may have during your time at university and if they can't help themselves, they will know to whom to refer you. You can email them at HUS-Welfare@homerton.cam.ac.uk or use any one of the numerous ways there are to get in touch with them- for more info visit https://www.hus-jcr.co.uk/support/welfare/. They can also put you in touch with Homerton's own counselling service, or the University-wide one via our College Nurse.

The HUS provides a number of different welfare services, such as those below:

- **Advice on your Physical Health:** If you have any queries relating to your physical health, we shall do our best to advise you. We also have a nurse that is employed by College and, on arrival, you will be assisted with signing up to the local GP.

- **Sexual health and Consent Workshops:** We provide condoms, pregnancy tests and chlamydia tests. You can text the welfare phone and we shall put them into your pigeonholes. We also have information relating to sexual health and contact details which you can use. Consent workshops will be run by members of the HUS team during Freshers' week.

- **Mental Health:** We run events to promote good mental health (such as welfaries, yoga, welfare drop-ins) and can signpost you to the most appropriate person to help you if at any point you have worries about your mental health or are just feeling stressed or worried about any aspect of life.

Services in College

Homerton offers a number of services for support in college. You will be assigned a tutor who can help you with guidance on University life and any issues you might need help with, academic or not. You can also contact your Director of Studies, or the Senior Tutor if you'd prefer.

There is an on-site nurse, Sandy Chambers, who you can book appointments with her to discuss minor health issues at https://rushcliff.com/ob/homertonhealthcentre. As well as this, there is an on-site college counsellor, Catherine Snelson, to whom you can self-refer by emailing her at cs780@cam.ac.uk.

Should you experience discrimination or harrassment while at Homerton, the college has a robust network of support. The College Discrimination or Harrassment Contacts are Georgie Horrell (gah27@cam.ac.uk) and Eireann Attridge.

University Wide Support

There is also available to all Cambridge students a University-wide counselling service (UCS), more information can be found in this leaflet:

https://nexus.homerton.cam.ac.uk/uploads/general-information-for-students-oct-6th.pdf.

Or go to their website: https://www.counselling.cam.ac.uk/.

Financial Support

If you ever come into financial difficulties or your circumstances change, college has various hardship funds available to students, as does the University. There is also a number of bursaries and grants that Homerton funds each year to support students who may want to stay in college longer to study (Vacation Study Grants), as well as grants available for those who may want to do a summer internship or those who want to travel for specific reasons. If you have any questions, or would like advice on financial matters, please email the finance tutor Dhiru Karia (dk211@cam.ac.uk), or contact the HUS Treasurer at HUS-Treasurer@homerton.cam.ac.uk.

6| Societies and Extracurriculars at Homerton

Homerton offers a range of extracurriculars and societies to get involved in, some of which are listed below. Make sure to visit our brand new virtual Freshers Fair (04.10.20) to see everything Homerton has to offer!

Homerton BME Society

As one of the most diverse colleges, we wanted to establish a society that caters to the needs of all of the BME students we have in college! Homerton BME Society strives to make BME students feel more at home in college and to build upon the tight knit community we have already established this year so the next cohort of BME students can benefit from this support network as many of us have benefitted this year. We want to focus on improving the welfare of BME students in college by putting on a variety of events such as welfare chills, games nights and sports days. Not only this but we also want to focus on raising awareness of issues faced by the BME community in order to cultivate a community with understanding and open communication with allies. We can't wait to meet you all! Drop an email to Leanne Tyme, lct43@cam.ac.uk.

Homerton College Christian Union

At Homerton, we are really excited and blessed to have a passionate college group that meets together weekly and is supportive of one another in our Christian faith. We normally meet together on Saturday evenings and for various other outreach events including our popular 'Ping-a-Pancake' events during term!

Whether you are already a Christian or just someone who is interested in exploring the Christian faith for themselves, do drop us a message or come along to one of our meetings. We would love to meet with you, chat with you, answer any of your questions and support you in your journey whatever that may look like.

To get in touch, you can send a message to our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/HomertonCU/ or contact our college reps Hana/Becca via email: hbk25@cam.ac.uk, rl624@cam.ac.uk.

Homerton for Consent

We are Homerton for Consent, a new student run group set up to tackle the perceived ambiguity around consent and change harmful cultures. The aim is to provide a platform for discussions as well as collating student resources and artwork about their experiences with consent. This is a supportive, educational group that aims to change not just student perceptions about consent but also college policies and information. We will be running events throughout the year so keep an eye out for those and if you are looking to get more involved, anybody is welcome to join our team!

