

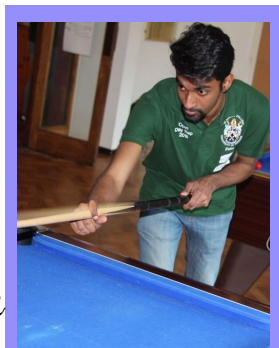
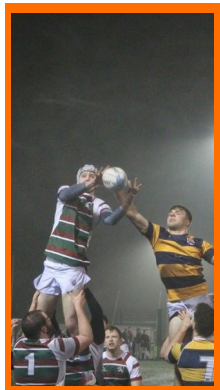


St. Aidan's College



Freshers' Handbook 2020





Contents



Editor's Welcome	1
President's Welcome	2
Senior Frep's welcome	3
The Frep Team	4
Your New Home.....	5-6
College Life & Staff	7-8
Freshers' Schedule	9



Exec Committees	10-18
MAD	18-19
Events Calendar.....	20
JCR Meetings	21
Dress Code	22



The Collegiate system	23-24
Students' Union	25
A Working Week	26
Key Locations	27
What to Bring	28
What Next	29



FAQs	30-31
By Day, By Night	32-33
Map	34
Credits	35
Our Community.....	36



Editor's Welcome

So you're coming to Durham!

Congratulations on your offer and double congratulations for becoming a new member of the Aidan's Community. Everyone says it but I am so excited to meet you all and help you settle into this place that you'll call home for at least the next year!

I'm Saoirse, the JCR Secretary and I study Biology & Psychology. I take minutes for the JCR and Exec meetings (more on that later), and head Journalism Committee. Our committee writes the College Magazine 'The Badger', puts out a fortnightly poster 'The Bogroll' which goes on the back of the toilet doors... it's not as grim as it sounds. I am also the editor of this Handbook and hopefully you find it useful when prepping for the year to come. Everyone who has contributed to this booklet has experienced just how amazing Aidan's is and a huge thank you to them!

I was really nervous before getting to Aidan's because, well, I had no idea what I was getting into, hadn't been to an open day and I didn't even know Ubers took luggage. Rest assured though, the nicest most welcoming people will greet you, offer to help with your bags, and ensure you get safely to your room. The Frep team are all friendly and will be desperate to meet some people that aren't other freps after almost two weeks of just us! Enjoy your last few weeks of summer and relax before the amazing experience of Uni!

Some words of wisdom if you're nervous about the college: Everyone loves the college they end up in eventually and it won't take long before you're defending Aidan's with someone from Mildert who tries to say our bar isn't worth the steps. If you have any other questions message me, I haven't got much else to do now that I've finished this handbook and would love to hear from you guys (even about potential spelling or grammar errors in this handbook). Any questions, comments or worries drop me a message on Facebook or an email at secretary@st-aidans.com.

p.s. I'm not just obsessed with badgers... A badger is our college mascot!

Saoirse xx
JCR Secretary,
She/Her



President's Welcome

Firstly, huge congratulations to you all; Durham is one of the best universities in the world and you should be immensely proud of yourself for making it here! You've also been lucky enough to be allocated to St. Aidan's – the rainbow college – a large, lively and welcoming place, and I'm super excited to meet you in person so we can show you what makes Aidan's so special.

I'm **Tom**, and I'm your JCR (Junior Common Room) President this year. This means that, last year, I was elected by Aidan's students to a one-year sabbatical role as their **chief student representative**. One of my first jobs has been working with college staff and Joe, your senior frep, to give you a fantastic Freshers' week, which I hope you're as excited for as I am!

For the rest of the year, it's my job to make sure you have the best possible time at Aidan's, by working closely with the Exec, coordinating the activities of the JCR and by representing you within the college and the university. The JCR encompasses a huge range of events and activities so whatever you're interested in, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved (make sure you do!). Or we will help you set up something new. Although you've come here to study your chosen subject, about which you will be passionate, many past and present students agree that what makes their time at Durham and Aidan's so memorable are the opportunities to explore and contribute in college and in the wider society, beyond our degrees. To quote Bill Bryson, a former chancellor: **"don't let your degree get in the way of your education."**

I'm sure you're feeling the same as we all did coming to university for the first time – some mix of nervousness and anticipation – and all I can say is: don't panic!! Whether it takes you a week, a month, a term or a year to fully settle in, you can rest assured you will find a home in Aidan's.

Finally, if you have any questions, want some reassurance, or just fancy a chat, you can give me a call at **07879615259** or drop me an email at **president@st-aidans.com**. If you want to find out more about the JCR, head to our website at **www.st-aidans.com** and make sure you join our fresher's facebook group '**St Aidan's Freshers 2020 (Official)**' where you can chat to other freshers or ask questions about next year for me and the frep team to answer (there are no silly questions – ask away!).

I can't wait to see you all in September, and remember, the more you put into your JCR the more you get out!!

Lots of love,

Tom

JCR President



Senior Frep's Welcome

Hi there! I'm Joe and I'm Senior Frep for 2020 (which means I'm in charge of planning and running your Fresher's week). On behalf of myself and all the freps I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Durham and in particular Aidan's. Our team is composed of some amazing people who are equipped to answer a whole range of questions about college and the uni in general, so make sure to ask them whatever you need to know!

We are also the ones who help you move into college so please keep an eye out for emails regarding this nearer the time, and join the St Aidan's Freshers 2020 (Official) if you can to get updates there.

To address the elephant in the room, this freshers week will be different from previous ones, but we've put a lot of work into making it as safe and enjoyable as possible.

Also I will try to run some of the events that usually happen in Freshers' Week, like a Newcastle Night (where I get a bus to drop us off and pick us up for a night out in Newcastle) later on in the year if possible, and if not then next year we may have events like this, where anyone can sign up, so you won't miss out on too many things due to Covid.

