

HELLO wonderful Classicsy freshers!

Poppy here (third year) - hope you're all feeling excited about coming up to Pem next month! I'm trying to remember how I felt at this point two years ago - I think I mostly felt a paranoid sort of FOMO that every other newbie was already signed up for/involved in/ ruling over about ten student societies each while I was still stressing about what bags I was going to take. Needless to say, this was silly. Pem people are friendly and down to earth, and the freshers' timetable is designed so everyone can get involved in the ways and amounts that suit them best - basically, you'll have a lovely time.

I seem to recall we were also given a big pack of language stuff to do before arriving, for an ominous-sounding 'test': if you've been sent this too, don't let it stress you out; the test is just a short online thing, and I'm pretty sure doesn't count for anything beyond maybe grouping you for language supervisions. In terms of other Classicsy preparation, hopefully you've been sent the list of your set texts for next term - it's definitely a good idea to have read these at least in English before you get here, as things do get quite exciting (read: fun but hectic) once term kicks off! I know I found it really helpful to have one of two of them translated before arriving, as it can be hard to find the time once lectures start, but equally I also know others who didn't and have managed just fine - again, no need for stress ☺ For info about the course, the Faculty handbook (on their website) is the best place to go.

You've probably already met Torsten, the Classics DoS at Pembroke; if not, have no fear - you'll all have a meeting with him at some point during the first week to get an idea of how term works as well as a list of supervisors with whom to arrange supervisions (it's definitely a good idea to have some sort of diary in place to keep on top of meetings/ supervisions/lectures etc.!). He can seem strict, but is kind and understanding, so if you've got any academic-related questions feel free to email him (tm1001@cam.ac.uk). Alternatively, I'd be happy to try and answer any questions that might be on your mind (pm554@cam.ac.uk), whether now or once you start.

See you soon!

Poppy