g.



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Tyla has been almost **singled handily** coordinating the coronavirus effort in Durham City, and I think it's safe to say we're all impressed and you're certainly giving Aidan's a good name!

Can you outline the work you have been doing in Durham?



Currently, the mutual aid group is focused on receiving help requests, and pairing up those in need of assistance with willing volunteers. We also want to spread factual details on how to deal with the pandemic, as well as mental health posts. In the future, I personally want to use the page to promote local businesses too!

What made you take on this enormous task?

Lol I did not know it would be this big a job! I basically made the page right before a JCR meeting, and then, over the course of the meeting, the group size went from about 50 to about 200 people, and then I realised that it was going to be a big job. To be honest, the day to day stuff consists of answering emails, so it's really not too bad at all—I feel like people assume that it's a lot more work than it really is.

Editor's note there are now 914 members of the group!!

How have you been balancing this with your uni work?

Hahahahahahaha I'm not (insert a big yikes face here). To be honest, most of the time, it's an unexpectedly calm job—especially when I am part of a wider team—and then occasionally I'll have to spend an entire day sorting out help requests, but it's rare.

How many people have signed up to collect groceries/medicine for those in need?

Across the county, we've had well over 100 volunteers, and I have around 30 people who I can contact when I receive a help request. Even if we

don't have a volunteer's details already, though, it's so easy to just put out a help request, and get a near instant re-



ply—people are so willing to help one another right now, and it's pretty beautiful, to be honest!

What are you most proud of so far? (in terms of this work)

I'm proud of all the amazing people who come together to offer advice/support – you don't realise what a brilliant community you live in, until you see such an effort. It sucks that it takes a pandemic to become connected to all these people, but I intend to use the page to more community events in the future.

I am also proud of my college daughter, **Valentina**, who immediately messaged me, offering her help, and now manages the mutual aid group with me: after seeing the devastating toll this pandemic has had on her home country, Italy. She wanted to raise awareness in our local community, of the **severity of the situation**, and has been doing an amazing job; in collecting data, and managing the Facebook group.

What's one small thing Aidanites can do to help their own communities?

It's a lot to ask people to go out and help others



right now, especially when so many people are studying right now. However, if there's one thing people can do, it's **checking in on friends and family**. Message your friends and family, see how they're doing, mentally and physically, and just make sure you stay in touch with people—social interaction is definitely key right now!

Wrong answers only: what's on your essentials shopping list?

I recently discovered a cocktail called a Caipirinha, which I may or may not be drinking as I write these answers, so my absolute essentials are currently white Rum and limes. I'm not saying

currently white Rum that this lockdown has seen the return of my alcoholism, but also, who needs loo roll and fusilli when cocktails exist?!



What do you need right now/ want people to know?



What do I need right now? Another cocktail to be honest (again, a yikes face). Besides that though, I just want people to stay in their houses, and spread happiness-check in on your loved ones, and help any neighbours that may be vulnerable, and that's honestly the best thing you can do! And look after your own mental health, of course—go check out Aidan's Welfare social media pages, because they post some brilliant, and very relatable content!



Burdened Badgers Badgers

Bothered Badgers and Afflicted Aidanites,

your advice/agony aunt column is here! Send in your troubles for a piece of advice! Send your queries to Aidan's Crush and Fess facebook page and tag #agonyaunt (not sponsored by welfare terms and conditions apply)

Q. I'm graduating this year (or finishing uni at least, who knows when we will graduate Imao), but im just kinda super worried about never seeing lots of ppl again. I know like my housemates and best friends, we'll stay in touch. But a lot of friends are going in completely different directions, it's gonna be hard. The same thing happened after school - im only in touch with a handful of friends from school, and that's with the benefit of long uni holidays. . So yh basically im worried im not ever gonna see lots of ppl i love once uni is over

A. Well you probs won't see them for a while but I think if isolation has taught us one thing it's that a lot of people are feeling the same and are (hopefully) making extra effort to keep in touch. Social media gives us an artificial betrayal of how many friends we need. E.g. the transition from college to liver out highlights that you can't stay in touch with everyone, and it is inevitable that some will drift. However, this is ok because it allows you to deepen the friendships you have with e.g. your closest friends and housemates which can create much longer lasting friendships which will stand the test of going in different directions.

A tip for long distance friendship:

Don't stress too much about speaking every day-I had a routine of sending a 15 minute voice recording/

vlog type message with an update of the last few days/ week events and a few days later I would receive one in response-this helps keep you both updated on each other's lives without the stress of making sure you're both free and in the mood at a certain time of day to call (especially useful if there are differing time zones)

When friends go in different directions it can be tough but it's really exciting because you start accumulating friends living all over the country/ world, doing all kinds of things which can make an exciting weekend away (since we'll all be doing boring 9-5, 5 days a week after uni)

Remember that good friendships do take work and not seeing them is likely but you'll be so caught in the routine of a job/ graduate scheme/ travelling/whatever else people do when they graduate (help I have no plans lined up) that you won't notice the time go (so schedule some kind of trip to meet up once in a while: as something to look forward to

And if all that fails then just make some new friends wherever you are and ghost your old ones- new year new you new friends



Q. What should I do to curb my horniness during isolation?



A. And if that doesn't do it for you, remember that Pope Francis basically says masturbation isn't that bad, and if that doesn't get you going I don't know what will

On a slightly more serious note though, If it's not distracting you from work then I guess just let it be embrace it, you'll never have this much time on your hands to vibe with. If it's a legit problem, you might be concentrating too hard for too long (pun intended) and it might be time to go for some fresh air to clear you head and get back on track

Q. My sister keeps snoring and we share a room, meaning I wake up really late and am super moody, what should I do?

A. Definitely speak to her about it, I share a room with my sister when I go home over the holidays and have the exact same problem

Two top tips though:

- 1. try and get to sleep before her so you have the silence to fall asleep in
- 2. Try listening to (chill) music to drown out the snores

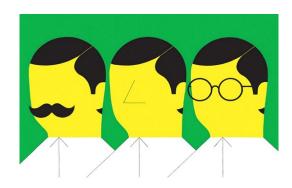
And if neither of those things work then yeet something at her in the night to wake her up from her precious slumber so she can see how it feels

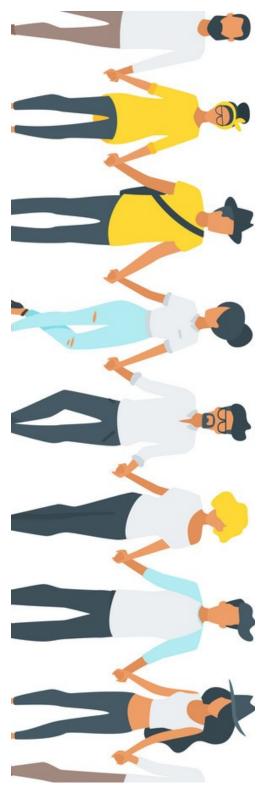
Also, you can get anti-snoring stuff online, could be worth looking into

Q. How often should I be washing my hair in isolation?

A. Well you've certainly asked the right person, I tried the whole 'don't wash your hair to reset the oils' thing for two weeks (don't worry I cleaned my hair with water in between and to be fair it did work, I can easily go a week now without shampooing and that's with runs and yoga/pilates every other day! Basically, you don't need to be washing it every day because who you gonna be seeing... (unless you're a key worker bc I assume you're meant to wash after being in the public but idk I'm not a scientist)

Also if you just like showering and cleaning your hair then do you tbh, there's no greater feeling than a proper shampoo and condition.





