



Mansfield



University of Oxford

INTRODUCTION

Mansfield College was founded in 1838 as Spring Hill College, to offer higher education to those who could not gain admittance to Oxford University because they were not members of the Anglican church. In 1886 the College moved to its present site in Oxford, and was renamed in honour of the generous benefaction of its founders, George and Elisabeth Mansfield, and their sister Sarah Glover.



Throughout its history Mansfield has worked hard to make an Oxford education available to previously excluded groups. In 1913, some sixty years before most Oxford Colleges opened their doors to women, we admitted our first female student, Constance Todd.

Mansfield's beautiful Victorian buildings were designed by Basil Champneys. Our non-conformist history can be seen in the fabric of the College chapel, which includes stained glass windows and statues of such luminaries as John Milton and Oliver Cromwell.



Oxford colleges typically consist of enclosed quadrangles hidden behind high walls and gates. The buildings at Mansfield, like the College itself, face out to the world, welcoming you in.

Mansfield is a small college by Oxford standards. We admit just seventy students a year compared with the average college intake of about a hundred.

Occupying one of the best sites in Oxford, we are tucked away in a quiet location near to the University parks, and just a short walk from the science departments, the University libraries, and the city centre.

Students come to Mansfield from all over the world, and from a wide variety of social and educational backgrounds. Amongst Oxford colleges we have one of the highest proportions of state sector undergraduates. We are firmly committed to the belief that every applicant with the requisite talent, potential, and intellectual engagement should be given an equal chance of getting a place to study here.



S TUDYING at Mansfield

Your Mansfield tutors oversee your studies, and take a close interest in your individual progress. The College has very high academic standards and expectations, and we offer you a friendly and supportive environment in which to excel.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

Oxford is justly famous for its tutorial system. In tutorials students meet with their tutor (typically in pairs) to discuss work that they have prepared beforehand, such as an essay or problem set. This unrivalled opportunity to work closely with some of the most eminent academics in the world is intellectually demanding but immensely rewarding. It equips Oxford graduates with the skills to become leaders in all walks of life, and for many it is what makes their Oxford education so memorable.

At Mansfield you can expect to have one or two tutorials a week. Many of your tutorials will be with Mansfield College tutors. Others will be with tutors from other colleges, so that you have the benefit of working with leading experts in the particular area of your course which you are studying that term.

The tutorial is just one of a range of teaching methods that our students experience. Every department and faculty provides lectures and classes centrally, attended by students from all colleges. In science subjects lectures and practicals form the core of the week's work.

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INDUCTION FOR FIRST YEARS

All our first year students come to Oxford the week before their course begins and take part in a specially-devised Induction Programme run by our tutors. This provides a wide range of information and guidance, including academic workshops that introduce you to some of the new skills which you will need for studying at Oxford – such as time-management, essay writing, and taking lecture notes.

There are many opportunities during this introductory week to get to know other students through a range of Freshers' Week activities, including a dinner for all first years and their tutors, where we welcome our new students as members of the College community.

LIBRARY AND IT FACILITIES

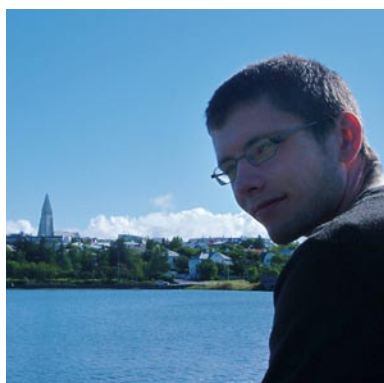
Mansfield offers a range of resources to support your study. The College's main library is a wonderful wood-panelled room which contains core texts for all courses. We also have separate libraries devoted to Law and Theology. All three libraries are open to students twenty-four hours a day and contain designated computers for essay writing.

There are ethernet connections in all student rooms, but we also have free wifi hotspots on the main College site and two computer rooms with internet access and printing facilities.

Our location allows for easy access to all the study resources offered by the University. The Bodleian Library, Radcliffe Science Library, University Computing Centre, and faculty and department buildings are all just a short walk away.

