

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

JCR Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: 15/05/2021 at 4pm via Zoom

Present: President (RC), VP (SS), Treasurer (KP), Communications (DL), Accommodation (LM), BAME (SO), Disabilities (AA), Environment and Ethical (AD), Fresher reps (DT & EG), Welfare (AM & AB), Academic (CD), Access (ES), Charities (NW), Catering (HP) Ents (AW), International (AT & JK), LGBT+ (MT & IW)

Apologies for absence: Environment and Ethical (AO), Catering (JD), Ents (VM), Sports and Societies (RM), Women's and NB (GS)

Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting:

- SO (BAME) has spoken to Natasha (Charities) to raise money for those who have lost a loved one or been neglected following a police brutality incident and updates for this fundraiser will be sent out soon.
- There is an upcoming meeting with College Welfare regarding the outdoor cinema event that is in the process of going ahead.

News and Updates

Tutor Meeting (14/05)

- There were 4 main points raised: L and M situation, annual events and ceremonies that have been cancelled this year, reading week, exam technical failures and study spaces.
- L and M blocks having to be vacated before the 23rd of June has been recognised from a welfare perspective. All students living there should be contacted on a one on one basis by their Tutors.
- Annual events such as Matriculation Dinner and Graduation ceremonies that have been cancelled this year due to Covid, College have promised that they have just been postponed and will be happening hopefully next year. Halfway hall for second years will be happening at the end of this term hopefully.
- Reading week has obtained mixed opinions from Tutors but some sort of

compromise will be reached regardless.

- There will be information passed on from College regarding smaller study spaces (excluding Library, Octagon etc) and their opening times and availability so that uptake can increase. The old booking system is not efficient at the moment (too many forms in different places) so IT is looking into streamlining it.
- If anyone has any questions regarding technical failures during exams, please contact your department or ask your college representative to do so. The IT department at Catz are setting up an 'urgent' ticket system where you can get an immediate response from IT if a technical issue does occur during your exams. College are also looking at a potential telephone number that IT can be directly reached upon.

Governing Body Meeting 14/05

- There has been 1 positive coronavirus case so far at Catz in 2021 and 353 undergraduate students are now back, however College has observed a significant drop in asymptomatic testing.
- The Governing Body has passed the new Visitors Policy (see **Appendix** - scroll down!) largely in line updated government guidance that will change on the 17th May. This will be accessible via the website.
- The Care+ scheme for LGBTQ+ students has been signed off by the Governing Body. This included a LGBTQ+ fellow introduced in college, LGBTQ+ Care group to be created to flag and discuss relevant issues and the creation of an LGBTQ+ page on the St Catharine's website. We are one of the first 5 colleges in the entire university to sign this off.
- The LGBTQ+ flag policy has also been signed off for when the flag will fly - e.g. International Transgender Day of Visibility on the 31 March.
- Everything is being done to try and mitigate the construction issue and it has definitely been recognised as an issue by college. More details can be found under issues raised.

Issues Raised

Accommodation and Disruption

L and M block issue of moving out prior to end of term:

- A comprehensive email will be sent out by RC (President) to all L and M residents in the upcoming days to provide a detailed explanation of College

response to the solutions the JCR offered.

- In short, condensing the building works so that they start after the 27th June is not possible as it has already been shortened by many weeks. It is already due to finish only ~48 hours prior to Matriculation in October with builders working continuously over summer until 10pm every night.
- There are legal requirements to have the right number of bathrooms and gyms in L and M in the first place which is why they are necessary to carry out.
- The work cannot be postponed by a week because there will be nowhere to lodge students who will be living in L and M at the start of Michaelmas. Cambridge accommodation is more full at the beginning of Michaelmas than at any other time of year. The students also cannot move into some "99% finished accommodation" at the start of Michaelmas because of insurance issues - legally the contractors have full responsibility of whoever is on L and M site for the duration of the contract, and this would not sit well with insurers or contractors or College.
- To make moving to a different room/site easier, College have agreed on a variety of mitigations. These will be agreed with students but nothing is final yet. Some suggestions were: to assign housekeepers the task of assisting with the transfer of belongings; to pay for taxis to transport belongings for students that may be moving to another site.
- College were also very receptive to allowing students to stay together in friendship groups and decide (within the constraints of what accommodation is available, of which there is enough) where and with whom to live.
- If you live in L or M, please read the email coming from RC (President) very soon for far more details about the situation, or message him/email jcr.president@caths.cam.ac.uk with questions.

Noise disruption issue on Main Site due to construction:

- On 12/05 a meeting was held regarding this with 4 students representative of those who are affected by noise. All issues that were discussed have been listed in an email from Operations sent to those students, with mitigations and action points as well. [RC (President) has asked that this email be forwarded by those students to all other members of Hobbs, Gostlin, E, and Bull.]
- Complaints regarding noise before 9am should be sent to [HH](#) (College Operations Director) and [AR](#) (College Accommodations Manager) as many times as required. If complaints reach significant numbers, construction may be banned altogether before 9am, currently builders are allowed to carry out preparation work before 9am.