Q. My parents don't know my sexuality, should I tell them during isolation and how?

A. This is quite a bit more complex than the other questions and depends on a few things:

- Do you want your parents to know?
- How do you think they would react?
- Do you have anyone to support you if you tell them and they don't react how you would like?
- How do you normally tell your parents about your personal life (if at all)

If you're planning to tell them it could be a good idea (if possible) to talk through the plan with someone so your head is clear on what you want to say, but really the 'how' part of this question is never going to be easy to answer. Every scenario is different and hugely anecdotal as to what works for individuals and what doesn't. For some it's a case of sitting down and explaining the situation and for some it's a case of affirming what your parents may already know! The main thing to remember is that whatever you're telling them, it's ok that it's this way and there's an amazing community of people at Aidan's who will love you for you no matter your sexuality. Speaking of which, you could ask some friends (if they know) what they think are some good ways of doing this and if any of them have experienced telling their parents about their sexuality and how they did it.

It can be hard to hide this part of yourself especially if you are close emotionally with your parents and probably quite practically difficult if you are so physically close during isolation

If you need help considering options or just need to vent about it, the St. Aidan's welfare team are always here to listen and help you think through things in your head!

Union Committee Aidan's' link to the Durham Students Union 2222-2020

Communities Committee

Are you a good person? Join this committee!

Recently the JCR voted to merge both Union Comm and Communities Comm to form a hybrid Outreach Comm (headed by ex cocchead EmJol). Speaking to some excoms (what you call a member of a committee that doesn't exist anymore) we thought we'd have a memorial for the much loved committees.

Speaking to Tom Chapman

Why do you hate coc (comm)?

Firstly, because I'm not even sure the committee know what coc stands for. Secondly, I'm joking I really do love coc comm, they do amazing work, but the structure of the committee was very outdated and it hasn't been clear in the past where some of the responsibilities belonged, so I think Outreach Committee is a way to get more of that work done not less: a new and improved COC comm rather than a replacement.

Why did Aidan's vote to merge coc comm and union comm?

I obviously can't speak for everyone, but I think there's a recognition that the structure of neither committee

really fits with the kind of jobs each have taken on over the last few years, such as a livers out rep on coc comm but the housing day being done by union. There's also a definite overlap in the kind of work done, such as on campaigns like walk for freedom, JCR feedback, make a difference fair etc and with a



bigger committee the responsibilities for those can be spread in a more sensible way. I think both union and coc capture passionate people who want to make a difference to Durham as a community, and I'm optimistic that Outreach can give that a higher profile in the JCR.

What's your least favourite charity?

I actually wrote an essay on charity last week, where I said nearly all of it is bad because it's a failure of government, so it's hard to pick. Gotta say that current fundraising for the NHS is pretty shocking absolute respect to the people trying to raise money, but if the government asked for charity to fund another government department like transport you'd think they were taking the piss.



if the government asked for charity to fund another government department like transport you'd think they were taking the piss."

What will you do to encourage next year's freshers to join Outreach Comm?

I think we've gotta start earlier in getting people hyped about the JCR, so we've gotta make sure in pre



-arrival packs we've got plenty of info and photos of the kind of stuff outreach does (apart from the naked calendar of course), we have a great freshers fair where we push that this is a new committee with space for new energy and get people talking about the walk for freedom which happens early on, and we make sure the first JCR meeting is as engaging as possible so we get people running for first year rep. I'm optimistic outreach is gonna be one of the most popular committees next year so, exciting times!

Which do you hate the most? The Charites, the Outreach or the Communities?

I hate them all equally <3

How will you get justice for Union comm (and ensure its legacy is carried on into outreach comm)?

Well, firstly I trust the people's champion, Joliffe SU,

to rise to the occasion

DURHAM

At St. Aidan's



3' c a a t

role of unioncomm has always been to represent Aidanites' voices, and now we've disengaged from the SU we have a chance to build a better way of doing that, so I think justice for unioncomm will be in building a better system of representation between the JCR, the SU and the university, which we now have a mandate to do



If you were a union which would you be and why?

I guess I would be a re-union, cause I'm missing my Aidan's fam so much in lockdown and can't wait to be reunited in the bar asap





Speaking to Bobby Grice

What's your actual name and what is... I mean was your role on coc comm?

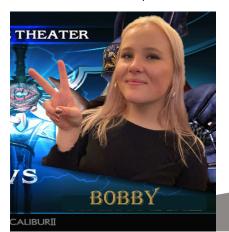
I was first year COC comm rep (big rips) and basically, I just sit outside dinner and follow Jolliffe around. And when I'm not doing that, I help sort out the charity events in college, like the roses at Valentine's Day formal

What will you miss most about coc comm?

Seeing Jolliffe stress about editing pubes out the naked calendar

Why do you love coc comm so much and why did you get involved in first year?

I did a lot of charity work in my **gap year** and I wanted to continue to help



Wrong answers only: what is stash?



Something Joe McGarry doesn't own

What's your least favourite thing about union comm?

Seems very boring, not enough opportunities for naked calendars or

collabs with formals comm

Will you apply to be on outreach comm and why?



I will, I have really enjoyed being on COC comm this year and want to continue volunteering at sanctuary





Aidan's College

BINGO

Been in the pond	Shared a room	Drank Unicum	Complained about the steps	Chunned in the bar toilets
Got drunk at a JCR meeting	Submitted a crush and fess	Took it too far at meet the parents	Supported Aidan's at floodlit	Peed in your sink
Taken your shoes off at a formal	Play a college sport	Love Aidan's	Got a toastie at the shop	Been told off by catering staff
Went to the fashion show	Made it to the end of Summer Ball	Own Aidan's stash	Been up observatory hill	Love the ducks
Sat on contemplation bench	Stroked the horses	Applied to a different college	Have a favourite seat in the library	Stole a mug from the dining hall



F.R.E.P I'm a FREP!