GRANTS, PRIZES, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The College supports study in the form of scholarships and other prizes for outstanding academic performance. There are grants for those who want to travel for reasons related to their academic interests, and financial support is available for students who stay in Oxford outside of term time to pursue their studies.



Ben Shockley English

'As an English student specialising in Medieval Language and Literature, I wrote a thesis about the Icelandic sagas. With the help of a travel grant from Mansfield, I was able to experience the culture and language of Iceland first-hand. It was fascinating to visit the sites of events of the sagas, and my travel provided invaluable inspiration for my course. I can only say *takk fyrir* (thank you in Icelandic!) to the College for this amazing opportunity.'

STUDENT VIEWS



Anuvrat Kottamasu Rao
Engineering, Economics, and Management (EEM)

'I had a strong grounding in Maths and Physics and was interested in their real world applications. For these reasons I felt that doing an Engineering Science degree would best suit me. However, I have always believed in breadth of study as well, and so I chose to do a joint course with Economics and Management on top. I love the fact that in one day I am studying Fluid Dynamics in the morning and the Financial markets in the evening. I particularly enjoy the challenge of coping with problem sheets and essays at the same time, and acquiring the various skills they each involve.'



Katy Moore
Geography

'Mansfield has taken my Geography experience beyond the standard syllabus. The 1887 Geography Society has held talks, dinners, and a field trip to the Lake District, and this has made me feel a true member of a geography community. I do not just treat my degree like a day job. Instead it is a continual interest that is fuelled by my conversations with geographers in other year groups and colleges, and by attending talks and seminars that interest me.'



Guy Garden
History

'When people talk about 'reading for a degree' History is one of the subjects they have in mind. To have to spend a day reading – well I could do that for the rest of my life! One of the most amazing things about reading History here in Oxford is that the University is linked, in one way or another, to so much of what we study. It adds to the excitement somehow. I also enjoy all the discussions and debates about the history we cover, so being in a place where the tutorial is so important has been wonderful. The hardest part has been selecting my optional papers as there are so many interesting ones to pick from.'



Leah Wolfe
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

'I'm from Amsterdam, where I've lived all my life. I chose my course because I really liked the combination of the three subjects, which are quite different but still tie in together across a range of issues. I'd already done some Philosophy and found it very interesting, as well as enjoying Economics. Politics, however, was new to me. I especially appreciate the number of options that are available in the second and third years, and the combination of subjects means that every week there is a real variety of things to do.'

“The close knit community gives a real sense of belonging, and for me the small physical size adds a sense of possession, cementing College loyalty.”

Tom Swinburne
Physics

POSTGRADUATE STUDY

Mansfield's Graduate students are a valued part of the College community. They are a diverse group who come from all over the world to study a wide range of academic subjects. Each year we admit about thirty new students for doctoral research or taught courses. We also admit a small number of Second B.A.s – graduates of other universities who come to study for a second undergraduate degree.

It is our policy to admit students in subjects where we can provide a College Advisor from among our academic staff who is conversant with the programme of study. As a result there tend to be clusters of students working in similar areas.

If you secure a place for graduate work at Oxford, teaching and supervision arrangements are made by your faculty or department. However, Mansfield provides you with a social base and gives you the opportunity to meet and mix with students in other subjects. Our graduate students have their own common room (the Middle Common Room) where they meet and organise social events. We also hold a joint seminar and dinner each term for all academic staff and graduate students, an informal opportunity to meet and share our research interests.



“I enjoyed my time at Mansfield so much as an undergraduate that I decided to stay for my graduate study.”

Katie Moore D.Phil. Materials Science

'I initially came to Mansfield as an undergraduate. I chose the college because of its size and reputation for being very friendly. I grew up in a small village in Devon, and a small, welcoming college was very important to me so that I didn't feel lost. I enjoyed my time at Mansfield so much as an undergraduate that I decided to stay for my graduate study.'

I chose Materials Science because it combined all the aspects I enjoyed from chemistry and physics and because it has a direct application to the real world. During my fourth year undergraduate project I discovered that I really enjoyed research, in particular using microscopes, and I wanted to continue this. My D.Phil. project involves using a NanoSIMS, a very sensitive microscope, along with other microscopes to investigate biological materials.'