- There are currently noise cancelling earbuds that were supplied earlier this year to deal with the noise, however on receiving negative feedback regarding their effectiveness, College are organising for ear defenders that will be trialed with a few students and if effective they will be distributed to all affected students.
- The Quiet hour cannot be moved from the current lunchtime hour due to health and safety reasons from a builders perspective. (This would make them have to work too long in one go without a break, as the Quiet hour is their break.)
- There will be a timetable of when different works are going to be carried out so that affected people can plan their work accordingly. However, this will be heavily caveated because this timetable is currently very sparse and uninformative because the builders' timetable constantly changes according to problems that arise. It is non-binding.
- We are looking for much more information about the potential exam-bookable rooms that College has made available. Some of these are right opposite main site, in the Pitt Building - we encourage you to get in touch with your Tutor for information about these, and we will also be piecing together everything we can & advertising these spaces. You will be allowed to go and look around before your actual exam, should you wish.
- LM (Accommodations and Facilities) will be contacting College again regarding rent reductions for those in Gostlin and Bull and around the building works area.
- Ultimately nothing can be done to stop the builders from making noise during their allocated times - sorry :(

Preventing Prevent

- Prevent is a government scheme that requires Universities under statutory law to report signs of extremism, however statistics show that 90% of cases are false positive and Muslims are more than 40 times more likely to be reported than other demographic groups.
- College and University are under statutory legal duty to comply however is not a JCR duty to do so, therefore CamSU have pledged for JCR's to not comply with this flawed scheme.
- The JCR will vote on this next meeting to give Officers the time to educate themselves on the matter.
- Information regarding the pledge can be found on the links below
- <https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/news/article/jobs/Preventing-Prevent-Toolkit/>
- https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/yourvoice/projects/preventingprevent/?fbclid=IwAR1Ax3IUkbatWFQrz7qpMD_Ux_xwi7XiBX5XLixYOPmJ8QhRDwq2BREVZ50

Stash

- The JCR are looking into new stash potentially including pyjamas, bottles, notebooks, sports stash and JCR hoodies for the committee.
- SS (Vice President) will be looking into potential new stash providers following delivery complaints from the current suppliers alongside AD (Ethical and Environmental) who will be carrying out sustainability checks.
- Anyone who has further stash ideas feel free to tell us via the anonymous messaging form.

Campaign for JCR's to support fundraising for India

- NW (Charities) looked into the JCR providing a donation to support the India Covid situation via the relief fund set up by Oxbridge students however due to the College (of which the JCR is part) being a charity only allowed to donate to other charities that advance education, religion and research, we cannot donate directly to that fundraiser. However if anyone wishes to donate personally can do so here:
https://www.gofundme.com/f/oxford-student-action-for-covid-relief-in-india?utm_campaign=p_cp_url&utm_medium=os&utm_source=customer
- An alternative found by Natasha is to donate to the Indian NGO - Pratham - which supports education in India and alongside that is supporting the pandemic response. It has transformed all of its vocational training centres into COVID treatment centres and has been securing PPE for the country as well. Find out more about the NGO here: <https://www.pratham.org/>
- The JCR unanimously voted to donate £500 of the JCR Charities fund to this NGO in a bid to support the India Covid Relief efforts.

Issues Not Raised

- A request for a water fountain on the Island site for those coming from other accommodation to use the study spaces for the day - please look at the [JCR Tracker](#) for the full update.
- Mixed JCR and MCR formals - we are liaising with the MCR and catering and will update when we have an answer
- Priority booking system for students affected by noise to use study spaces request - RC (President) will speak to college about this. However please note this does not include the Library/Octagon and other standard study spaces - it refers to the smaller individual study spaces including spare supervision rooms,

empty rooms at Wolfson Court, etc. for sitting exams. [Please note that we are *not* planning to introduce bookings at the library and similar venues!]

Appendix: Visitors policy

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bs2vzvoCSINs4cSWY1m19mHHX_g9M_8_5FqApXLkJYM/edit?usp=sharing

- Please see above document or email from College sent on 17th May

Any Other Business

- JCR Committee members to fill out GDPR compliance information form by 16/05
- JCR Committee members who spent money have been reimbursed on the whole
- The reformed constitution will be going to the Governing Body to be approved. The adjustments were very minor including grammar changes, use of gender neutral language and clarification on some unclear points.
- Entz have been working hard to arrange lots of events this term and hopefully students look forward to attending them!

If you have any suggestions or feedback you'd like to give the JCR, please get in touch by emailing [the Vice President \(SS\)](#) or using the [anonymous messaging platform](#).

DL, 2021-2022 JCR Comms Officer