Frep applications will open shortly after exams end so you have plenty of time to think it over. Frepping requires you to come back to Durham about a week or so before **freshers' week** so two weeksish before the start of term but more details will be published closer to the time by your head frep Joe McGarry. Here are some thoughts from some of last years freps.

"Frepping was easily one of the most rewarding

experiences I've had since I've been in Durham, it was an absolutely excellent way to meet new people and make sure I made more friends outside of my own year. Although being hard work and a little tiring, it was great to have that feeling that I was helping people, and it was a nice way to involve myself in

"the wettest thing I've ever done in college but also the best!"

-Kasia Procter

the Aidan's community a little more."

-Tom Percival



"You get to know people in a really distinct way, all the late night and chaos bonds you with some incredible memories. My lungs will never be the same"

-Alice Williams

"Frepping was an incredible experience for me. It challenged me in lots of different ways but ultimately was extremely rewarding seeing all the freshers having a wonderful time throughout the week."

-Kat Pittalis



"You need a lot of energy and prepare for loopy strange conversations with other freps who are also sleep deprived"

-John Heatley





One of the best bits about Frepping for me, is bonding with so many different people. The lack of sleep gets everyone talking deep shit and pretty much laughing at everything . It's basically making friends, but on steroids

wattpad



Welcome, welcome, take a seat. This is the fanfic you didn't want, need or ask for. But it's here and it's staying, enjoy. On ode to all the 13 year olds who wrote fanfics and never became famous writers

It was a regular Thursday when I got a phone call from one of my excited school friends.

"Have you checked your results yet, I'm so excited??" she said excitedly

I yawned and tied up my long flowy blonde hair into a mess bun and rubbed my crystal blue eyes and opened up my laptop.

I hung up the phone and a tear feel down my blushing cheek

I didn't get the grades for oxford, my dream university. Instead I had an e mail from Durham. I packed my bags and began my journey to Durham. After a few hours the engine halted and we had arrived, I got out of the car and walked slowly inside with my hands inside my sleeves.

"Hi, are you Edward Charles Wilfred James Cook?"

That day changed my life and from that day on I was never the same again.

College staff surrounded me and wouldn't let me inside. I was escorted to an office near the library where I sat down in the comfortable chair opposite the desk. I was told I had been sold in order to make money for college. I was confused and scared when a knock came at the door.

"enter" said the woman

I didn't turn around, I was so scared and confused, but I heard a deep British voice

"is this her?" asked the deep British voice

I was escorted through a grand hall and past some food bins and the smell of vks and beer swam around my nose and I was daydreaming when another British voice, this time more grumbly, spoke and shook my out of my daydream.

"can I have a pint of dark fruits please" the voice grumbled "actually, make it two" he said turning to me with a grin

I hadn't spoken now in about an hour because I was scared and confused about what was happening

"don't worry, I just need you for some odd jobs around the bar, and you can sleep down in the store, it's not that cold to be honest, I can go in there in a t-shirt but that's because I'm used to

the cold and I'm from the north"

The man gave me a plate of what I think was supposed to be some kind of vegan stirfry. I tucked in because I was flipping hungry. I dug in quickly.

Finally my year was starting to look up. The past year had had many downs and a few ups.

I was on my daily walk, I liked to sit on Lookout Mound, I was thinking about what my life would have been like if I was allowed to join the English class and they hadn't sold me to Mark but I wasn't concentrating so that caused me to trip over my feet and made me tumble down the steep mound. When I reached the bottom I was dizzy which made me forget how I had reached the bottom.

I look around and I can't seem to remember where I am

I hear a British voice in the distance

"hello everyone and welcome back to. my channel"

Omg it couldn't be, I thought silently

"my name is jack Edwards and I'm a final year English student and todays vide-"

Jack Edwards!! I screamed to myself

"hey are you ok?"

I was so starstruck I didn't respond

He chuckled slightly looking down at his feet then back up to me "I saw you had quite the tumble, are you ok?"

He was dressed in an egg costume, this caused me to be confused again

"Here, come with me I'll make you some tea, I was supposed to be filming this video but it can wait, you're much more important!"

I followed him and he took me to his house where we had tea. He was telling me about his planner and his English degree and he had a half smile on his face

I blushed and laughed slightly, finally, destiny had brought me to this moment.

Suddenly it was nightime! We had been chatting for hours. What would mark say!?

Jack promised to buy me from Mark and I've been with him ever since.

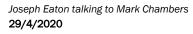














ľm Mark Chambers. the founder. President general and backbone of St Aidan's Classic Film society. ľm first year Math's

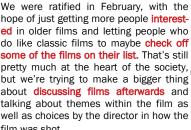
student, which probably isn't the degree the most people associate with any knowledge of cinema apart from sci-fi and fantasy. I'm also from the north, more specifically Lancashire, or north of Manchester for the Southerners, which again doesn't make me sound cultured.



bad as a mathematician. However, I went to one Bede Film Soc event with a lower turnout than one of ours, which I see as a good sign, but really is an indicator of the lack of attendance to film screenings at the university, which we want to try and change. I think we're on the right path for this as we haven't been running for long, but I think we had around 16 people, some from different colleges, at our last event,

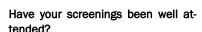


When was the society ratified and



what are it's aims?





I don't see numbers, which is probably



I get this question a lot recently. I think I'd be better at saying which films I prefer if given a list. Though, if I had to give it a try, I'd say "The Shape of Water" for a recent film and "The Red Shoes" for an older film, but I'd probably give different films if asked again.

























What's your least favourite gen-

I would have said horror if asked 10

years ago, but I think that's because I

wasn't aware of what horror was and

only thought of jump scare or slasher

films. Nowadays, the obvious choice is action films, especially ones by

Michael Bay or starring people who

are essentially just talking muscles. Maybe more controversially, I'm not a fan of modern psychological thrillers.

Wrong answers only: What

If it was directed by an old white man

with probably dodgy views towards

women. Otherwise, if a group of old

white male critics with hopefully less dodgy views towards women say so.

makes a film a classic film?

re?

culture help. Some people would say that some classic films are inextricably linked to when they were made but I think part of what makes a film classic is that it can transcend all times. However, with respect to the society, the biggest factor is probably if I, or another member of the exec, think it is.



How do you plan on maintaining interest during the lockdown?