Homerton History Society

The Homerton History Society is a student-led society with a mixture of talks, socials and course-related events. Membership is free and some talks will be open to non-historians. We are making the term card work online as much as possible, so don't worry if you don't feel comfortable attending events in real life yet! This year we are really trying to make our events relate to current affairs and cover the history behind the news, so there will be something of interest to everyone regardless of your tripos. We have some really exciting speakers in place already so make sure to sign up!

Homerton IV Men's Football Team

Are you looking to be a part of a true Homerton institution? Come join the Homerton IV Men's football team. For years now we have been terrorising the lowest league in Cambridge with our inability to play, understand or win games of football (we did win a game once but promise that was a freak occurrence). If you are looking for an opportunity to get involved in a college sport but don't want any commitment and just to have a laugh the IV's are the team for you! There is no weekly training involved, you simply have to rock up each weekend to kick a ball about for a couple of hours and maybe even score a goal or something. We will be posting our weekly fixtures in the Homerton College JCR Facebook group, or you can contact the captain James Bradley at jab295@cam.ac.uk for more information. We hope to see as many of you as possible this year on the pitch!

Homerton College Rugby Football Club (HCRFC)

HCRFC looks to go from strength to strength this year. Despite the dizzying heights of our on field exploits, the social side of HCRFC is the heartbeat of the club with several bi-weekly excellent socials throughout the year. Any and all are welcome, players of all abilities and experience are encouraged to give rugby a go. Please contact Head of Recruitment and Player Development Jonny Andrews (ja658@cam.ac.uk).

Homerton College Boat Club (HCBC)

HCBC provides an excellent opportunity to take up rowing. No previous rowing experience is needed – as a matter of fact, most of us hadn't touched an oar before we came to Cambridge, but it has really transformed our time here in a positive way! The Boat Club operates on an ethos that's welcoming of all abilities and is non-judgemental, so you'll feel right at home. There's plenty of races throughout the year to get involved in, including the Fairbairn Cup at the end of Michaelmas, and the Bumps races at the end of the Lent and Easter terms and many more regattas in between!

Other college sports teams include the Football Is and IIs, Cricket, Badminton and many more. Come to the Freshers Fair to get the best idea of what's available! And of course, if what you want doesn't exist yet, start it yourself!

Homerton Changemakers

Changemakers is College's pioneering, extra-curricular programme for accelerating personal development, and your capacity for 'being the change you want to be'.

The programme focuses on leadership, self-knowledge, enterprise and building global awareness. It's modular so you can dip in and out whenever and however you wish. And you can choose what to focus on - from social innovation and entrepreneurialism to systems thinking and tools for high-performance. Every element works to build your toolkit, heighten your understanding, and move you from the personal to the societal. It's also a great way to work with people from other disciplines and year groups, and to extend your network of like-minded, visionary folks.

The annual programme includes workshops, residentials, seminars, lectures, opportunities for mentoring and coaching, and a summer 'Challenge Fund'. This year sees the launch of 12 online modules *Changemaker Sketches'*. Each is designed to help build your personal stability and high-performance in the challenging context of Covid-19. Topics include quietude; epistemic agility; understanding and removing limiting assumptions; and getting things done.

Changemakers also draws on a network of brilliant innovators, academics, philanthropists, professionals, and entrepreneurs to offer the programme, building a courage-motivated community of people within college and beyond.

No other college (that we know of) offers its students such extensive opportunities for developing the trans-academic and inner-life skills crucial for achieving well, and wisely.

Changemakers is open to all Homerton students.

For more, see the website

https://www.changemakers.homerton.cam.ac.uk

And look out for the regular emails from the Changemaker team keeping you posted on new events and opportunities.

Outside Homerton

As well as extracurriculars in college, there are a number of things you can get involved in at a Uni-wide level and there tends to be something for everyone!

- For you Thesps out there, Cambridge has an incredibly active and renowned theatre scene. Any vacancies for roles, whether they are technical or theatrical are listed on camdram.net, or will be advertised on the Cambridge theatre Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/537078162977094/?ref=share

- When coming to Cambridge, there are many opportunities to both carry on sports, or to try new ones. Many who already play a sport may try out for the University-wide Blues team . Otherwise, college has it's own sport teams you can try out, beginner or not.

- For those of you who are avid writers, Cambridge has its very own student newspaper, Varsity. There are a number of opportunities to write and to edit for the paper. These are usually advertised on Facebook groups also.