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IVING

at Mansfield

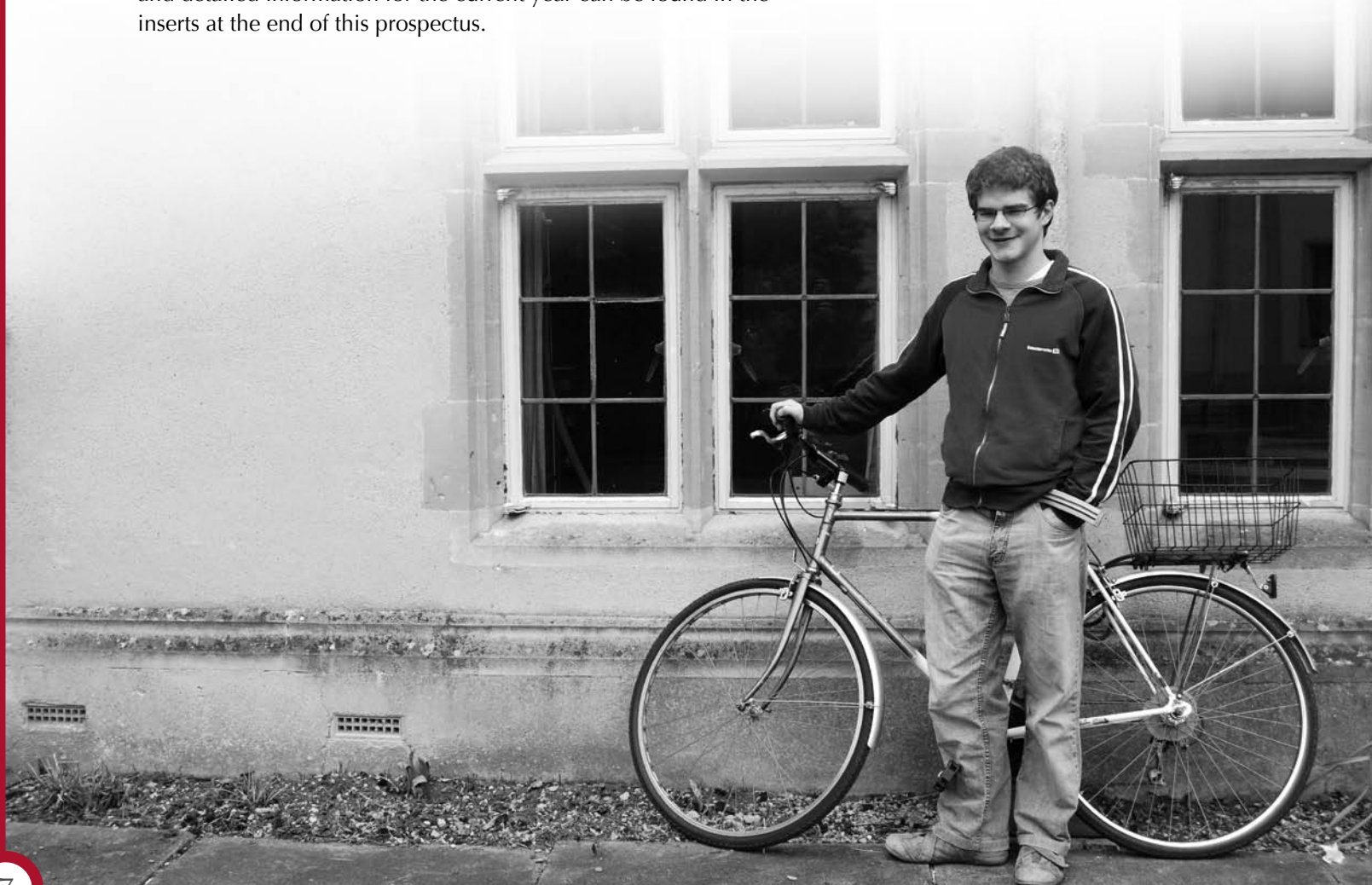
Mansfield is an inspiring environment to live and work in, with Gothic architecture of golden stone, alongside modern, well-equipped accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION

All first year undergraduates live in College, either in the modern Hands and Garden Buildings, which have en suite rooms, or in the older rooms on the main College quadrangle. Second years usually rent a house with a group of friends, and third and fourth years either move back into College or live in College-owned accommodation a short distance from the main site.