We have put some film recommendations up on our Facebook and Instagram. Otherwise, we are thinking of trying the Netflix Party or maybe working more like a book club and having a Zoom meeting discussing a film we announce beforehand for people who don't have Netflix. Though we're open to suggestions from people to see what they would like.



What relatively unknown film would you recommend Aidanites to check out and why?



Maybe "The Night of the Hunter". I hadn't heard of it when I first watched it and I think that Robert Mitchum is just terrifying in it as well as the film just capturing an atmosphere of the south states during the Great Depression. But generally, I just think it will surprise you in a good way.

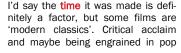


Best film director of all time and why?



Again, a hard question to answer. At the moment, I'd be inclined to say David Lean because I just think the epic nature of his films is breath-taking and he is one of the few directors who made films which genuinely make me think "they don't make them like this nowadays?"

What actually makes a film classic?















What's been the biggest change you've seen over the last few years you've been here?

Boring answer but probably formals, were always very busy and very messy (props to the fresh who threw up on the table, outstanding move) and also boring but people actually not forcing others to drink as much, it's improving gradually

Who's been the biggest BNOC and why? (You can say yourself)

I never really noticed any BNOC stuff, apart from the stuff on Durfess really and maybe Jack Edwards this year idk

What have been the biggest scandals over the years? If any

In terms of the uni, either the Trevs rugby team coal miners vs thatcher social (fucking hell) and the DSU RON stuff.



College stuff would have to be the bar closing for a bit in second year.

In your vast and never ending experience, what are some top tips for all us millennials, gen z,xers for surviving Durham and Aidan's

Get out as early as you can it's going downhill pretty quick at this point. With all the new colleges and the massive amount of students about to come in, the problems with too many students and not enough room (study spaces, classrooms, even going out) is going to be really bad for the next 5 years (a guess) while Durham takes the time to catch up and expand. properly.

If you were a member of college staff who would you be and why? You're not allowed to say the bar steward

College principal would be fun as I would actually care about the undergrads rather than the SCR (wet), also my speeches at formals would just be me necking a pint or telling people to see it off (please ignore what I said in my first answer)

What's been your highlight and lowlight of this year?

Highlight - bar didn't get shut down once, lowlight - spending 4 hours setting up a separate bar in the bailey room to make 3 sales

If you were a drink which would you be and why (this doesn't mean dark fruits)

Double vodka orange - basic with high alcohol content

Who's been the biggest offender for PDA in the bar this year?

Sol and darts





Who's been cut off the most times this year?

Henry Libor, seriously he has a problem



Editor's note: henry says I'd say what might of made Mark have me come to mind was the bar social where I had a few and decided to ask him for viagra using the logic he was the oldest in the room, or the time they cut me off on my bday and I attempted to make it to kulte and few down Mary's steps and got carried back by a stranger, who, for the

Who's the biggest offender for chunning in the bar?

The hockey team loved to almost get to the toilet tbh

Which sport/ society has been the best/ worst during socials this year?

Surprisingly, noone was too bad. Apart from rugby and football almost having a fight there were almost no problems all year



What have you liked most/ least about being bar steward?

Enjoyed how easy the job gets once you know what you're doing and you have staff

Living where you work is actually worse than you would expect, especially technically being on call every night pretty much, for if something goes wrong in the bar

What advice would you give to future bar stewards?

Don't get the bar shut down and also don't tell the police to fuck off (thanks Riaz)

Who do you think has spent the most money in the bar this year and on what?

Surely me on dark fruits or biggest single purchase was 31 booyahs at once from the rugby old boys

Wrong answers only: what is the bar steward?



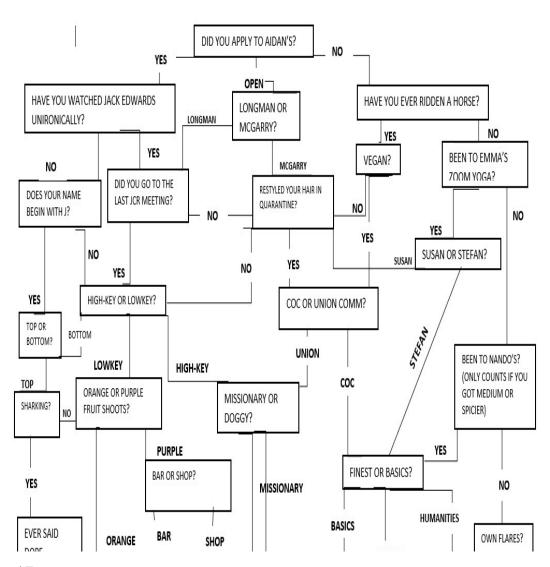
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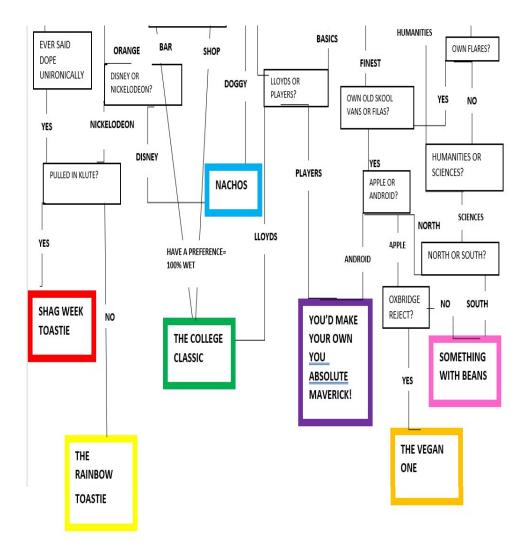
Seller of unhealthy coping mechanism

Which Toastie Are

You??

By Aisling O'Toole





SHAG WEEK TOASTIE

Loaded with aphrodisiacs you're certainly proving a popular hit in the bedroom! You might always dip early on a night out, only go for the pull and store your C card in front of your campus ID but no one can deny it's working for you! Whether they prefer mozzarella, guac and pesto or Nutella and banana you've got something for everyone. An adventurous, unexpected, yet popular choice! The question is: are you just a one week special or do you keep them coming back for more? Demand at the shop was high for these naughty but nice specials but once the week was over some were sick of the taste....