St Aidan's is an incredibly special place and feels like home to many people – and hopefully soon it will be your home too. One of the really special things about being in a college is the continued involvement of students throughout your degree, and some of the other freshers and freps you meet today will be involved in running things for and with you next year, sustaining the community while enabling new students to gain experience, participate and go on to lead activities in the future.

If you have any questions regarding Freshers', moving into college or anything Aidan's related feel free to email me at seniorfrep@st-aidans.com

Joe xx

He/Him

Senior Frep

The Frep Team

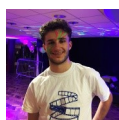
Freps are 'Freshers Reps' meaning we are there to be a point of contact for you for everything to do with Freshers' Week. As a college we organise some events for you every year (unfortunately this year the events will be a little different but don't worry, we'll make it something you won't forget). Freps also help you with moving in! We become professional movers for the day when you're all arriving, remembering of course to 'lift with the knees!!'

Freps are there to support your fun and are definitely not there to tell you off. We are all volunteers and students just like you. Lots of freps had a great Freshers' Week themselves and want to pass on the favour and kindness their freps showed them!

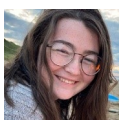
The team



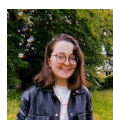
Tom
'one vote'
Chapman



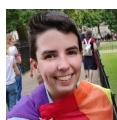
Joe
'oh no'
McGarry



Saoirse
'Hates consonants'
Ellis



Joanna
'welfairy'
Welsh



Max
'Captain'
Kirle



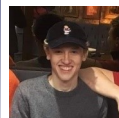
Tom
'Tiny TC'
Cox



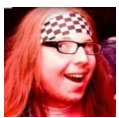
Emily
'I'm Vegan'
Jolliffe



Joe
'Chit'
Charyacharungchit



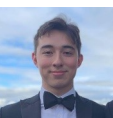
Myles
'money'
Cooper



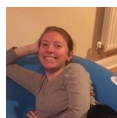
Daniel
'Big Dan'
Rand



Rob
'we're going
independent'
Smith



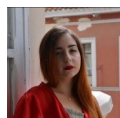
Alex
'on a technicality'
Hanbury-Tenison



Rosie
'I'm not even magic'
Rottier



Tyla
'you're cut off'
Danskin



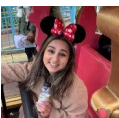
Valentina
'SeCoNd IN cOmANd'
Sullis



Sifat
'DU Golf'
Alog



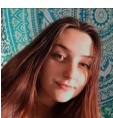
Govind
'dressing gown[ed]'
Naïr



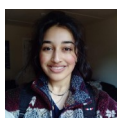
Mera
'join law soc'
Taj



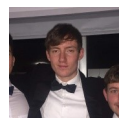
Josh
'not so'
Short



Chloe
'Picasso on a rock'
Buckley



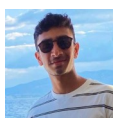
Safia
'Sci'
Qureshi



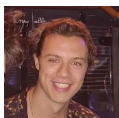
Rufus
'vertically chal-
lenged'
King



Clara
'no fab'
Falkowska



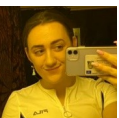
Badal
'what is a horse?'
Patel



Sol
'not on a darts
team'
Whittle



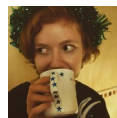
Beth
'boff'
Molloy



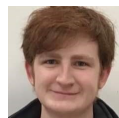
Aisling
'Flat 500'
O'Toole



Chloe
'join women's rugby'
Thomas



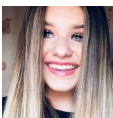
Maddy
'madster'
Hurley



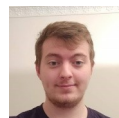
Mark
'8pm in the Bailey
Room'
Chambers



Jing
'Panda'
Xu



Sammy
'Just outside Man-
chester'
Parry



Connor
'2 Desperados'
Duffy



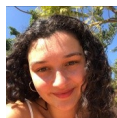
Robyn
'backs it'
O'Connor



Irenitimi
'self-taught'
Agbejule



Rish
'AJ Junior'
Patel



Hannah
'too cool to frep'
Cooney



Becca
'beys out'
Willans

Your New Home: The Rooms



Under bed storage



The Houses



Shared Room



Shared Room



Shared Room Desk (one each)

Many of you won't have seen the college yet so here's some info on the rooms! There's also a virtual tour at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHijjN5iNzo>

Bathrooms

These are gendered and there are gender neutral toilets located both beside the dining hall and on c cross (beside c straight) which also contains a shower. There is also a disabled toilet beside reception.

The Curves

Double and single rooms make use of the shared toilet and shower facilities. It works out with about 8 people per toilet & shower but you will rarely have to wait. Each curve has 2 kitchens, 3 female bathrooms and 3 male bathrooms (containing 2 toilets and two showers).

The Straights

Are all single rooms and have shared toilet and shower facilities similar to the curves. Including 1 kitchen and 2 sets of toilets and showers (one male and one female)

The houses

There are 14 houses which have a mix between double and single bed rooms. There are no shared rooms in the houses. The houses have their own shared laundry room and each house has a set of mixed showers and toilets.

Shared rooms

These rooms have two beds, two wardrobes and a shared sink. Each wardrobe and sink have overhead storage and each bed has lockable storage underneath.

There are two desks which also have drawer space and shelf space beside each. So if you end up in a shared room you'll have all this to yourself as college aren't offering room sharing this year

Single rooms

These rooms have one wardrobe and one sink with overhead and underbed storage just like the shared rooms. Again, these rooms have desk and shelf space. Arrangement in these rooms is the same on the curves and straights but varies in the houses.

Double ensuite rooms

This room has a double bed and an ensuite including a shower and toilet. The desk and wardrobe arrangement in these rooms varies depending on location but are all located in the houses.