The College is usually able to offer accommodation to graduate students in their first year of study. If our accommodation is oversubscribed, we find alternative accommodation for you in Oxford. Costs for accommodation and food are updated annually, and detailed information for the current year can be found in the inserts at the end of this prospectus.

Mansfield is famous
for providing
some of the best
student meals in the
University.



FINANCE

Oxford is no more expensive than many university cities. However, we know that everyone has to budget carefully when at university, and we do our best to assist with student finances.

The Oxford Opportunities Bursary is one of the most generous in the country, and is awarded on the basis of family income. The College also has a hardship fund that provides grants to students who are in particular financial need.

Mansfield subsidises the cost of food, accommodation, and other amenities, and the combination of College and University libraries ensures that our students do not have expensive book bills. The College is also very close to the city centre, and all the University facilities are within easy walking distance, so there is no need to worry about additional transport costs.

MEALS

Everyone at Mansfield – tutors, staff, and students – eats the same food, and we are famous for providing some of the best student meals in the University. There is always a wide-ranging menu, and most meals are cafeteria style. However, we also have very popular ‘formal halls’ and regular special dinners, such as those celebrating Burns Night, Thanksgiving, and Chinese New Year.

Breakfasting, lunching, and dining in College are strongly encouraged, but all meals are on a pay-as-you-go basis. There are also kitchens for students who prefer to cook for themselves.

WELFARE

Mansfield prides itself on being an open, friendly, and supportive community, and this can be seen particularly in the care we take to foster a comfortable and inclusive environment for all our members.

When new students arrive in the first year they are given College ‘parents’, a pair of current students who help them to settle in both academically and socially, and this support continues throughout their time at Mansfield.

Subject tutors are usually the first resort if students need advice about academic or other problems, but there are many other sources of help in College. As well as a Tutor for Welfare, Disabilities Officer, and Junior Deans (graduate students who co-ordinate day-to-day care for students), the Junior Common Room has its own designated welfare officers and a peer-support group of students trained in listening skills.

Our College chapel is a centre for ecumenical worship to which everyone – students, staff, friends of the College, and members of the public – is welcome. The chapel building is also available to all College members for prayer and meditation, as well as for music practice.



SOCIALISING at Mansfield

As well as providing the base for their academic study, College is the centre of social life for our students, with sports, music, drama, and other events.