THE RAINBOW TOASTIE

Never pulled in Klute? Yikes! It seems, like coloured cheese, no one ordered you! However, some were tempted & the idea was innovative. Many wanted to see the outcome but none bold enough to brave the expensive & questionable choice. Maybe you'll prove popular in Trevs? Just because you've never pulled in klute doesn't mean you wouldn't have a chance in Jimmy's & if you've never in fact been to Klute then you can take pride in being affiliated with this choice! Representing pride week & the rainbow college itself you have nothing to be ashamed of. An assertive choice that is simply not everyone's (or anyone's) cup of

THE COLLEGE CLASSIC

Mozzarella, chicken and mayo for £2.20: a comfortable and solid choice. Popular enough to make it onto the set menu but not exciting enough to pack a punch, offer a sweet zing or the benefits of anything green. A combination of mozzarella and mayo can prove a little wet some may say- but that's fine for you because your only personality trait is liking badgers and responding angrily to Aidan's crush n fesses that call the JCR a clique!

NACHOS

Longman's favourite! You're too indecisive (or simply not hungry enough- skinny legends only) to commit to a toastie but a few pints in & you're craving that hot, salty, melted cheese pull. Let's face it that's the only pull you're getting as you demolish this greasy mess! This year nachos have proved a firm favourite amidst the freshers so if you're having trouble in that department perhaps rotate your radar. Nachos are timeless, adaptable & very much shareable so you certainly can't be disappointed with this result!

YOU'D MAKE YOUR OWN YOU ABSOLUTE MAVERICK

Rules? Who's she? You refuse to conform to the norm or Durham stereotypes so there's not a chance you're going to be caught ordering something off of the set menu! The toastie worker on shift is often raising their eyebrows at your unusual choice but you live for the thrill of being told there's no one else quite like you. Whether it's a slice of cheese on warm bread or tuna and nando's sauce you enjoy your choice all the more for the clout you gained along the way.

THE VEGAN ONE

Whilst you really want 'the beast' or 'a pizza my heart' oozing with cheese and cholesterol you know you have a vegan reputation to uphold! It is most likely an expensive choice but you don't care: daddy's paying. Whilst you enjoy your toastie at least three people will inform you that avocado is slowly killing the planet and we have incisors because we're MEANT to eat meat!! But anyway for you it's less about the toastie and more about the most innovative way you can pay: with your watch, phone or air drop- who cares?

SOMETHING WITH BEANS

Beans aren't on the menu anymore because they made a mess in the machine and were just generally a bit irrelevant. You're always too tired to go out and nothing annoys you more than Saoirse's constant posting on self-isolaidan's. The RON campaign all seemed very dramatic to you and you definitely didn't vote in the last JCR elections. What even is the JCR? Why are you even reading this wet newspaper?

Arts & Culture

Too Long Didn't Read (TLDR) if you cba to read the whole review

Jane Eyre by National Theatre Live 3.5/5
Weird and long but interesting and enjoyable to watch

The Passion of the Christ by Mel Gibson 4/5

A very compact and intense telling of Jesus' last 12 hours of life, if a little gory and whack

The Beaker Girls by Jacqueline Wilson 5/5 An absolute treasure trove of literary beauty paying homage to the icon that is Tracy beaker, will inevitably elevate you to the ultimate realm of customer satisfaction

Arts and Culture



Jane Eyre by charlotte Brontë by National Theatre Live

By Saoirse

The theatre industry is being heavily affected by the closures of theatres and public places due to COVID19 so National Theatre Live have been live streaming plays on YouTube every Thursday at 7pm.

No child actors here, the show begins with Madeleine Woorrall (playing Jane Eyre) crying depicting the birth and early life of Jane before reaching Gateshead. This part of the play I didn't really enjoy as it attempts to tell parts of the story that were never written. The transitions between parts of the story like that of moving from Gateshead to Lowood Institute were a little strange but well executed, nonetheless.

The terrible conditions at Lowood are well known with special attention placed on how



horrible everyone was to Helen and the friendship between Jane and Helen is clear and touching.

Until now I felt the story was quite rushed, almost making this part of the story less important.

The transition to Thornfield was wrong and the writers had Jane meet Rochester when he falls from his horse, before even reaching Thornfield: a confusing change which I don't really understand. Then the story proceeds as normal, however personally, Rochester seems completely unlikeable in this play and continually seems so much angrier and nastier than I always pictured him.

The attention paid to Jane's inner dialogue

was an entertaining detail which made it more believable that Jane was secretly falling in love with Rochester, but despite this I felt it was a little abrupt and it almost seemed to me the writers wrote the play expecting everyone to have read the book, meaning it could be quite confusing without the context of Brontë's details.

Throughout the time at Thornfield there are times when Melanie Marshall, who plays Bertha, enters and leaves the stage but her amazing performances of the songs really bring a cool but eerie feel to Thornfield.

The use of the stage to portray the dynam-

ic levels of the characters is brilliant and the writers include bertha in these levels subtly. She floats among the actors on the stage almost like a lingering thought and this is really effective in reminding us how minor yet key her role



plays and that she is always weighing on Rochester and now Jane's mind.

The scene before Jane flees is tense and the actors do it justice for sure. Following this, however, the writers leave out the



important detail of Jane's more than modest inheritance which also reveals her relation to those now cousins of hers which took her in after she fled Thornfield. A detail which explains a major reason she does not wish to marry and accompany Siniin to

India as a missionary's wife.

The use of the stage was impressive here as it really felt Jane had left Thornfield and was in a new place and similarly when she goes to visit Rochester in his new residence it feels like a completely different place to both Thornfield and Marsh End.

This part of the play when Rochester and Jane reunite seems rushed with the only attention detail paid to the moment when Rochester and Jane embrace. After this the details of the happily ever after are condensed into a few sentences, which makes sense for this play as they aren't very important.

One thing they get wrong for **no apparent reason** is the gender of Jane and Rochester's baby: a girl is apparently born when it should be a boy.

Overall, the use of the space was used well in the middle and end of the play and the detail paid to the different hierarchy of the characters was fab but the beginning of the play lacked character and seemed to be just a long transition until the love story begins. The acting was brilliant, and the tension and subtle emotions displayed by each character were brilliant.



I would definitely recommend watching this play (but maybe after you've read the book (or the sparknotes/ watched the movie lols) for some context) because for me it brought a new power dynamic to Jane and Rochester's relationship and brought to life her horrible experiences before she marries Rochester. It also breaks the romanticised vision I had when reading the book for the first time and makes it a little grittier, especially as I had always imagined Rochestet to be more charming/ cheeky than nasty and disagreeable.

REVIEW: The Passion of The Christ by Mel Gibson

By Aisling O'Toole



Whilst I agree that two hours and seven minutes of a Hebrew film does not sound the most exciting way to pass a Friday night, upon experience I would highly recommend.

