St Antony’s College student survey 2012/13
What you said – **what we’re doing**

**About the respondents**
225/467 responses = 48% response rate
53% female; 47% male
1% non-degree; 29% MSc/MSt; 23% MPhil/MLitt; 47% DPhil
50% started in 2012/13; 24% in 2011/12; 8% in 2010/11;
19% in 2009/10 or earlier
Region of origin: 4% Africa; 18% Asia/Australasia; 33% Europe (incl Russia and Turkey); 7% Latin America; 3% Middle East; 20% North America; 15% UK and Ireland.
Winners of the two £25 Amazon gift vouchers: Salvator Cusimano and Servet Erdem.

**Work and social space**
“I enjoy the College café [in the Buttery] - please keep it up! The Combined Common Room is large and pleasant.”
54% said work space was good or had no view.
56% said rooms that can be used for social spaces are good or had no view. Concerns that Buttery is often unavailable to students.
To clarify, the Buttery is generally, but not exclusively, for use by the GCR from 06 to 21:30 for the café during the day and the Late Bar in the evenings. On occasions, the space will be required for a College event/function and as much notice as possible will be given.

Some requests received for more lockers.
At the moment there is still no space for additional lockers without creating fire hazards or blocking exits/passages.

**College Library**
“St Antony’s library is amazing. It is beautiful, quiet, and full of very useful books for politics, IR, and area studies. I definitely found it to be the single most attractive thing about St Antony’s.” 61% said College Library was good or had no view.

Requests for longer opening hours and more new titles.
**The new Librarian will review these points after taking up post in December 2013.**

**Sports facilities**
40% said the GCR-run gym was good or had no view (22% said this was not applicable and 22% did not answer this question). Requests made for more systematic approach to maintenance of equipment. The new treadmill was praised.

The new GCR Sports Officer is exploring the cost of bringing in maintenance regularly so that the lifespan of machines can be improved. The Sports Officer is also considering ways to use the space in the gym more efficiently. The GCR will start providing cleaning supplies so that students can wipe down machines after use.

22% said other sports facilities provided by the College were good or had no view (29% said this was not applicable and 30% did not answer this question)

College clubs are able to use College facilities where appropriate e.g. the Yoga Society uses the Music Room. Clubs often share facilities off campus, e.g. the Boat Club shares a boathouse with another college. Students also access all University-run sports facilities.

**Sports funding** is one of the priorities for the College’s next telethon fundraiser in 2014.

**IT facilities**
52% said access to computers was good or very good; 66% said access to the University network was good/very good.

Concerns about lack of paper in the IT Room; cost of printing; lack of scanner.

**Paper is now stored in the IT Room. Printing costs are below average for Oxford and scanning is free. The photocopier can also be used as a scanner. Introduction of PaperCut software allows students to check their live balances.** The Computing webpage has been updated (www.sant.ox.ac.uk/computing/index.html).

**Environmental awareness**
Nearly 80 suggestions made for how College could be more eco-friendly. Majority focussed on:

- **Recycling**: do more with more waste types; make more recycling bins available e.g. in IT Room, Lodge, houses; better communication about recycling (what types, how to do it etc).

- **Lighting**: motion sensor lighting; awareness raising of importance of turning off lights.

- **Heating**: improve insulation; install double glazing; turn down/off heating (especially in IT Room); charge for electricity.

- **Food**: serve less meat; compost waste; serve local food; reduce waste.

- **Other**: work with GCR to run environmental campaign; trace carbon footprint; encourage wildlife e.g. hang bird boxes.

**The College, usually in conjunction with the GCR Environmental Officer when there is one in post, provides facilities for recycling. In the past, we have cooperated on a gardening and composting scheme; we have provided data and run energy saving competitions between accommodation blocks/houses.** The College is...
very willing to meet with the 2013/14 Environmental Officer to discuss these and new initiatives.

Food
“Staff in the Hall are always pleasant and helpful”
55% said lunches and dinners were good/had no view; 45% said formal dinners were good/had no view. Most of the feedback has been incorporated by separate GCR and College work on food provision in summer 2013.
Changes include: introduction of a set price meal option, introduction of brunch on Saturdays, many items offered at reduced prices, free coffee with dinner, new ‘Deli roast’ option, improved food labelling, increased amount of fresh vegetables, more vegetarian/vegan/halal/dairy-free/gluten-free options, menus published in advance through GCR Newsletter.

Travel/research grants
In response to the previous year’s feedback, we asked whether we should change the way that grants are offered. A slight majority would prefer a larger number of smaller sized grants to be offered, which has been the practice in previous years.
We will continue to offer grants on this basis. Funding for travel and research grants is one of the priorities for the College’s next telethon fundraiser in 2014.

GCR
“I feel the student body and GCR are very supportive.”
46% had positive or very positive interactions with the GCR; 67% found GCR events helpful/enjoyable or weren’t sure.
Concerns about using GCR for political ends and lack of variety of events.
The GCR expanded its range of events in Welcome Week 2013, for example the “Ice Cream Sundae” bar which was attended by two thirds of new students. The range and timing of events will be considered year round.
All GCR votes are now completely online to include students both in Oxford and away on fieldwork, and to ensure that the GCR agenda is more inclusive and representative.

Welfare support
“My College Advisor… has been brilliant in helping me with the welfare issues I have had this term.”
Calls for more GCR welfare events; Welfare Teas are liked.
The GCR Welfare Team was more prominent at this year’s Welcome Week e.g. at the new Health & Welfare Fest, and will continue to make its presence known at GCR events throughout the year.
The Welfare Teas are continuing as usual, with a greater emphasis being placed on gathering student feedback about what kinds of events they would like to see in future. One addition to the current term card is an international potluck dinner in Week 7.
Uncertainty is expressed every year about who the College Advisor is and what role they play, although some individual Advisors highlighted for their excellent support.
Since Michaelmas term 2012, the Registrar has emailed all students at the start of each term with a reminder about who their Advisor is. Guidance for students on the role of the College Advisor and the advisee are sent by email at the start of each academic year and available in the revised and updated Student Handbook.

Value as member of the College community
“I am a] proud Antonian.”
42% agreed/strongly agreed that they felt valued as a member of the College community, compared to 54% in 2011/12.
The construction works on the College site and communication about the buildings impacted on how students perceived their connection to the College community in 2012/13. Communications with the building contractors have been improved, which will help the College to keep everyone better informed about the building works e.g. through the GCR Newsletter.

Academic-related engagement
62% said there were good or very good opportunities to meets students in other subject areas; 27% said the same for meeting Fellows and College researchers. Requests for more such opportunities. Seminars and lectures in College, often involving our Fellows and researchers, are felt to be: “Very interesting and well-advertised. One of St Antony’s greatest strengths.”
Careers support: GCR-run Academic Teas are popular. As well as Academic Teas spotlighting the work and insight of Fellows and College researchers, the GCR also hosted informal lunch meetings with distinguished alumni. While the Academic Teas were positive, they are still on a small scale, and so the GCR is discussing more comprehensive ways for students to get students and fellows together.
Other support deemed helpful e.g. careers seminars by alumni/visiting researchers if not duplicating the work of the Careers Service.
The College now organises a Careers and Wellbeing Programme which is specifically tailored to the needs of St Antony’s students. See www.sant.ox.ac.uk/study/careers.html.