JCR AND MCR

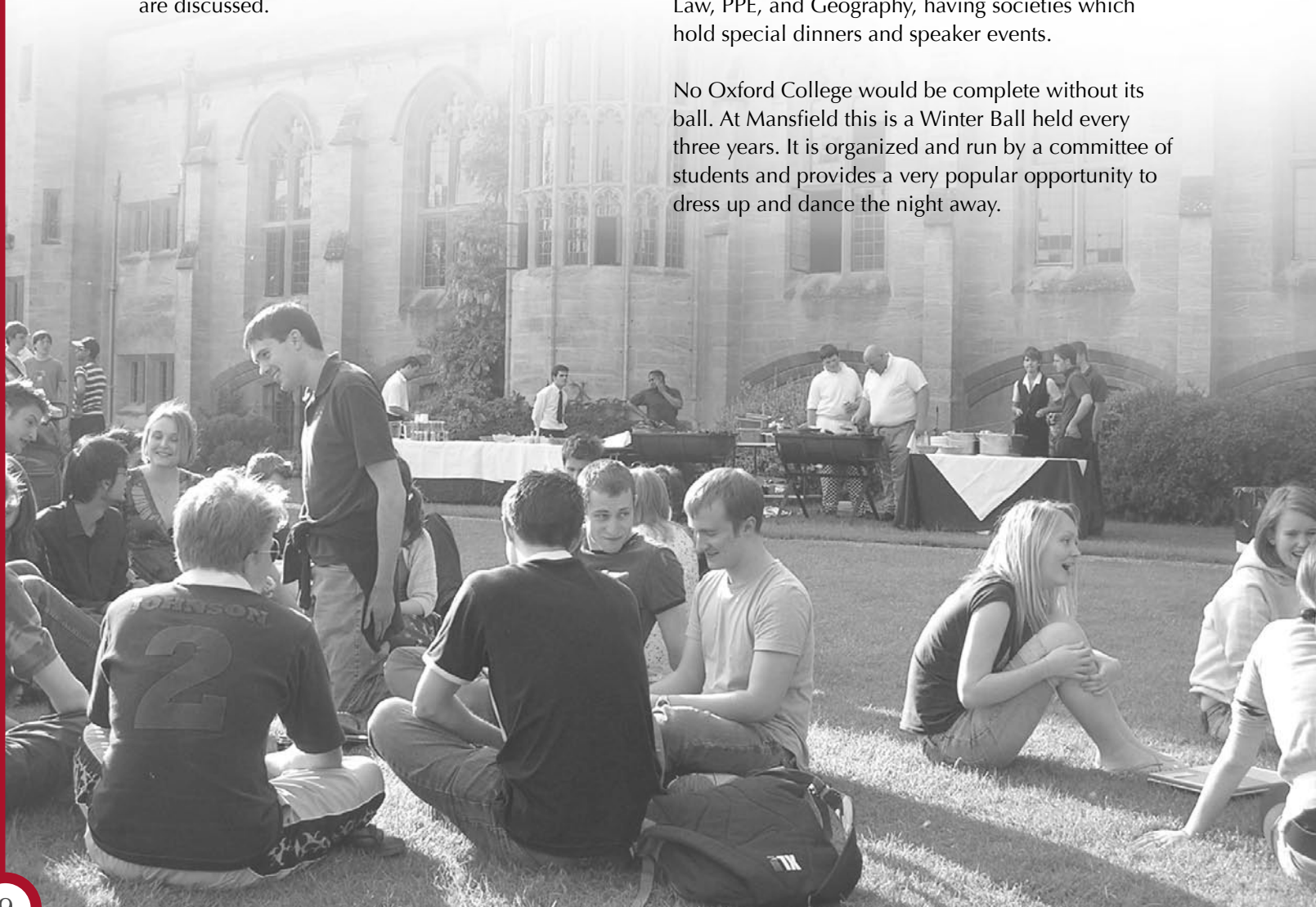
The JCR (Junior Common Room) and MCR (Middle Common Room) are the names for the undergraduate and postgraduate student bodies as a whole as well as the names for the rooms where the respective groups of students gather and socialise. Each has an elected committee, with responsibility for student services, social events, and welfare provision. The committees have representation on the College Governing Body and there is a Joint Consultative Committee, where issues of importance to Mansfield's academic and social life are discussed.

EVENTS AND SOCIETIES

Social life is varied and diverse. Regular events in the College itself include bops (Oxford-speak for our themed discos) and formal dinners followed by champagne and chocolates. Events are also organized that take students out of College, such as trips to clubs, restaurants, and the cinema.

For the past few years, the College has had a thriving Film Society, which meets every week during term. There are also links between the academic and social life of college, with a number of subjects, including Law, PPE, and Geography, having societies which hold special dinners and speaker events.

No Oxford College would be complete without its ball. At Mansfield this is a Winter Ball held every three years. It is organized and run by a committee of students and provides a very popular opportunity to dress up and dance the night away.



MUSIC

Mansfield has an active music life. There are concerts throughout the academic year which bring together instrumentalists for the performance of many different styles of music, as well as a popular Christmas carol service. Much of the musical expression in College depends on the interests and talents of College members from year to year. For example, students recently introduced a termly open-mic night, which now has a University-wide reputation, attracting performers from other colleges.



DRAMA

Drama at Oxford is thriving and varied. Productions are usually intercollegiate, and include everything from experimental student-authored work to established dramas, comedy, and musical theatre. However, Mansfield has its own tradition of College-sponsored drama. Recent performances include a medieval play by a group of English students, produced alongside the tutorials that they were having that term, and selections from the *Arabian Nights*, prepared under the professional direction of Mansfield alumna Abi Anderson, for the College Summer Reunion.



