

Dear Fresher,

Congratulations! You must have heard it 100 times but well done for making it up to Oxford. Not only that but you've found yourself at Balliol, what we think is obviously the best college. One thing among many that makes us unique is the strength and involvement of the JCR. People are constantly getting involved in organising, creating and changing things to make Balliol better.

A great example of this is our world-renown Pantry. This is a cafeteria in the JCR which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner all day / every day, but it is also a place to catch up with your mates before a lecture, recover from that hangover or have a laugh in the evenings over a cheap meal.

As JCR Committee "Foody Brothers", we are responsible for running Pantry. We are always trying to make it better for you guys, in whatever way we can. But we don't just want to sell Pantry prospectus-style, but this is also to tell you a few ways in which it can be a practical benefit to student life at Balliol.

Firstly, Pantry provides a rare alternative to College Hall. Our most expensive dinner is just £3.20, and most nights there are plenty of people eating here so there's always a chance for a chat. This means if you're feeling lazy or have just had a rowing outing, there aren't a whole load of steps to climb to hall, but it also lets you be a bit more flexible with your eating arrangements. You don't have to pay for the whole term's food and can grab a meal when you want to, without feeling like you've wasted money. We have a tab system where you can scan your bod card and this goes on your charge for next term, so you don't even need to worry about carrying cash.

Second, being a student run organisation, we have the power to alter meals and prices to correspond to what students actually want. We'll do things we think are good like introducing 3 great new evening meals since last term, but most people are brimming with their own ideas as well; let us know, and we'll often try our best to incorporate your suggestions to make Pantry better.

Thirdly, we are different in employing student staff who work on weekends and certain week shifts. As Oxford generally doesn't like students to work, and finding a way of getting a job in term time can be difficult, getting trained in Pantry is a really easy way to get some extra cash by working a few hours here and there.

You'll hear more in Freshers' week about our opening hours (all day through the week) and menus, and also get the chance to sign up to be trained to work here. Any other questions about the infinite pros of eating in Pantry, or some more things we get involved in as Committee officers, grab me or Brook as we're available throughout the week, or email us:

See you in Pantry soon,

Your (new) Foody Bros.

Ben and Brook

benjamin.marhsall@balliol.ox.ac.uk

brook.hewett@balliol.ox.ac.uk