The Kitchens



Single Room Desk



Single Room



Single Room



Bedroom Sinks

Your New Home: College Food

As Aidan's is a fully catered college, you get three meals a day provided in the dining hall!! There are always plenty of options for main courses with a wide variety of sides and of course the wonderful serverly staff are able to cater to all dietary requirements.

Coming to Durham I was very anxious about the prospect of being catered, having applied to a self catered college, however within a week all anxieties were dispelled: The food is great and its so lovely when you're stressed about sorting out timetables, making friends and doing uni work to just be able to rock up and have a hot cooked meal.

The dining hall is also a great place to make friends, whether you walk to lunch with your course mates or those from your corridor, those first conversations about whether it's squash/diluting juice or what the elite potato is are often the start of many a friendship!

Meal Times:

(These may be subject to change, due to Covid-19 precaution, based on which smaller group you are in, but don't worry your assigned meal times will be communicated to you in plenty of time)

Weekdays:

Breakfast 8:00-10:00

Lunch 11:45- 14:00

Dinner: 17:30-19:30

Weekends:

Continental Breakfast: 8:00 – 10:00

Brunch: 11:30 – 14:00

Dinner: 17:00 – 19:00

But what if I'm out during those times?

If you're going to miss a meal you can sign up to have a packed lunch or a late dinner – where the hot meal of your choice will be kept warm for when you get back to college.



A banner with the text 'College Life' in a green, cursive font. The banner is set against a background of a brick building and a sky filled with colorful triangular bunting flags in shades of red, white, and blue. The banner itself is white with a green border.

College Life

Welcome to St Aidan's College

Aidan's sits atop one of Durham's seven ancient hills, giving us a stunning view of the Durham Cathedral and endless photo opportunities. Upon arrival you'll notice our perfectly placed '**contemplation benches**' where you can sit and look out across to the cathedral and contemplate one of life's greatest mysteries: does Aidan's have 84, 85 or 86 steps? I would definitely recommend taking a dander over to Observatory Hill (5 minutes away) to enjoy a sunrise or two.

Aidan's is affectionately known as the '**rainbow college**' because we have a very open and diverse community, fostering an inclusive environment. We are proud co-founders of Durham Pride and Durham City of Sanctuary. We are a modern college created when women were finally granted greater entry into higher education and now as an all-genders college, we are looking for ways to open the doors into a University system that still excludes too many, in both overt and subtle ways.

Although we will be taking precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible as we navigate Covid-19 together, you will still know you have arrived in Aidan's by the warmth of our welcome and the ways we build community. Collaboration between Aidan's staff, students and our partners across the region mean that we work closely together to create a supportive environment, with a range of opportunities for student organisation, leadership and creativity.

Many of these opportunities come through our JCR. This is our **Junior Common Room** and is quite similar to the structure of the Student's Union. We hold meetings throughout the year and every levy-paying student has

the right to attend and have their voice heard. The JCR also regularly interacts with the SCR (senior common room) which serves essentially the same purpose as the JCR but for the postgraduate students, but includes academic staff interested in working with Aidan's, visiting fellows, regional members and college mentors.

The JCR and all its activities are kept running by our hard-working Executive Committee who meet once a week to discuss ways in which to improve the student experience in Aidan's. The work of each exec member would not be possible without the dedication of their respective committee members and you can read about how to get involved in the rest of this guide and throughout the year.

There's only one Aidan's College!

Aidan's brings together people from all around the world and sharing our experiences, our beliefs, our politics and our aspirations creates the open community we are so proud of. At the heart of this is **respect** for one another, for our differences as well as what we share, to agree or disagree without belittling each other.

Finally, the JCR provides cohesion between all of Aidan's students, whether you're a fresher or a fourth-year returning from a year abroad.

Once an Aidanite, always an Aidanite.



College Staff

Aidan's cherishes the collaborative and mutually respectful working relationships we have built between staff and students. You will be surprised how quickly you get to know a wide range of people and how crucial each person is to our community. The College handbook will give you a more detailed picture, but here is a brief introduction...

The College Officers

Principal, Dr Susan Frenk; Vice-Principal & Senior Tutor, Stefan Klidzia; Operations Manager, Lesley Peak, run the College as a team, although each has a special responsibility for different aspects of College life.

The College Student Support Team

Sukanya Miles-Watson, Senior Student Support Officer (part time); Kate Roebuck, Senior Student Support Officer (part-time) Emma Wilson, College Office Coordinator; Shane McHugh, Assistant College Office Coordinator - led by Stefan, the team provides information and support on all aspects of University life. Contact the team via

sa.studentsupport@durham.ac.uk

Wendy Gibson, Accounts Technician

A key figure if your finances go awry

Carolyn Barker, Una Elsy and the Reception Team

Our two helpful and patient Reception staff.

Diane Walker, Food & Beverage Supervisor

Runs the front of house catering, including special dietary needs, and has a key role in Team Bar. Diane's team of servery staff is unequalled and you will soon get the know them all!

Lesley Peak, Community Operations Manager and John Hutchinson, Community Operations Team Leader

You will get to know Lesley as she guides events organisers through Health & Safety, and John as he coordinates housekeeping staff, cleaning rotas and maintenance.

The Porters

With John Hutchinson at the helm, are the Guardians of the Plodge (porters lodge) by night; and complete all manner of activities during the day. Reigning champions of staff-student darts and pool



Freshers' Week Schedule

Every year the Head Frep and President organise you an amazing Freshers' Week, this year is slightly different as government guidelines are continually changing. None of us study epidemiology so we cannot even attempt to predict what will be around the corner for the country and for our social calendars. This handbook is a rough guide of the events we want to try and put on but again, these could change closer to the time. We will keep you all up to date using the freshers' page (St Aidan's Freshers 2020 Official) so join that!

There will also be a group chat in which we'll also post with important updates, along with emails.

