

FROM THE RECTOR
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EXETER
COLLEGE
OXFORD

Welcome from the Rector

August 2022

Dear new Exeter undergraduate

Welcome to Exeter College! We are very much looking forward to your arrival here. This is one of Oxford's oldest colleges – 2022 is the eighth year of our eighth century – and one of the most beautiful, with a lovely garden right in the centre of town. It is also extremely friendly, with lots of interesting activities going on.

Because of the lingering aspects of COVID-19 Exeter, like all other Oxford colleges, is having to make some special arrangements – though many fewer this year than two years ago or even a year ago! - to ensure the safety and health of all concerned. But my colleagues and I, and the leaders of our undergraduate representative organization, the Junior Common Room (JCR), are determined to create, as we managed to do last year, as normal an atmosphere as possible in College despite the pandemic.

I do hope that you will enjoy your time with us. The work may seem very demanding, especially at the start, but remember that everyone else will be in the same boat (even if they don't show it). One of the best reasons for coming to Oxford is the enormous amount of personal attention you will get, from those who teach you and from other members of staff, including those whose particular concern is the general wellbeing of our students. Work must always come first, but do please try to make time for the sporting, cultural and social activities that are also an important part of college and university life. You will have more opportunities to try things out, whether debating or acting or rowing, than will ever come your way again.

I arrived at Exeter, as Rector (i.e. head of the College), in the autumn of 2014 after many years as an academic historian and academic leader at other UK universities. I once did an Oxford undergraduate degree, so I have some idea of what lies ahead of you! I have my office in the College grounds, and my wife Marguerite Dupree and I also live here. We'll see you at a variety of social events during your time at Exeter. Also, I'll be meeting each of you individually, early in your time at Exeter, when you sign the College Register. Moreover, throughout your time as an Exeter undergraduate please feel free to come to see me if you have a problem that you can't sort out elsewhere.

Please pass on the invitation (which is also contained within the Welcome Letter to Parent(s)/Guardian(s)) - to a tea party in the College Hall from 2 pm to 4.30 pm on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd October – to your parent or guardian and other family members. If they come to drop you off that day, it would be very nice to meet them.

I look forward to seeing you when you arrive, and to getting to know you throughout your time with us.

With all good wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Trainor".

Professor Rick Trainor