



Dear Wolfsonians,

It is four months since Wolfson went into lockdown. The vast majority of you have cooperated fully and wholeheartedly with the emergency procedures and rules that we put in place to protect our community from COVID-19. I am immensely grateful to very nearly all of you for your compliance, goodwill and patience, and for the care and consideration that you have shown for the well-being of us all.

As you know, the pandemic is far from over. Wolfson's COVID-19 rules and regulations are still in place — keep up to date at the new Wolfson COVID-19 Information Hub <https://www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk/wolfson-and-covid-19>.

Just two months from now, in the middle of September, a new cohort of Wolfsonians will arrive, ready for the start of Michaelmas Term. While our community eagerly looks forward to this annual renewal, we are also fully aware that the arrival in Oxford city of more than 40,000 students from all over the world will inevitably increase the risk that the local incidence of COVID-19 will rise.

Wolfson is therefore now making detailed plans to ensure that, come September, we shall minimise the risk of COVID-19 to all our students and staff, old and new. New procedures and restrictions will soon be announced in order to prepare our community for the start of Michaelmas Term.

Until very recently I could count the number of COVID-19 infringements that have been reported to me as Vicegerent upon the fingers of one hand. I am thus immensely concerned and disappointed to have received more complaints during the last ten days than throughout the previous four months.

Most complaints involve residents admitting non-residents into College — something which is still forbidden, and will remain so for at least the rest of July.

The College remains closed to all non-residents. No one — neither fellow nor student — may return to their accommodation, not even to collect their belongings, without the written permission of the College authorities.

When non-resident Wolfsonians *are* permitted to return to College, new procedures and regulations will already be in place to mitigate the increased risks, and to accustom us all to the changes that will keep us all safe during Michaelmas Term.

I shall continue to investigate every reported infringement of our COVID-19 rules and regulations and, if necessary, prosecute offenders for breaching Wolfson's Disciplinary Code as set out in [Regulations](#).

All the cases that I have dealt with so far have been treated as behaviour “likely to cause injury or to impair safety” under Regulation VIII Section B (g). Breaches of the Disciplinary Code are subject to a range of penalties, ranging from banning from the College for a term to a fine for each offence of up to £500 (as approved by Governing Body at the start of the lockdown).

Fines and other charges imposed during the first four months have in some cases been considerable — in one case more than £1,200. All fines have been paid into the exceptional hardship fund created to support students affected by the pandemic.

I hate to write a letter like this, but not as much as I hate to investigate and prosecute Wolfsonians who, by breaking our COVID-19 regulations, have exposed our community to increased risk.

Please continue to abide by the procedures and regulations that protect our community.

Enjoy the summer, and the current respite from total lockdown, but stay safe and always act responsibly and with care and consideration for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Jeremy Johns

The Vicegerent
Wolfson College

14th July 2020