Point being though, don't worry, you'll have a great time in Freshers' week in whatever form it takes



St. Aidan's
Freshers 2020
Official

A message from Tom about Freshers' Week

Time for the elephant in the room; we are in a pandemic, so this year is going to be an unusual one. College life is going to change so we can keep ourselves and each other safe. That means I can't promise you that everything we love doing as a JCR we will be able to do from day one. However, I can promise you that we will do everything we can to give you a university experience as close to normal as possible, whilst keeping you safe. The things which make me proudest to be Aidan's – our inclusivity, our enthusiasm, and the fact we always look out for each other – are what have gotten us through so far, and they will make this year as great as any other.

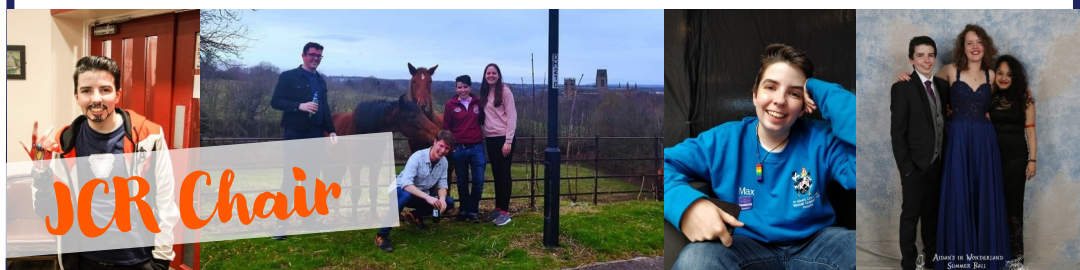


The exec (executive committee) are all volunteers (except our sabbatical president and bar steward: they're graduate students in a paid role) and work pretty hard to make sure Aidan's is a welcoming and fun college.

Each Exec member is in charge of a committee, for example me, I'm the JCR secretary and I'm in charge of the best committee of all: Journalism Committee. Each of the committees have different structures and roles within them, some of these roles span two committees e.g. Sports & Societies Journalist is in both Sports & Societies Comm and Journocomm, but to find out more about that there's a chunky document on the JCR website (www.st-aidans.com) with more info about positions and all the technicalities.

To give you a better idea of who is who, and which committee runs which events there are some little introductions. If you have any queries about any specifics then don't hesitate to get in touch!

We're all really excited to meet you and for you to get involved in the JCR!



Hi everyone, welcome to Aidan's; I'm Max Kirk (they/them), your JCR Chair and guardian of all things JCR democracy! A little bit about me: I'm a 4th year, studying Natural Sciences (Maths and Chemistry) and enthusiastic Ultimate Frisbee Player!

The most exciting part of my role is Chairing the 8 JCR Meetings* throughout the year, as well as chairing the exec and being the only truly impartial member of the JCR on all matters, which can certainly be challenging. I'm responsible for a lot of important but less glamorous tasks, like keeping our Standing Orders (effectively the constitution of the JCR, which details all of the aspects and management of the JCR) up to date, organising interviews for positions and managing online elections.

I head Steering Committee, made up of me and my two Vice-Chairs, Ed and Sol, who you'll see around during freshers' and during every JCR Meeting. It's worth making good friends with them, as they order all the free pizza at JCR Meetings!

Another part of my role is to know as much as I can about every aspect of the JCR, so if you have any questions about any area of the JCR then feel free to get in touch! Getting involved in the JCR is one of the best things I've done while at Uni: through the JCR, I've made some of my closest friends and it really helped me to adjust to Uni/College life and overcome my nerves.

Email: chair@st-aidans.com
 Facebook: Max Kirk
 They/Them
 JCR Chair

*See page 21 for more on JCR Meetings



OUR NEW AIDANITES!!! The warmest welcome to you all.

I'm Joanna Welsh (she/her) your *Senior Welfare Officer* for your first year here. I am a 3rd Year Undergrad Classicist. I am queer, love art, and love making people happy.

During your first week and the rest of the year, you can find me around college, in person at my weekly welfare drop-ins, online via our welfare email (welfare@st-aidans.com), message me on facebook or by arrangement. Welfare hours are held daily in college (6-7pm), where anyone can pop in for a chat about a problem or to take a break from the business of college, or just relax with tea and biscuits.

As Senior Welfare Officer, I head the Welfare Committee at St Aidan's: a team of non-judgemental, friendly and approachable students, who volunteer our time with an aim to:
 To the best of our ability, to ensure all students know what support is available and feel confident in accessing it;
 To raise awareness of anything that could impact student wellbeing and take steps to reduce deep-rooted stigma that affect all aspects of student life (via campaigns, such as the Sexual Health and Mental Health Awareness campaigns)
 To provide active listening support and welfare supplies if you ever want or need them.

My lovely Welfare team, Nada, Sifat, Josh, Govind, Mera, Maddie and Chloe, are a diverse, representative team (home and international students, multi-subjects, LGBT+, people of colour etc). At Aidan's Welfare, it is our priority and aim to ensure all our students can access all the aspects of the uni environment. If we don't have an answer to a welfare related issue, we can signpost you to plenty of other welfare services. These include the Students' Union, the Counselling Service and the local GP.

When I first visited Aidan's (on my post offer visit day) I fell in love with the place and the amazing people here and I hope you will too. To be honest though the start of University can involve a lot of emotions. You might be excited but also anxious, overwhelmed and underwhelmed at the same time, you may be relieved at your independence but also missing home.

To help you deal with these and any emotions or worries, which are all normal when moving to a new place, here's a few ideas to help you get settled:
 If you've been allocated a roommate, it's a good idea to get in touch with them.
 Try contacting your 'college parents', if you have their names. They're current members of St. Aidan's who study subjects related to yours, who will provide you with a source of knowledge and some friendly faces.
 Reach out to our current JCR members on the Fresher's Facebook page for questions.
 Don't worry if you don't make friends straight away (I didn't find mine until at least the third week of term!)

St Aidan's is such a proud, accepting and respectful community with such a variety of people and there's a place for everyone. I'm really looking forward to meeting you and if you have any questions please message me!