Firstly, after five minutes you become very used to the subtitles and the choice of Hebrew adds to the authenticity of the story so there are no qualms as far as that aspect is concerned. Furthermore, the last twelve hours of Jesus's life (the plot) were very dramatic and fast-paced so don't let the length put you off either.

Certain parts are not for the faint-hearted. For example, there is about thirty minutes of uninterrupted violence as Jesus is whipped, stricken with chipped metal, has a crown of thorns whacked into his head and nailed to a cross. Personally I found this a bit intense and would recommend taking a toilet or refreshment break at this point to break up the length of the film if you're squeamish, but equally you could argue that this is the moment in which we begin to truly understand his suffering.

However, the film depicts well the biblical account and is faithful to the details. Largely it is clear which character is which so is accessible to those with little religious

background or familiarity with the Easter story- apart from the **baby devil** which is carried across the shot with ambiguous intentions and meaning.



Moreover, I would also add that this film does not have preachy undertones or the intent of converting the viewer to Christianity although many of the cast and crew did convert after filming. Regardless of religious background the film depicts an interesting and complex story which could, if desired, enlighten someone fascinated by Easter or Christianity but doesn't want to read the account from the bible.

Overall, I would recommend this film especially over the Quarantine period as it's easy to binge-watch Netflix originals and forget of what exactly quality cinematography consists. 'The Passion of the Christ' offers an objective, interesting and vivid portrayal of Jesus's death which is as informative as it is entertaining.

REVIEW: The Beaker Girls (The Newest Tracy Beaker Book) by Jaquiline Wilson

By Aisling O'Toole

Jacqueline Wilson has truly outdone herself in her latest reviews. We have LGBTQ+ representation, eating disorder awareness and single parenthood represented all within 324 slices of pure gold.



Before you fret that not having read the past editions of this quality series will impede your understanding of this literary genius (although you're right to be concerned) I wish to highlight that this book is accessible to all: regardless of whether you are a Beaker brainbox or as clueless as Elaine the Pain. Jackie Wilson the linguistic legend knows the power of an embedded clause or a cheeky couple of brackets and peppers them in at just the right moment to provide clarity on a character's past or offer context on an event.

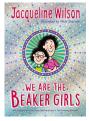
Furthermore, Jackie is a comedy Queen in this latest release. Some of my highlights include cheeky Flo (an old woman who works with Tracy) declaring, 'there's nothing beats a good sausage' (p.76), Jess (Tracy's daughter) telling the fifty year old bacon roll man at the bootsale that her mum fancies him, and the sporadic moments of tension. Imminent death seems to be Oueen Jackie's favourite way to up the word count as she spends about one hundred words on a boy who nearly falls of a cliff after chasing a dog (he then just moves on his bum away from the edge ??) and another girl nearly catches pneumonia after sleeping outside for the night (she too recovers within one hundred words.) Despite being a little random these moments of heart-stopping, jaw-dropping

surprise offer some much needed adrenaline during this quarantine period.

Of course it wouldn't be a Tracy Beaker book without the appearance of a few throwback gems such as Justine, Peter, Cam and *spoiler alert* even Adele (true fans will remember this fashion icon but don't worry if not, Jackie ensures to unjumble the jargon!) There's love, hate, anger and jealousy as the dumping ground kids have fled the nest and forged lives for themselves.

As much as I thoroughly enjoyed the three consecutive hours I spent devouring this delightful read, there is one fault: it is slightly fatphobic in my opinion. As in all the characters who are even slightly overweight seem to be condemned to eternal judgement and ridicule. For example, 'A chubby lady' (p. 161) who is a receptionist, is then only ever referred to as 'Chubby chops' (p. 163) or 'Chubby' (p.163): we never even learn her name. Other examples of fatphobia include Jess explaining that Cam's anorexic foster daughter, 'was all mixed up in her head and was sure she was fat.' (p. 283) A broad oversimplification but we move, that's a separate issue, what is most troubling is then Jess wonders if the overweight girl, 'was mixed up too and thought she was thin.' (p. 283) Equally, when Tracy and Jess befriend an overweight teenager who has run away from home, Jess narrates Tracy and Jordan's hug as 'a bit comical, because Jordan's much bigger than her.' (p. 323) Essentially, Wilson ensures we know a character's size upon meeting them and reinforces this at all opportunities; in fact it would be difficult to read a passage about Jordan, Flo or the receptionist where we are not reminded of their BMI.

Overall, this book is a quarantine essen-



tial. Personally I opted for the sustainable and economical option of buying it from amazon secondhand and received it within four days of purchase. I can truly say this piece of materialized happiness is

best £7 I have ever invested. Yes there are flaws but ultimately (as Hannah

Where did you go on your year abroad and what did you do?

I went to Geneva which is in the French speaking part of Switzerland. I'm a NatSci student so I just studied for two semesters at the University of Geneva.

What 5 tips help when preparing for your year abroad?

It goes without saying, but if you're not a languages student, make sure you are half decent at the language of wherever you go. B2 is what you should be aiming for.

Take the initiative regarding accommodation. I applied for mine through the uni at the correct time, but they weren't that communicative and in the end they told me two days before my flight that they didn't have a room for me. Apply for as many accommodations as you can.

Get a general idea οf the where shops are. closest public transport links. and how you are going to get around before you get there.

Make sure your EHIC or insurance is updated and valid before you leave.

Prepare yourself mentally. In general, you're going to need to make more of an effort, socially and otherwise, than in Durham, so you might as well get there ready to go. You don't want to waste any time, it's only a year.

Did you get homesick?

Not at all. As soon as I arrived I got so swept up in living in my new city that I didn't have time to think about home that much.

Any horror stories?

Because I had no accommodation sorted for that first semester, it was spent all over the internet seeking out one month rentals, and one of the places I lived in was a real shithole.

The second semester the uni gave me a room and I had a much better time.



What 3 things helped you with adjusting to living abroad?

- I have a mate from Geneva, so I got integrated with her groups pretty quickly, so I met a lot of people in the first few weeks. As soon as you start doing normal social stuff you feel at home fairly quickly.
- Getting into a routine. Once I started thinking about normal stuff like food and lectures, I adjusted naturally.
- Don't go in with any expectations because usually everything will be different to how you imagined. Take each day as it comes and be open to everything that happens.

What part of Durham/Aidan's did you miss the most and least?

The people. Obviously, I missed my friends in Durham a lot. I didn't miss the weather. Even though Geneva is an alpine town it was gorgeous in the summer, and most continental cities will be the same.

Did you feel supported by college / the university while you were away?

Yes. My main point of contact was the Natural Sciences Director who I was able to get in touch with if I had any queries or issues. I got the sense that Durham does actually sort of care about its students abroad.

