

Dear incoming Corpuscles*,

Welcome! We're so excited to be meeting you soon when you arrive in Cambridge. We are currently the acting welfare officers on the MCR** committee, which means that we are responsible for working with the rest of the MCR community and college staff to promote student welfare. Since this year is a little different from those previous, we wanted to reach out to you before you arrive to let you know about the sources of support available to you, particularly in the context of COVID-19.

There are lots of sources of welfare support in college and Cambridge more generally (see attached information sheet). We want to draw your attention to two different initiatives that the welfare team is running this year for the support of Corpus postgraduates.

College families

A long-standing special Cambridge tradition is the allocation of each incoming student to a college "family". For Corpus postgraduates, we designate student volunteers in the upper years as "aunts" and "uncles". This is designed to provide each incoming postgraduate with a point of contact in the MCR community. You will be contacted by your college aunt(s)/uncle(s) in the coming weeks before your arrival in Cambridge. This will provide you with a good opportunity to reach out to current students and ask anything that might be on your mind. No question is silly! You might be wondering, for example, "what are the kitchen facilities like at Leckhampton?", or "should I get a bike?? I've heard that students in Cambridge are always riding a bike...". These are perfect questions to ask your college family. When you arrive, as part of your Freshers Week festivities, we will be organising a family picnic. This will give you a chance to meet your aunt(s)/uncle(s) and their other nieces/nephews in person (socially distanced, of course, and government guidelines permitting).

Self-isolation support team

As mentioned, we have been thinking about how to best support our community in times of COVID-19. We are highly aware of the reality that many students will be required to quarantine for two weeks upon their arrival in Cambridge, and so we have put together a *self isolation support team*. This is comprised of student volunteers who have put themselves forward to support students who cannot leave their rooms. They are willing to collect evening meals from the dining hall in Leckhampton house, pick up groceries or run errands for these students. The system works on a rota such that each volunteer will be "on duty" for a week at a time and support the students in self-isolation during that time. If you'd like support whilst you are in self-isolation, please fill in this Google form: <https://forms.gle/vg45ZGen2RPD98XY6>. This is by no means compulsory but as government guidelines state that those in quarantine should not leave their residence during the two week period, we expect that many students will choose to make use of the system.

More generally, please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions about the above or anything else! You can email us at mcr_femalewelfare@mcr.corpus.cam.ac.uk/
mcr_malewelfare@mcr.corpus.cam.ac.uk.

Best wishes,
Lara and Darius

**Corpuscle is just one piece of silly Cambridge lingo that will become part of your vocabulary, used to refer to students studying at Corpus Christi.*

***MCR (Middle Common Room) is a term used to refer to the body of postgraduate students at Corpus (originally used to refer to the common room that these students would use).*