JOURNALISM

In recent years Mansfield has been one of the leading colleges for student journalism at Oxford. Our undergraduates are regularly involved in editing and writing for the student newspapers *Cherwell* and *The Oxford Student*. As well as the College's close links with these publications, there are a number of other student magazines and journals that are always on the look-out for new talent.



SPORT

Mansfield is fortunate to share the fine Merton College sports grounds and facilities, which are located just a few minutes' walk from College. Tennis and squash courts are available on the same site.

Our small size makes it easy to become involved at some level if you have the inclination. For some sports, Mansfield teams are formed jointly with Merton, and Mansfield-Merton currently has strengths in rugby and football. Slightly less serious, but equally keen, are the members of the Mansfield netball team, and there is a tradition of success in table tennis, pool, and darts.

Rowing is something that every student at Oxford should try at least once. Most do, and many enjoy it more than they expected and go on to become dedicated 'boaties'. Very few students coming to Mansfield have had any rowing experience, so it is a very inclusive pastime, with novices often having the opportunity to row for the College within a term of taking up the sport.



LIFE AFTER Mansfield

Mansfield's students are very successful in their professional lives. Some, such as our engineers and lawyers, have occupations that follow naturally from their degree subjects. But for most the kudos that attends having an Oxford degree opens up a wide array of careers in such areas as banking and finance, management consultancy, politics, the civil service, the media, teaching, and academia.

Whilst we cannot boast a long line of prime ministers, Mansfield alumni include the pianist **Paul Crossley CBE**, Chairman of the Victoria and Albert Museum **Paul Ruddock**, financier and Chief Executive of EMI **Guy Hands**, journalist **Stephen Pollard**, Radio 3 presenter **Matthew Sweet**, and Newsnight's 'Ethical Man' **Justin Rowlett**.

Dhruvi Shah English

Mansfield has a strong tradition of nurturing good journalists. After leaving, I worked at the Harrow and Wembley Observer for three years, eventually becoming acting news editor. While there, I conducted exclusive investigations and interviews, and in 2007 won the EDF Energy Weekly Print Journalist of the Year Award. I then worked for a documentary company. I was a principal researcher for a Newsnight feature on child labour in Uzbekistan and voiced two pieces broadcast on Al Jazeera.

This year, I was chosen to take part in the BBC's new journalism training scheme. I'm now on an apprenticeship at Radio 1 and sister station 1Xtra. I've been sent out to premieres and on a regional reporting shift. I've even learned to edit and how to mix music. I can't wait for my next assignment.

Mansfield is a place where I made lifelong friendships. Studying there was a challenge, but I never expected life at university, let alone Oxford, to be an easy ride.



Richard Hargett Maths

I really enjoy my job working for Merrill Lynch, one of the world's leading financial management companies. The mathematical training which I received at Mansfield has been indispensable throughout my career so far. This is not because I need to sit down regularly and solve partial differential equations (although these do underlie many of the pricing models which we use), but because the logical thought processes and problem solving skills which I developed at Oxford now enable me to analyse complex financial transactions quickly and manage risk effectively.

I had a fantastic time at Mansfield and really appreciated the care that my tutors took to ensure my welfare and progress. I always thought that Mansfield had a much more friendly atmosphere than many of the other Oxford colleges, and I am still in contact with many friends from my college days (at least 20 former Mansfield students attended my wedding).

“ I had a fantastic time at Mansfield and really appreciated the care that my tutors took to ensure my welfare and progress. ”



“Mansfield is still with me because of the life I now lead and the fact that I was given the tools there to be able to lead it.”

Stephen Pollard Journalist

Oxford Further Education Access Initiative

The Oxford Further Education Access Initiative was formed in 1999 as a widening participation project with the aim of encouraging applications to the University from the FE sector.

Mansfield convened a consortium of Oxford colleges to support this project, which offers advice and information to interested students and staff in Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges. It runs a number of events throughout the year, including talks, open days, e-mentoring, and interview workshops.

For further information about all these projects, as well as booking details, please visit the Oxford FE Access Initiative website: www.fe-access.org.uk

Visiting Mansfield

You are very welcome to visit Mansfield at any time. If you would like to meet with tutors and have a tour of the College with some of our current students, please join us at one of our Open Days, which are held each June and September.