If you could go back and change anything about your year abroad, if anything, what would it be?



I learnt so much during my year abroad in terms of how to function as an adult, it's hard to say that I would change any negatives, but if anything I wish I had tried harder speaking French. It's really up to you how much you engage with the city, and making an effort with the language is the first step.

Any websites for accommodation or internships you would recommend?

All the websites for accommodation were crap. Instead I would recommend joining the expat and accommodation groups on facebook. I wasn't looking for a job or internship because I was studying at the uni, but my housemate who was doing his year abroad in Paris found his job through Indeed.

What was on your list of essentials to bring with you?

The less you bring the better. Make sure you bring appropriate clothing for the weather. Other than that, passport, phone, wallet, laptop. To be fair a reusable water bottle would have been helpful.

Wrong answers only: what is the purpose of a year abroad?

To get even further away from parents



QUARANTINE ACTIVITIES REVIEW

Throughout our first few weeks of lockdown and quarantine Aidanites have been up to lots, some **good** and some **bad** but all socially distanced. This article is an accumulation of lots of people's goings on and some reviews. If you fancy giving something new a try over quarantine here are some options. Remember, if getting out of bed and eating some food is all you can manage right now then that's still an achievement for you. The lack of routine and the prospect of not seeing friends for a while can really be demotivating so if you feel like you're not doing enough, then remember, whatever you're managing is ok!

Baking 4/5 - Jocelyn Cheung

- Destress
- Have to make an essential journey for ingredients
- · Never looks like the picture
- Snacks
- Can post Instagram story

Walking (until your pets can walk no more) 3/5-Chloe Thomas

- May get lost several times
- Have to walk for hours to your way back home oops (sorry sprinkles)
- Actually good for
- you
 Fresh air
- Might see people you know and have to awkwardly keep walking away from them
- Hay fever
- Can post a nice view on instagram
- Your dog will get some exercise
- Can be boring

Emma's yoga/ group exercise over facetime 4.5/5



- Feel great after
- You want to cry during pilates
- Good music
- Socialise with pals
- Gets your heart beating
- Stops muscles getting stiff

during isolation

- Don't need to use your daily walk
- Can do it outside- vitamin :)))))

Binging netflix 3/5

- Occupies a whole day
- Not sustainable and will hurt your eyes eventually
- Can post a pic of all your snacks on Instagram
- Doesn't take up a daily walk and is low risk
- No vitamin d
- Catch up on shows you didn't during term

Writing summatives -1000/5 Emma Willington

- Make you want to cry
- No library to work in
- Caused me to develop a caffeine addiction
- No idea what I'm doing

Couch to 5k 4.5/5



- Improves overall health
- Running on concrete not great for bones (rip my knees)
- Cardio
- You sleep better having done some exercise
- Runners high
- Gives structure to day
- Can keep mentioning it to friends and family



Waking up early 2/5

- Keeps you in a routine
- Temptation to sleep in every time
- Keeps you productive
- No one really notices if you wake up early or not

Playing Psych 4/5

- Really funny
- Can take the joke too far (oops)
- End up talking to your friends for ages
- Can play anywhere
- Keeps crashing because everyone keeps playing it

Netflix party 3/5

- Nice to watch the same thing as friends at once
- You can pause it for everyone
- Message feature can be distracting
- Message feature can be really funny
- · Sometimes glitches and ends up skipping

Playing words with friends (online scrabble) 5/5 – Ailsing O'Toole



- Can flex your vast word knowledge even though they aren't words you would ever use like 'ie'
- Accidently challenge people

you don't normally speak to

- Good for procrastination
- Conversation starter (or not)

Tidying room2/5

- End up looking at old nostalgic things
- Gets you out of a funk and into a productive mood
- Have to shamefully return glasses and plates to kitchen
- Bit boring

Cross-stitch 3/5- Hollie Watchorn

Makes you feel cosy and productive



- Good procrastination
- Needle is next to impossible to thread
- Takes hours to do one line
- Requires co-ordination so you don't shank yourself with the needle
- Recommended for people who want to be creative but have no artistic talent

Posting friends letters 4/5

- Postmen at risk oopsie
- Like a diary so quite cathartic
- Nice to talk with friends not on social media
- Can be something nice to look forward to in the post
- You can take your time to reply
- No spell check

Morning and night yoga 2.5/5 Oscar Sill

- Felt zen af
- Hurt back and neck so only lasted 2.5 days :(





StAidan's College Intersectional Feminism Society

By Joseph Eaton
Talking to Alice Mount
28/4/2020



Hi, I'm Alice Mount, I'm a first year, I'm doing a Geography BA and I'm from Canterbury, Kent

When was Intersectional Feminist Society ratified and what are it's aims?

We were ratified on the 15th of March at the last JCR Meeting. Our aim is to empower members of St Aidan's College (both male, female and non-binary) to pursue gender equality through debate, film nights and other events such as speakers. The society aims to investigate more about feminism, as well as working together to create an empowered college community.

What events have you/are you running this year?

We had a general meeting and are currently running a virtual race to raise money for victims of domestic violence. Together we are running the distance from London to Durham – with

each runner running over 20km over a month basis, only running for an hour at a time to make sure the lockdown is obeyed.

Name 3 of your own female role models?

Gloria Steinem, Eleanor Roosevelt, Betty Freidan

What's the biggest issue facing female students at Durham at the moment?

Right now in lockdown?

Up to you...

The jobs market and the gender pay gap



What women's issue needs more attention in the UK or abroad?

Abortion access, particularly the situation facing Northern Irish women



St Aidan's started out life as a women's only college but what would you say to any current Aidanites wanting to get involved?

Please get involved in any way you can, through coming to our meetings and socials, or donating to any fundraisers we may be holding! We aim to be as friendly and welcoming as possible!

What women's causes or charities can Aidanites support during the lockdown?



Refuge and Women's Aid are doing amazing work nationally. Locally, Harbour is a North East based domestic violence charity which is amazing.







If WOMAN stood for something what would it stand for?

Worthy
Original
Meaningful
Admirable
Noble

That was so hard



What's one thing you wish more Aidanites knew about feminism?

That it's truly for everyone!





wattpad



Once again, take a seat, grab a cup of hot cocoa and settle down for what can only be described as something from the depths of a troubled mind– a fanfiction anonymously posted through the jounocomm electronic letterbox

Joseph Eaton slammed his bedroom door behind him, and threw his petite, yet muscular, body down onto his bed. It had been another difficult formal. He put so much effort into his costume for the 'wildlife' theme, having spent hours cutting and sticking pieces of cardboard into the shape of a box that said "WiLLdLiF" that he wore around his body. Yet somehow Susan overlooked him for any of the costume prizes. AGAIN! To make matters worse, he spilt one of Tyla's mocktails down himself in the bar, completely ruining the structural integrity of his costume, and also Alex Longman saw, so he probably now thinks Joe is a complete liability.