Welfare love <3,

Jo
 She/Her
 Senior Welfare Officer



Word up, Freshers! I'm Big Dan and I'm the chair of the best Committee in the eyes of hungry students; Shop Comm! It's my job (nay, honour!) to provide tasty snacks and cold drinks to make sure my Aidan's family don't starve between our college meal times, and to provide a chilled out place for people to hang out and meet new friends. We've been working hard to put everything in place so that Coronavirus doesn't stop us catering to your needs, so lookout for the guidelines on our Facebook page/ your emails and probably posted around college!

Where is the Shop?

The shop is found in the JCR, and can be easily identified from the large steel shutters (when we're closed) or the selection of products (when we're open).

What does the Shop sell?

We carry a selection of confectionary and snack foods, canned drinks, toiletries and stationery. But, best of all, we provide toasties and nachos which are a firm favourite with the Windmill Hill locals.

What else does the Shop do?

Well, the Shop is also responsible for several of the minor events that take place in the JCR, such as our Wine and Cheese nights and the Live Lounge. When nothing is scheduled, we're the guys in charge of the JCR sound system, and if you're really nice (or have someone on the inside) you can get your music stuck into our playlists.

When is the Shop open?

Our opening times are 2.30 – 3.30 in the afternoons and 8.00 – Midnight every day. The shops opening hours can differ from time to time, when events dominate the JCR, but these changes will be communicated to you in plenty of time.

Who are you, Big Dan?

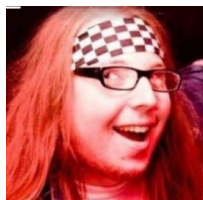
Well, I'm a Mature Student and I'm currently going into

my final year in History (which is great as an old person, 'cos I remember it all). I'm a big hairy metal head biker, and a huge nerd. I run the St. Aidan's Fun & Games Society, and I'm a big fan of the Bar (unless they run out of Doom Bar or pork scratchings). I'd like to think I'm a pretty open and friendly dude, so roll down to the shop and give me a shout.

Now that the boring details are out of the way, let me welcome you, on behalf of everyone on the ShopComm, to the St. Aidan's family. The shop is a really cool place to come and hang out, even if you're not buying anything, because it acts as a bit of a social nexus, especially around deadline season when people are less likely to have a lot of time to just hang around. The members of the Comm are fantastic people, and we all love seeing new faces and getting new perspectives from you guys, so don't be shy! And, as a fully Student led enterprise, the Shop is also a neat place to get yourselves some employment and a bit of cash, so once the dust has settled and you find your feet, maybe think about applying for one of our positions. It's a great way to get some experience, and to have some increased responsibility, if that's your vibe.

I hope all of you have a great time here in Durham, and as a member of St. Aidan's, and I want you to know the shop is here for you, whether it's for nutrition or conversation.

Dan,
He/Him
Shop Chair



Outreach Chair

Hi everyone, my name's Emily and I'm your Outreach Chair this year! First of all, welcome to Aidan's, aka the best college in Durham. I can't wait to meet you all and I hope that you'll get involved with lots of the events that Outreach Comm runs. My role is to organise and coordinate all JCR volunteering and charity work within Aidan's and the wider Durham community. I am also the "Keeper of College Spirit", which basically means I get to lead the chants at formals (my favourite part of the job) and make sure that livers-out still feel a part of Aidan's. Additionally, as Outreach Chair, I am also the representative of Aidan's for the Durham Students' Union. Keep an eye out for info about all of our volunteering links throughout the year!

Charity + Volunteering

Last year, we set up a volunteering group at the local Foodcycle in Durham, where Aidan's students could go and either prepare food for, or chat to, residents of Durham who cannot afford food or want some company as they live alone. We are also aiming to set up other volunteering opportunities in schools around Durham, and we are always open to any new ideas about how else we could help the local community. Outreach Comm also held fundraising events last year for a Durham homelessness charity, DASH. We also lead the annual 'Walk for Freedom' in Durham, which is a campaign to raise money and awareness to fight modern slavery – keep an eye out for information about the virtual one this year!

The SU

The Durham Students' Union is the highest form of student representation within the university. It's who the university talks to when it needs to consult students on issues such as accommodation fees or university policy. I attend SU meetings and then vote on behalf of Aidan's students, so I will keep you updated on motions which are going to be proposed and ask for your opinions before each meeting.

Keeper of Community Spirit

Outreach Comm organise housing events in first term to make sure that looking for a house for second year is as easy as possible. We also organise college trips such as a trip to the beach on our lovely Northumberland coast in third term! Very importantly, I organise orders for college stash, so keep an eye out for that so you can show everyone how proud you are to be an Aidanite!

If you're interested in anything I've mentioned above, please let me know and get involved with Outreach Comm!

Outreach love xx

Emily

She/Her

Outreach Chair

community@st-aidans.com





Bar Steward

Hullo fresher, congratulations on getting into Durham, and extra congratulations on choosing/getting pooled to St Aidan's college. I'm Joe and I may be biased but I think that I run the best college bar in Durham. The bar is right on your doorstep and is one of the major social hubs of college! We offer a wide range of drinks, including a changing menu of non-alcoholic tipples. We also screen all the big champions league games and host meetings of committees and sports teams, not to mention the fact we put on massive events ourselves (more on that later). We have been working closely with college Ops staff to make the bar a safe and happy place, including extending our outdoor space, so be sure to bring a cosy coat with you.

Being involved in the bar is a great way to get involved in college life whilst earning a bit of extra income. If you're interested then look out for an email from me in the coming days regarding bar staff applications. No experience is needed, you just have to be willing to learn skills such as pulling pints and mixing delicious mocktails. I've loved my time getting involved in the bar I'm staying here an extra year after I've graduated to do it, and I know that you'd love it too.

