



Dining Rules & Customs

The purpose of dining in Hall is to introduce students to the social, educational, and collegiate life of the Inn. These occasions are an opportunity for conversation, connection, and learning from fellow members of the Inn. The use of electronic devices is therefore discouraged to maintain the atmosphere of shared engagement and respect.

General Conduct

Electronic Devices: The use of phones or any other electronic devices during dinner is strictly prohibited. Devices should not be visible at the table.

Leaving the Hall: It is customary not to leave the Hall during dinner. If you must do so due to an emergency, please excuse yourself to your fellow diners and return promptly if possible. If you have a disability or other reason why you might need to leave, please let a member of staff know.

Smoking: Leaving the Hall during dinner to smoke is not permitted. Smoking should be reserved until after the meal has concluded.

Signature sheets: Students must sign the designated signature sheets before leaving the Hall in order to receive credit for a Qualifying Session (where applicable).

Language: Conversations should be conducted in a language understood by all diners at the table, to ensure inclusivity and courtesy.

Seating & Formalities

Ordinary Dining Nights: Benchers, Barristers, and Students dine separately. Students and Barristers stand as the Benchers enter and leave the Hall. Benchers bow upon entry and exit, and all other members are expected to bow in return.

Domus Dining Nights: All members dine together, with Benchers, Barristers, and Students seated at the same tables.

Giving of Thanks: The Junior Bencher gives the formal thanks at the beginning of the meal. All diners are expected to stand during this if they are able to do so. There is no need to say anything in response.

The Loyal Toast: When proposed, the Loyal Toast to the King is traditionally made and drunk while seated, a privilege dating back to the reign of Charles II. A gavel will be hammered, and the Treasurer/Acting Treasurer will announce the toast. The Junior Bencher will follow and the remainder of Hall afterwards. It is customary to simply say "the King" in response.

Dietary Requirements

Any dietary requirements must be submitted at the time of booking. Meal choices cannot be altered on the day, as meals are prepared in advance.

Alcohol will be served during dinner. There is no expectation that you drink. If you do, please drink responsibly and be mindful of your own limits. Students who do not wish to be served alcohol should turn over one of the glasses at their place setting. This signals to the waiting staff not to serve alcohol to that guest.

Cutlery Etiquette

Use cutlery from the outside in, according to the order of courses. Begin with the outermost knife and fork for the first course and move inward with each subsequent course to ensure correct use.

Dress Code

The dress code for qualifying session dinners is the same as for court attire:

- Dark suit with a shirt and dark tie, blouse, or other formal top.
- Dark smart shoes.
- Dresses or skirts should be no shorter than knee-length and must be worn with a jacket.

Where gowns are required, they will be provided in the cloakroom and must be returned at the end of the evening.

We want everyone to enjoy their dining experience. Failure to comply with these rules may result your details being taken, and further action being taken.