



Welcome from the incoming Rector

A very warm and heartfelt welcome to Exeter College. My name is Andrew Roe and I will assume the role of 'Rector' – Head of House – on 1 October 2024, succeeding Professor Sir Rick Trainor. Although clearly not yet in the seat, I was keen to introduce myself to you and provide you with some wider musings. You are about to become an important part of Exeter's long and distinguished history. Your predecessors have helped shape the world, and continue to do so today – including actors, politicians and novelists. You will, I hope, aspire to follow in the same vein. Therefore, please accept my sincere congratulations on your highly-competitive selection to study in such an exciting, thriving, and happy College.

With over 700 years of history, Exeter is one of Oxford's oldest colleges and remains one of the most beautiful, with a lovely garden right in the centre of town. It is also extremely friendly, welcoming and diverse, with lots of interesting extracurricular activities taking place throughout the year. I am convinced that you will enjoy your time in the College. Your focus, of course, must be your academic work – and achieving your full potential – and I encourage you to be steadfast, enthusiastic and diligent in your scholarly studies. I recognise, however, that the work may seem very demanding, especially at the start of term, but remember that everyone else will be in the same boat (even if they fail to show it) and you have been selected on merit. Work must come first, but please do try to make time for the sporting, cultural and social activities that are an integral part of College and University life, and so important to your wider health and happiness. You will have more opportunities to embrace new ventures here, whether debating, acting, rowing, or even ice hockey than will ever come your way again.

I am delighted and honoured to have been elected to serve you as Rector and look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks and months. We will start our Exeter journey together. In closing, you would wish to note that I have my office in the College grounds, and my wife Philippa and I also live on site, with our somewhat mischievous spaniel, Mungo. We genuinely look forward to seeing you at a variety of social and recreational events throughout your time at Exeter. I will also be meeting each of you individually, early in Michaelmas Term, when you sign the College Register. If you have a problem, no matter how small, that you are unable to sort out elsewhere, please feel free to come and see me at any time throughout your time at Exeter – the College is here to help and support you. If I am unable to assist you in my early days, I will find someone who can. And if your parents, guardians, or other family members are bringing you to Oxford or intend to visit you while you are here, I would be delighted to see and speak to them – my offer is genuine.

I very much look forward to getting to know you throughout your time at Oxford. Again, a very warm welcome to Exeter College!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Andrew Roe', is positioned above the printed name.

Dr Andrew Roe
Incoming Rector