Dear Fellows and Students Living at Wolfson College

I am writing with an update on the current situation for those of you resident in College. You’ll have seen the messages last week to all members of Wolfson. We are moving from the phase of reducing the number of people with access to College, to the phase of providing resilient support to those of you who are staying through these interesting times.

You should have received yesterday a survey which aims to help us understand a little better your individual situation; whether you are self-isolating, whether you are willing to volunteer to help other residents and so on. Please do fill it in today or first thing tomorrow, and let us have any comments you would like to offer.

As a general reminder, would all residents please scrupulously observe both the 2 metre wide social distancing guidance and regular handwashing. This is really important as it is still the most effective way to stop transmission. Please use the phone or screens to communicate with others, rather than meeting in person wherever possible.

Please stay in your room and self-isolate for 7 days if you have either a high temperature or a new continuous cough, and let us know if you are doing so by filling in the survey or e-mailing coronavirus.help@wolfson.ox.ac.uk.

We will be keeping the College open throughout this period. The library will be open, even though the Bodleian will close. The Hall will stay open, and our timings will last longer, though we will be moving more towards takeaway provision as time goes on. The Upper Common Room remains open and coffee and tea there is now free throughout the day. The gardens and grounds of course remain open.

Residents who wish to vacate their accommodation earlier than their official departure date may do so without financial penalty. Please inform the Accommodation Office as soon as possible if this is your intention, on accommodation.office@wolfson.ox.ac.uk. If you do wish to vacate early, please ensure you remove all your belongings. The College may be able to assist with storage; if you are not able to take everything with you please email the Accommodation Office and we will do our best to assist you. Every effort will be made to keep a room available if you wish to return to accommodation prior to the end date of your current tenancy.

Thermometers

Many of you will be watching your temperatures carefully. The College has on order a large supply of thermometers which we hope will arrive tomorrow. We will try to deliver one to each accommodation unit as soon as possible after they arrive.

Café

As the café is extremely quiet at the moment, we have taken the decision to close down service and reallocate those on duty. The cafe space will of course stay open.
Laundry

Both the laundry on the main site as well as the Garford Road laundry will be free vending within the next few days.

Room Cleaning

If you wish to take over the cleaning of your own rooms and shared facilities, as some have done, please let us know and we will focus cleaning staff on other priorities. We are keen to know what you think about this in the survey; thanks to those who have already written in with your views.

Maintenance staff will continue to carry out essential work in student accommodation, but we are asking them now to focus their attention on high priority tasks, so they may not be able to respond to more routine requests.

Contractors

College contractors will continue to carry out essential maintenance work, such as domestic water checks, and you will be informed of these in the usual way.

Minibus

The minibus will continue to run as long as possible, though the timetables will vary considerably day to day. We know that the minibus can be an important way for you to do your necessary shopping, and are looking at adapting its schedule to prioritise this aim.

Our thanks to all of you for your forbearance as we settle into this new period in the College’s life. We appreciate and will try to act on your feedback.

Best wishes

Barry

Barry Coote
Home Bursar