Visitors at St Catharine’s College

December 2020

This policy is intended to cover day-to-day access to the College. It is not intended to cover admissions, outreach and open days, which will be planned and considered separately. It includes the new restrictions on visits to households introduced for ‘Tier 2’ regions by the Government effective from 2 December, as well as nationwide restrictions on household mixing during 23–27 December.

Who is permitted to visit College properties?
Under limited circumstances and subject to any special provisions noted at the top of this policy, the following groups may visit College properties:

| Students from other Cambridge Colleges | We will maintain a record of students coming into College and who they are visiting. Please note the latest restrictions on visits to households (see end of page 1 onwards) |
| Supervisors                                | To access College to supervise our students                                                                 |
| Contractors                                | To undertake works and subject to specific risk assessments                                              |
| Ordinands (2) and visiting preachers       | Under the supervision of the Chaplain                                                                    |
| Student drop offs / pick-ups               | No more than 2 companions. Please note the latest restrictions on visits to households (see end of page 1 onwards) |
| Sports teams                               | To access the sports grounds only, as allowed by the government, sports’ governing bodies and supported by specific risk assessments |
| The Girls’ Choir                          | To access only the Chapel (and toilet facilities if needed) and under the supervision of the Director of Music |

Who is not permitted to visit College properties?
There are some notable groups who are not permitted to visit, after careful consideration by the College:

- College Members (including alumni, members by special election, and former Fellows) who do not fall into any of the permitted categories;
- Visiting Scholars (unless needing access to supervise);
- Postdoctoral Associates (unless needing access to supervise);
- Non-members of the College who have been granted dining rights;
- Non-members of College who frequently attend chapel services;
- Parents of the Girls’ Choir ;
- Members of the Cambridge Chapels Youth Choir (which usually sings one service a term during the school half term);
- Family members / friends except pick-up / drop-offs: by exception, family members may be allowed as day visitors, subject to the approval of the Senior Tutor.

Restrictions on visits to households

1. General arrangements as part of Cambridge’s Tier 2 status
The College has always intended to permit visitors to enter student households so long as Government guidelines and regulations are followed.
However, from 2 December, nobody in Tier 2 regions is permitted to meet socially indoors with family or friends unless they are part of the same household – and this includes the city of Cambridge and student households. The latest Government guidance explicitly states that students should not invite anyone else from outside of your household or support bubble into your halls of residence or private accommodation, in order to prevent households mixing indoors for social reasons.

A support bubble is defined by the Government as a close support network between a household with only one adult in the home (known as a single-adult household), and one other household of any size. Given that College accommodation does not provide for single-adult households for undergraduates, students should understand that it is unlikely that they will be able to establish support bubbles for visitors or overnight guests during term time. Postgraduates and Fellows living in College accommodation should ensure a single support bubble is only ever set up with the agreement of all members of the household that is extended by this arrangement before commencing visits or overnight stays within the bubble.

As part of Tier 2 restrictions, you are able to socialise outside in a group, providing this does not exceed 6 people – known as the ‘rule of 6’. All students are strongly encouraged to refer to our accompanying policy on meeting in person to identify COVID-secure and lawful ways of meeting up with individuals who are not in their own household.

2. Special arrangements for undergraduates temporarily living as single-adult households

With many students leaving for the holidays, the College expects that undergraduates remaining in Cambridge may find themselves living in a single-adult household for some or all of the vacation period. The College recognises the value of a student in these circumstances being able to establish a support bubble with one other household temporarily. Anyone living in College accommodation should ensure a single support bubble is only ever set up with the agreement of anyone living in the household that is extended by this arrangement before commencing visits or overnight stays within the bubble. A support bubble should be dissolved as soon as a second student returns to the single-adult household, i.e. making it a multiple-occupancy household again.

Undergraduates living in College accommodation are asked to complete a webform so the College is aware of any bubbles and to help us support students remaining during the vacation period.

3. Special arrangements for 23–27 December

In line with the latest official advice covering the festive period between 23 and 27 December, students remaining in Cambridge:

- are able to form an exclusive ‘Christmas bubble’ composed of people from no more than three households
- can only be in one Christmas bubble
- cannot change this Christmas bubble
- can travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting as a Christmas bubble
- can only meet this Christmas bubble in private homes or in a garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces (for the avoidance of doubt your college household space is considered a private home for this purpose during this period of time)
- can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside during this time, providing the group does not exceed 6 people – known as the ‘rule of 6’
- cannot meet someone in a private dwelling who is not part of your household or Christmas bubble
All students living in College accommodation are asked to complete a webform so the College is aware of any Christmas bubbles and to help us support students remaining during the vacation period.

Students are expected to follow the rules and advice that the Government has published as part of these arrangements.

Dining
Catering provision will be restricted to students, staff and Fellows of St Catharine’s College, in line with UK Government guidelines and regulations. Staff and Fellows may dine in College if they are already on the Island site for College business.

Record keeping
The College has introduced a new electronic system for recording non-College members visiting the Island site. This is available to visitors on arrival at the Porters’ Lodge.