In addition to the normal staff rolls you have a chance of being a bar supervisor, which entails slightly extra pay and working closely with me to plan events and have a say in stock etc. Again look out for my email about that in the coming days.

Speaking of events (and again I'm being biased) the bar hosts the best ones in college, if not in the whole of the North East of England. We organise pub quizzes, mocktail and cocktail nights, charity events, and of course we assist the JCR in the running of their events such as formals and Summer ball. However, our highlight event and for many the pinnacle of the college calendar is our summer festival, a day of live music, a range of real ales, world beers, ciders and non alcoholic drinks, all in whatever glorious weather the North East can muster on a Sunday in June.

Overall, the bar and myself are here to serve you, so if you have any suggestions such as what stock you'd like to see in or events you'd like us to hold please get in touch with me over email or the bar Facebook page. Once again congratulations for making it to Durham and I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Joe
He/Him
Bar Steward



Treasurer

Hey Guys, I'm Alex and I am going to be your JCR Treasurer for the upcoming academic year. My chief role is to manage the funds of the JCR and ensure that the JCR levy that you pay is put to its best use. This is done with the help of the JCR Financial Committee, or FinComm. With approval of the wider JCR we try and ensure that all the JCR activities on offer at St Aidan's will be well funded and that the College can continue to offer an exciting and evolving range of activities for years to come. These include college sports, various societies, access to the gym as well as formals among many others. Although Covid-19 means our first priority is safety, we will be organising a range of activities within the guidelines.

Feel free to contact me at the email address shown below if you have any questions about the finances of the JCR (total transparency is assured), or come and see Tom and me in our shared office next to the JCR.

Alex
He/Him
JCR Treasurer
(treasurer@st-aidans.com)

Sports & Societies Officer



Oh, hello nice to meet you, my name's Tom...

So, what are you interested in? ...

What's that, you're interested in [Literally Anything], well then there's somewhere for you at Aidan's.

My name is Tom and I am the Sports and Societies officer at Aidan's. This basically means what you'd expect, I oversee all of the sports teams and the societies that we run.

Q: How can I get involved in sports at university?

A: Well in 2020 everything is up in the air but usually, we have a two-tiered system at Durham, in which you can either play University level sport for Team Durham, or Collegiate sport. The University teams are formed from all Colleges and represent the University in BUCS fixtures, while College teams play in inter-college leagues within Durham. These two options allow you to choose your level of commitment, as well as allowing us to offer some niche sports at the University level, such as triathlon, fencing, and rugby league.

College sports are very popular and 90% of students in Durham play sports at some level, you can check out what we offer at the fresher's fair, or on the St Aidan's Sports and Societies facebook page.

Q: What is a society?

A: A Society is a group of people who share a common interest, which can be anything you like. We have a range of societies that are already running, such as our International Society which has won the Best College Group at the SU awards 2 years running. Societies provide a space within college for people to explore their hobbies, meet like-minded people and to host events, which enriches the atmosphere here. Anyone is welcome to join any society, or you can start your own and receive funding to develop your very own plans!

Q: What else do you do?

A: The SAS committee also hosts a few events throughout the year, including the annual Sports and Societies Formal, in which we celebrate the achievements of the different communities within Aidan's as well as award the Caswell Cup to the finalist who has given the most throughout their time here.

I also run and maintain the College Gym, which you can sign up to use for the cheap cheap price of only £30 for the year.

If you have any questions about any of this, or if you just want to chat, feel free to message me at thomas.cox@durham.ac.uk , or come and find me in person. ❤

Tom Cox
He/Him
SSO

Tech Chair



Hello Aidan's, my name is Myles and I'm Tech Chair.

About me I'm a 4th year Business Management student and a resident of the North East aka The Toon (although there is some debate as to where the Toon is!).

What we do

Every years Aidan's has a jammed packed event schedule and I'm sure this year will be no different. Myself and my strong committee and team of volunteers are responsible for ensuring these events run without a hitch. From Lighting to Sound, Photography to IT, if it requires power then we probably have something to do with it.

Getting Stuck in

The great thing about Tech is you can get involved as much or as little as you want. We have a huge range of committee positions, requiring a fair amount of commitment, ranging from Treasurer to Photographer, as well the ability to volunteer as and when you're available. Through the year committee positions will go up for election in the JCR meetings and this is the best opportunity to get involved.

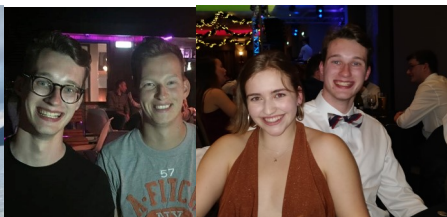
If you're interested in setting up a sound system for the JCR meetings to running the pyrotechnics for the Summer Ball don't hesitate to get involved. Training/Tasters throughout the year and Freshers' week we will be running taster sessions and training for you to understand what we do and go from no experience to an expert in no time. Any questions hit me up on my socials. And a remember there's no event without tech.

Catch you in college.

Myles,
He Him
Tech Chair

tech@st-aidans.com Facebook: Aidan's Tech Team

For specific questions relating to WiFi, IT and Dev contact Connor, IT Officer it@st-aidans.com



Hi, I'm your PFO! You've joined Aidan's at an exciting time, as this will be the JCR's first year as a registered charity. It has been my job to work alongside the President and make this happen. Up until this year, the JCR was classed as a 'Durham Student Organisation', but now we've gone independent as we believe there is much to benefit from by doing so. Many other JCRs across Durham think so too, as they have become independent as well.

So how does this affect you as a Fresher?

By paying your levy to the 'St Aidan's JCR Charitable Incorporated Organisation', you will become an Associate Member of the charity. In real terms this will allow you to play sport, join clubs, and get discounted tickets to JCR events, alongside many other benefits over your time here. If you are passionate about being involved in the oversight of the charity you can run to become a Trustee of the Charity. The current JCR roles that sit on the St Aidan's JCR Charitable Incorporated Organisation Trustee Board are the President, Treasurer, Policy Framework Officer and Student Trustee.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, feel free to ask me!