The programme of events and booking form for our next Open Day can be found on the College website.

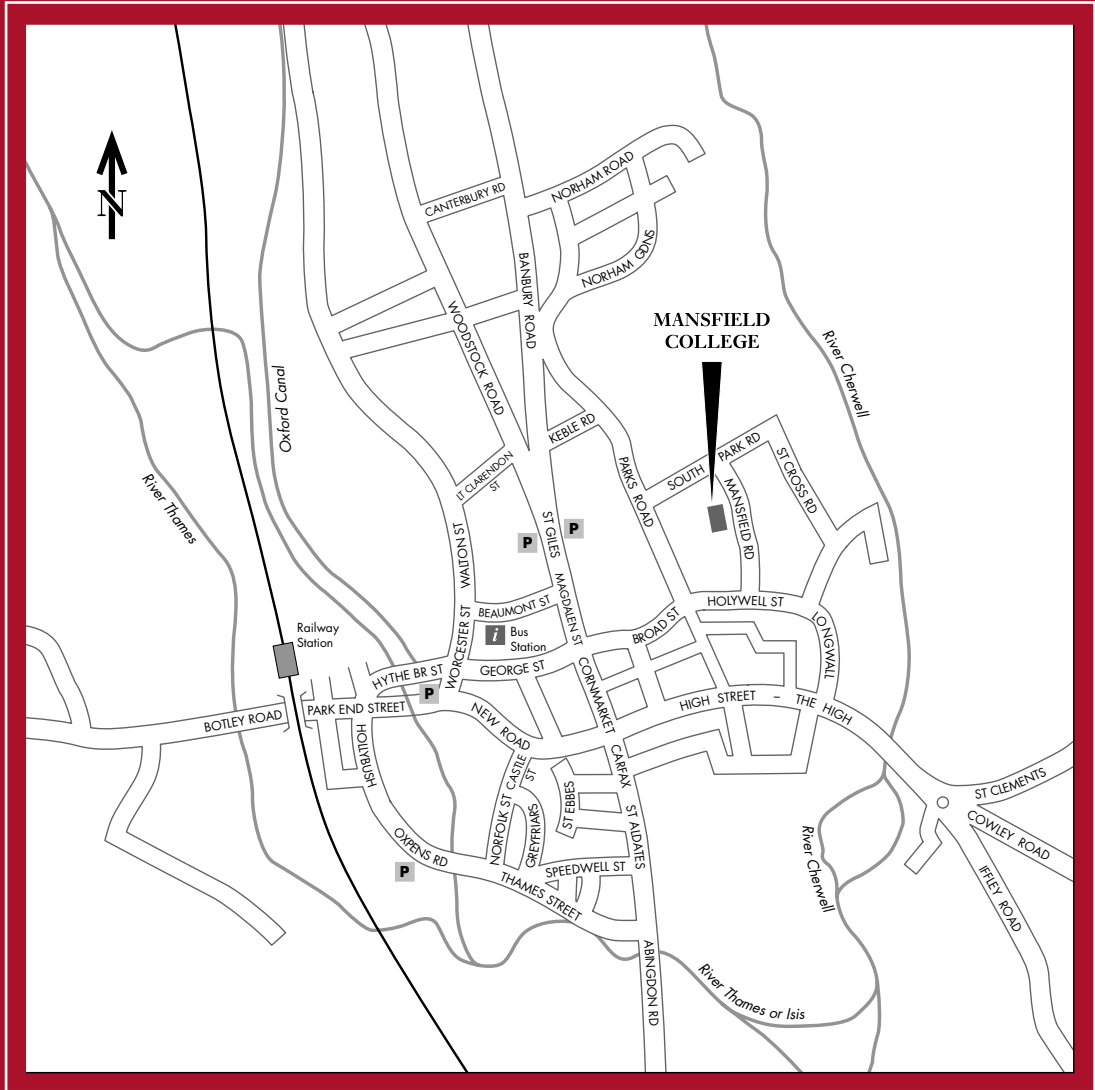
For any other queries please contact the Mansfield College Admissions Secretary.

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