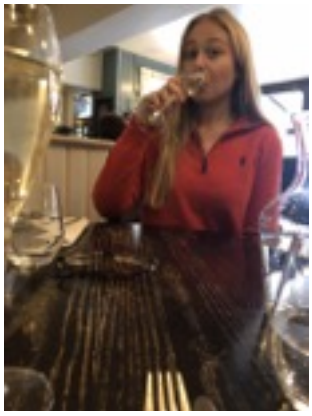
As a late birthday surprise Jemima treated me to lunch at Browns Brasserie in Woodstock. This a wonderful part of Oxford that we don't often venture to so our lunch out was a nice escape from our increasing workload at university.

Given that it was a Wednesday lunch the restaurant wasn't all that busy and we got a lovely table near the window. The restaurant has a classic brasserie feel, with traditional wooden tables and chairs as well as banquets. There is a grand piano near the entrance so I presume they often have live music.

To start we shared the scallops, which were served with pancetta, lentils, butternut squash and pea shoots. This unusual combination made for an extremely flavoursome dish!

To follow we both chose the chicken schnitzel with a fried egg. We opted for the side salad but fries were also available with this dish. It was incredibly tasty an provided us with the perfect amount of protein to power us through the afternoon!

While we realised it needed to be a low-key affair due to the amount of work we had to get done that afternoon, we did have a glass of prosecco each as it was a birthday celebration!

Our waiter was very friendly and the service very swift, which was especially helpful to us as we weren't able to spend the whole afternoon there. We will definitely be returning when we have more time! There are 25 Browns Brasseries in the UK so perhaps it will be in another location.