Rob Smith
He/Him
PFO



Hi everyone, and welcome to St Aidan's! My name is Rosie, and I'm your Formal's Officer this year. We know that these are likely to be run a little differently this year, but they will still provide incredible memories for you to look back on years from now. So what is a formal? It is a magical event College hosts, which includes a delicious three course meal and some after-dinner entertainment, which has usually been in the form of DJs, karaoke, and other live performances. We are working within the health guidelines to see what is possible this term. I'm responsible for planning and setting up these events, alongside the wonderful members of the Formals Committee, and coordinating with the college catering and ops staff to make sure that each formal runs smoothly and is unforgettable for everyone involved.

At Aidan's we don't wear gowns, so whilst there are certainly some elegant events coming up for you to look your very best, we also take pride in our fancy dress formals where you can get a bit more creative with what you wear! We've had some great themes in the past, like 'What do you want to be when you grow up', 'Carnival' and 'Party Animals'; one of my favourites is the annual Halloween formal, which is always a good opportunity to get spooky with your costume. (Here's a pro tip: Susan Frenk, our College Principle likes to give out prizes for her favourite costumes, so, if formals go ahead, I would recommend thinking outside the box or coordinating as a group to try and impress her!) I've already been planning new themes for the coming year, so get excited! We also have some college favourites that come back every year, and all being well you'll get to experience the classics such as the Christmas formal, the Sports and Societies formal and the Going Down Formal, albeit in a different way. The Formal's Committee is a group of Aidanites (just like you!) who work with me to produce these wonderful events. Every time we have a formal, we meet a few days before to paint some gorgeous banners (we always like to slip in a good pun or two). Then, on the day of the formal, we're in charge of setting up the dining hall, which includes inflating balloons, putting up the banners as well as any other decorations, laying the tables and organising payments for the event. If you're at all interested in event planning, art, or just meeting some new people, don't hesitate to get in touch to see how you can join in! Now more than ever we need you and your creative flare: we are looking for solutions so we can celebrate these events in a safe but fun manner, please drop us your suggestions whatever they may be! We have some plans in the works for online events throughout the year and hope to keep the Aidan's community connected in this unprecedented time, in what we consider a special part of our college tradition.

Can't wait to meet you all soon! Formals love,

Rosie xxx
She/Her
Formals Officer



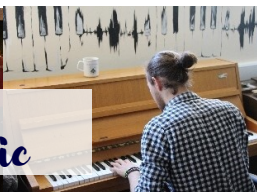


Hello, and welcome to St Aidan's college! In my (completely and utterly biased) opinion, Aidan's is one of the friendliest, liveliest, and most welcoming colleges in Durham, and I hope you get a chance to experience that throughout your Fresher's Week in whatever form it takes. I'm Tyla, your Socials Committee Chair for this year (nice to meet you!), and I wanted to tell you a bit about what SocComm usually does. At the end of Michaelmas term, Aidan's typically celebrates with a Winter Ball – it's an amazingly festive event, with entertainment late into the night, a lively bar, and of course a sit-down meal, made by our lovely Servery team. The real gem in the Aidan's calendar, however, is Summer Ball: the event is quite the spectacle, beginning at 6 pm, and ending at 6 am. The entirety of the communal space in college is decorated, with rides, a photobooth, food stalls, and entertainment throughout the night (the ABBA act is a particular Summer Ball classic!). We are working hard to figure out how we can run similar and safe events this year, we really want to give you an unforgettable first year and that means we need your ideas for how to keep these events running safely. Previous Summer and Winter Ball themes have included 'A Night in Venice', 'Alice and Wonderland', and 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe', so keep an eye out for theme reveals this year! SocComm also typically organises the infamous Newcastle Night during Fresher's week, where Freshers have the opportunity to go to Newcastle for a BIG night out. Sadly, it looks like coronavirus might be robbing us of Newcastle Night this year, but I promise that SocComm will be bringing stuff to look forward to this year!

Also, please consider getting involved with SocComm – it might sound like a lot of work, and it often is, but it's so rewarding, and will give you the opportunity to meet so many lovely people. There are ways to get involved without being a key committee member too – ordinary members typically have a smaller workload for one, but if you just want to get involved with the artsy side, Team Art often help out with decorating for Balls, so there are plenty of ways to get involved. You are in a unique position and that's why we want as many first years on our team as possible. You have no expectations for our events so can reimagine them with us with brand new ideas and other plans for running our events safely.

To give you an idea for what's to come, my personal focus for SocComm this year is community focused: 2020 has given us a sense of togetherness in many ways, and I want to emphasise this in what we do as a committee next year. My aim is to make Winter and Summer Ball (if they go ahead) as sustainable as possible, by using recycled materials, encouraging people to re-wear outfits/buy second hand, and working with local companies. I can't wait to meet you all this year – if you've got any questions (SocComm related or otherwise!) please feel free to come find me, or drop me a message. And of course, please consider applying to be a member of SocComm this year, I promise that you'll enjoy it!

