



## **Network Replacement Project, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Dear all,

We are writing to let you know about our forthcoming network replacement project, which will take place in college from **17<sup>th</sup> March – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025**. The project will deliver a massive upgrade to our network capability via a carefully managed plan to minimise disruption for the Somerville community.

### **Why is it necessary?**

Our current network is nearing end of life: the wired network is 5 years old and mostly unused, while our wireless hardware is 8 years old and running Wi-Fi 4. This project will upgrade us to Wi-Fi 6, offering faster throughput speeds, less bandwidth congestion and huge advantages in terms of reliability and troubleshooting.

### **When is it happening?**

Phase 1 of the project (17<sup>th</sup> March – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025) has been timed to coincide with the Easter vacation in order to minimise impact upon the running of College. We are aware that some finalists will be resident during the vacation period, and have therefore taken every care to ensure that network provision remains constant for these students. Phase 2 is scheduled for either August-September 2025 or Christmas Vacation 2025, and further details will be made available closer to the date.

### **How will it affect me?**

The infrastructure replacement will take place on a building-by-building basis. We will replace core switches, taking circa 3hrs, then replace the comms cabinets that supply your WiFi, taking a further 1-1.5hrs. During this time, the network will be down in your local area, and alternative work spaces will be provided. Once the new network is installed in your room/building, you will need to migrate from CONNEXION to the new network. Instructions will be provided!

### **Win a chance to name our new WiFi network**

Did you know our current WiFi network is named 'CONNEXION' in honour of Mary Somerville and her 1834 book *On the Connexion of the Physical Sciences*, one of the best-selling science books of the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

Now it's your turn to have a go at naming our new WiFi network. To enter the competition and secure your place in the annals of Somerville history, simply submit your suggestion [here](#). The deadline for entries is 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025, results will be announced on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March and, sadly, variations on Wifi McWiFace will not be considered.

### **Questions and communication**

For further information or to report a concern, please contact [ict.desk@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ict.desk@some.ox.ac.uk)

Kind regards

Somerville College ICT