

Formal Hall Letter

Dear College member,

We have recently had a small series of incidents which have spoiled the atmosphere in Formal Hall, and so I thought I would write to remind College members of the customs and code for formal dining, which are set out in the Blue Book:

- The intention of having Formal Hall is for members to enjoy good quality food, wine and conversation, not only with their friends and guests, but also with other members and their guests sitting next to them;
- To this end it is expected that members (and their guests) speak only English in the Dining Hall;
- Mobile phones, tablets and laptops should be switched off before entering the Dining Hall: browsing for messages and other items is not permitted, nor is making or receiving phone calls;
- Smoking and photography are never permitted in the Dining Hall;
- On no occasion should wine be brought into the Dining Hall;
- Guests must always be accompanied by a member of college;
- Formal dinners have a formal beginning and end: diners should congregate in the Garden Room for pre-dinner drinks and once the bell is sounded should follow me, or the presiding Fellow, into the Hall; diners should leave the Hall by following me, or the presiding Fellow, after the post cibum Grace has been read.
- Diners should not leave the Dining Hall during the meal without permission from me, the presiding Fellow or the head of their table, which will not unreasonably be withheld.
- It is not permitted to sell dining tickets onto third parties.

To underline our desire to make Formal Hall a pleasure for the majority, we have decided to introduce sanctions for those who do not comply: they will be reminded of the code for Formal Hall by the Fellows' Butler, and if they do not comply, then they will be required to leave. In addition, the members concerned will be prohibited from booking into another Formal Hall for two months and will be reported to the Senior Tutor, who may refer the matter to the Dean of Discipline.

Formal Hall is an attractive part of the College's life and we want to keep it that way. The

problems we are seeking to prevent have only arisen with a small number of members and their guests, but it affects the atmosphere for so many other people, and this is why we have decided to deal with this firmly. I am sure the rest of us will continue to enjoy a relaxing evening.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Bullock

Master

April 2016