Joseph let out a big sigh as a solitary tear rolled down his innocent face.

He sat up on his bed, and looked around the room around him. It was a shared room (B-Curve of course, going up stairs would give him altitude sickness), but his roommate had moved out a long time ago because of Joe's passion for interpretative dance recitals at 6am. He looked across to the bed next to him, the home-made effigy of Mikey Godsmark slumped on top of it, limbs sprawled out everywhere. Joe wandered over to it, and begun stroking its head, which was inexplicably covered in vast amounts of what seems to be human hair.

"They just don't appreciate us enough, do they Big Mike?" Joseph exclaimed.

"No they really don't, you looked sooooooo handsome in your extravagant costume too, Mr Eaton." Also said Joe, putting on a deep voice, and for some reason, a slight Russian accent.

A smile swept across Josephs face. "You always know what to say Big Mike". Joe looked towards the sink, and jumped when he saw his reflection in the mirror, before realising what it was and calming back down. He looked thoughtfully at his reflection for a moment, before exclaiming, "Say Mikey! How would you like to see the new dance I've been working on!?"

Joe jumped up and ran to his wardrobe, fumbling around for a minute before pulling out a pile of clothes. He turned back to the effigy of Mikey lying on the bed.

"Oh naughty naughty, don't look" he said, skipping over to him, turning his head 180 degrees in a sharp movement that would have certainly killed a real person. Joe put on just a Santa hat and white beard, and a pair of tight black cycling shorts. He walked over to a cassette player. "This is a piece I like to call 'Untitled'." Joe hit play on the tape player, which started to play what sounded like Twinkle Twinkle Little Star on recorder. "I recorded this myself", Joe grinned.

Just as he was about to begin his performance, he heard a shout from outside his room.

"Joseph! Get out here." It was Rob Smith, PFO. "I've had to sell you to fund the move to an independent charity. Come out here and meet your new owners!".

To be continued(?)



Introducing 'Storytime': the tribute to 'AlDans' which I've been informed was a running magazine about the antics of aidanites. Submit stories of nights gone wrong, sleep deprived happenings, random nuggets of comedy gold or, like the story below (from an anonymous source) your sexual endeavours. Much like Cbeebies 'Storytime' segment these stories are sure to send you off into a blissful sleep

This story is in homage to Jimmy's.

Once upon a time in a land far far away from Hild Bede there was a group of people vibing in the cocoon of Aidan's JCR- or as they called it: the JC yahhh. It had been a rather uneventful week and all three of the group remained out of their overdraft (it was only two weeks into term but that's by the by) so the general consensus was that a night out was needed. As the Journocomm correpondant noted in the last edition of the badger, Jimmy's had recently reopened. After a few of Tyla's cocktails and whatever alcohol they could scavenge together from their rooms, the three amigos were well-equipped for a boogie and a shimmy.

Despite having thoroughly enjoyed the slightly tragic highly relatable, Taylor Swift break up recovery remix in the bar that night, their boogie needs had not yet quite been satiated and thus they decided it was time to go to Jimmy's.

Alcohol kills the memory, so forgive me if my recollection is a little hazy but next I believe they transitioned from the bar (only for it had closed) and into the JCR and proceeded to order an uber. Given this ride cost £15, it is unsurprising to hear they did not remain out of their overdrafts any longer than the servery washed our plates for in first term: two weeks.

Upon arrival it was clear they were in for a good night. Jaeger bombs were dropping (quite literally someone knocked one out of my hand), DMCs were buzzing around the girls' bathroom and the notorious anthems of Jimmy's were thriving. During this time oestrogen had fermented in the girls like mould in B straight kitchen and it was the watershed for all those in long-distance relationships. The ambience changed and suddenly Jimmy's became the Wimbledon of tonsil tennis. Despite the valiant efforts of one member of the group to overly-active by stand the others (wrapping his hands around the throat of a boy who was trying to make a consensual move), the two girls continued to mingle away with their catches of the day.

After Angels by Robbie Williams (an absolute bop) marked the end of another well-executed night at Jimmy's, and more jaeger bombs had been consumed, the girls mutually agreed that they would not be heading back to college with the third amigo. Instead, they would be heading back to the Viaduct with their new found friends. This may sound a rapid change of events but over a drink downstairs they had gathered important information about the cheeky chappies: they weren't tories, they didn't have girlfriends and they weren't Jack Edwards.

Unfortunately, to one of the girl's dismay, she remembered upon arrival at the house that she had not had time (due to the highly spontaneous nature of the night out) to give herself the usual clean-shave. In her intoxicated state she decided the best solution would be to use the boy's razor from his bathroom to perform such a task. Alcohol, tiredness and general shame worked together to mean she can't distinctly remember how non-incriminating the evidence left behind was but she has a feeling this may be why he never messaged afterwards.

One wall apart physically but mentally worlds away, the girls thoroughly enjoyed their night.

In order to humanize the boys I feel it is necessary to offer some interesting facts. One was a **DU** cyclist and generally pretty ordinary: he had the infamous quarter zip, a bike and, since he was a geography student, a map on his wall. On the other hand, the other contender had **pinned his frep top onto his board alongside his Van Mildert cheerleading stash**. One of these boys was definitively wetter than the other.

At various points throughout the night house mates intruded upon the festivities occurring within. Naked, drunken and lost, I expect we weren't the only ones to have a hazy recollection of the night.

After that all-to-familiar feeling of waking up slightly pukey and very regretful, in the arms of someone I couldn't quite recall the name of, the girls concluded it was time to leave. One girl had a slightly more wholesome experience than the other, with one of the boys yeeting early in the morning to chun. Both girls were offered water, but only one received the premium treatment of a bacon sandwich the next morning. To be honest this seemed quite the fair trade considering he'd had a late-night feast on her neck.

After re-introductions to their new friends and goodbyes, the two girls left- not before taking a disposable outside the house to document the occasion. A quick stop at greggs along the way meant they made it back precisely in time for the whole of Aidan's freshers to be walking through Mary's at ten to nine.

Wondering what happened to the third friend? Yeah we don't really know because we're quite bad friends and didn't check he got home safely.



Written by Aidan's Journalism committee.

If you would like to submit anything at all to the magazine please message the journocomm facebook page/ JCR Secretary email (secretary@st-aidans.com)