- Whilst at Cambridge, you might also be interested in getting involved in some organisational work – such as working on a May Ball committee, running for a societies' committee or being a representative for a charity. A number of charities have student run organisations in Cambridge such as RAG and Oxfam and there are a number of societies both within and outside of Homerton to get involved in.

This is just a small fraction of things available to get involved in in Homerton and Cambridge, more will be advertised across Fresher's week and there is certainly something for everyone to get involved in!

7| Cambridge Lingo

Part of living in the Cambridge bubble is learning the ancient and sometimes confusing new language. Here's a list of some of the most important, although new ones will crop up in conversation for years to come!

- **Bop** – A themed College-run party. Costumes are advised!
- **Bumps** - A form of rowing race where competing boats start simultaneously but at fixed distances from each other. The aim is to bump the boat in front before being bumped by the boat behind. If neither happens, you are said to row over. A significantly dangerous pastime, and therefore an excellent spectator sport.
- **Buttery** – a fancy way of saying 'café'. The Griffin is the buttery at Homerton, selling sandwiches and snacks in the day. In the evening it magically transforms into the College bar and common room. "The buttery is rarely shuttery" – in other words, it's open 10am-6pm.
- **Cantab** – short from 'Cantabrigian', it simply means you are a member of the University. Once you graduate, you get to put this after your name.
- **Cindies** – known to non-students (and plenty of taxi drivers!) as Ballare, this is a Cambridge clubbing institution. Whereas the world outside the club has gracefully matured, Cindies still listens exclusively to cheesy pop.
- **DoS** – Director of Studies, they can help you out with academic issues.
- **Ents** - Refers to the 'entertainment' being organised and also the officers on the JCR that organise them
- **Formal** – a formal candlelit meal in College with a formal dress code. Colleges hold them at different times, so there'll be plenty of opportunities to compare formals across the University. We hold one every Tuesday. Many students choose to wear gowns, but this is not obligatory at Homerton.
- **Life** – another Cambridge club which hasn't gone by this name for many years. Its 'proper' name is Vinyl, but if you say that to veteran students, they might not know what you're on about.
- **Mathmo** – someone who studies maths.
- **Michaelmas** - The first of three terms in the academic year, between October and Christmas. The other two are called Lent and Easter term.
- **NatSci** – term used to describe both the Natural Sciences course and a student on this course (pronounced Nat-Ski)

- **Plodge** – short for Porters' Lodge, or the reception area of a College.
- **Porters** - Porters ensure the security of College and man the 'Porters Lodge' at the main entrances. They are also who you go to when you get locked out of your room. They're always able to help you out with nearly any issue, large or small!
- **Punt(ing)** - A long flat-bottomed boat where you move forward by sticking a pole in the river bed and pushing.
- **Sidge** - An abbreviation for Sidgwick Site where lectures are held
- **Stash** – the kit you get for being associated with a society. Essential for the promotion of a play or team spirit in a College sport!
- **Swap** – a special type of meal organised by students, often held at formals or at certain venues in town. It usually involves two groups of students from different Colleges coming together to partake in drinking games.

8| FAQs and Advice from Students

Do I have to take my things home at the end of term?

Most people go home for vacations between terms, although you can pay for extra nights. When you leave college, you must pack up your belongings into under-bed storage and take the remaining items home; limited paid storage is available from the HUS, but is usually reserved for international students. So make sure you pack light enough to move in and out every 8 weeks!

How do I pay for meals in College?

On arrival (as well as your keys to your new room!), you will be given your 'camcard'. Not only will this be your university identity card, but it can also be loaded with funds via the U-Pay app (www.upay.co.uk) to pay for meals in the Buttery and the Great Hall. You will also use this card to borrow from the libraries in Cambridge!

There is also a more extensive FAQ available at www.hus-jcr.co.uk! This is just a taster, remember if you have any questions you can get in touch with any member of the HUS!

- Don't worry if you can't always meet your deadlines exactly on time, if you explain to your supervisors they are usually understanding and often will give you an extension or just want you to have done some sort of preparation for the supervision.
- In Freshers Week, it can seem like everyone is having the best time ever and have met their best friends straight away, but that's rarely the case. Remember it's okay to take time to meet your friends and to settle into university life.
- It's also okay to struggle with university life beyond Freshers Week; after all it is a huge lifestyle change to adjust to! It's also good to know there is College and University-wide support available to you for free.
- Make sure to strike some sort of work/life balance as the Cambridge workload without doing things you enjoy, having fun and seeing friends can feel really heavy.

Please always get in touch with any HUS member via email, messenger chat, coming to the office, HUS Questions (or any other way you can think of!) to ask any questions you might have.