Tyla
She/Her
SocComm



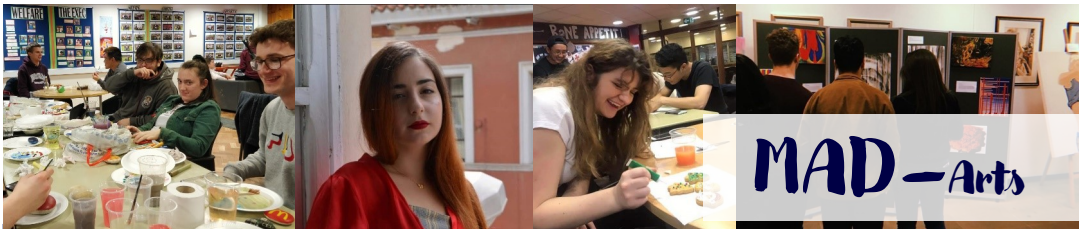
MAD - Music

Hiya Freshers! My name is Kat, I'm a third-year Music student, and I'm your Music Coordinator this year! Music plays a central role in making Aidan's such a wonderful college and encourages everyone to get involved no matter how much talent you have! Throughout this year, we hope to find ways of continuing to host our wider range of college events including: themed open mic nights, live lounges, 'King of the Hill: Battle of the Bands' (a personal favourite), karaoke nights, chill jazz evenings, opportunities to perform at formals, a 48-hour musical held in Summer Term, 'Aidan's Summer Festival', instrumental showcases and many more! If you want to practice for these events, then book a slot in the amazing music room located on A Straight. To book a slot just go to reception, write your name in the music book, grab the key then jam to your hearts content!

But the music does not stop there, as well as college events and activities, there are also opportunities to perform around Durham. If you decide to set up a band / ensemble or even are a soloist, there are many paid opportunities for you to showcase your talent round Durham. There are events organised by other colleges, the DSU and even Durham's Student Radio Station: 'Purple Radio' who hold BBC Radio 1-styled 'Live Lounges' where new artists can showcase their talents. As well as that, Music Durham advertises all their societies, ensembles, orchestras and bands (both auditioned and non-auditioned) on their Facebook page. Each of these musical groups perform frequently at concerts around Durham throughout each term so be sure to look out for them at Freshers' Fair for more information!

The 'Aidan's Music Facebook Page' is where all the info about music events and opportunities in and outside of college will be posted so join the group to keep an eye out! If you have any suggestions for music events, any questions or even just fancy a chat, please feel free to send me a message or even find me in college as I'm always happy to help! I hope you have an incredible Fresher's week and make the most out of the music scene Aidan's has to offer!

Kat
She/Her
Music Coordinator



Hello, new fellow Aidanites!

I'm Valentina - you can call me Vale or Val - and I'll be your Art Coordinator for the upcoming year. If you are into any form of art, St. Aidan's College has got you covered: anything that is MADs - music, arts, and drama - is represented in some form and ready to let your creative side run free.

Team Art, our little college gem, and I will be here to ensure all your artsy needs are covered.

We'll be running all kinds of events: workshops, exhibitions, stress-less sessions, themed nights ("Bob Ross night", for example, which was a big hit last year), etc.

They are such a great way to experiment with new material, improve your skills or just wind down and relax, a great way to stay sane during summative season ("Sip and Paint Session", I'm looking at you).

Whatever level you are, from actual painter to occasional doodler, don't hesitate to get involved!

Another important note, our wonderful Art Coordinator last year has opened an Instagram page (@official_aidans_art) which will be one of our main points of contact. There you can find online projects, themed articles, and Artist Spotlights to keep posted with the Art Scene. If you ever want to get featured or have any artist you would like to share with us, feel free to drop us a text anytime. If you want to get more involved, we can't wait to welcome you on our Team! This is my second year being an active member of it, and I can honestly say that it has been so incredibly rewarding. It allowed me to make art become a part of my daily life, as well as helping me develop some invaluable skills for the future.

Anyways, enough with the talk, come check us up at the Fresher's fair!

If you have any questions, suggestions, or just fancy a nice chat, please, feel absolutely free to grab me at any point. I'll be around all Induction Week, probably standing in some corner ranting about Art.

All the best

Vale XX

She/Her

art@st-aidans.com

Arts Coordinator

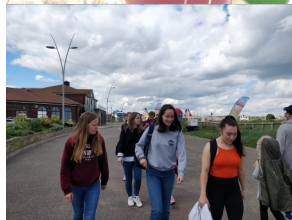


This year we haven't elected a drama coordinator yet so here's a short introduction to Aidan's Drama. Drama is one of Durham's stronger suits and if you want to get involved in acting, producing, singing or even writing reviews, you've come to the right place. In college we start with a low-key but very popular production of the Christmas Pantomime (last year's production was 'Cinderella: The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin (Ratatouille 2)') which is a great chance for some questionable acting but an absolutely hilarious script. Aidan's is also home to ACT: Aidan's College Theatre which has produced memorable plays in the past including Strindberg's Dream Play. Aidan's students have also produced/ directed theatre and other performance pieces in the Assembly Rooms over the years. Outside of Aidan's, Durham Student Theatre (DST) offers a simulation of professional theatre. If you want to find out more then check out the drama stand at the freshers fair!

Getting involved

If you're passionate about drama and want to encourage your fellow Aidanites to get involved too then please consider running for the position of drama coordinator! You can write the panto, hold drama workshops, write musicals and anything you want to put on the showcase Aidan's drama talent!! The position will be going up at one of the first JCR meetings of the year so any questions about the role and how to apply please email chair@st-aidans.com

Events Calendar



Michaelmas Term

**This is based on an ordinary year, however, this year we are, of course, living through extraordinary times and events may change as such. Updates on government guidance and events will be communicated to you through a number of channels (email, Facebook, posters etc.).*

Freshers' Formal

Meet the Parents

Christmas Formal

Newcastle Night

Halloween Formal

Pantomime

Freshers' Fair

Old Boys Formal*

Winter Ball

SHAG Week

Diwali

Epiphany Term

Refreshers Week

International Week

Mental Health Awareness Week

Chinese New Year Formal

Valentines Formal

LGBT+ Week

Fashion Show

Easter Term

Stressless Week

Summer Fest (Aidan's Day)

Summer Ball

Eid

Going Down Formal

Van Mildert Varsity

Sports & Societies Formal

Other frequent events

Additional formals

Live lounge

Open mic nights

JCR meetings

Lindisfarne centre talks

Welfare Campaigns

*Old Boys Formal will hopefully have a new name soon, more in keeping with Aidan's values of diversity.



JCR Meetings

So JCR Meetings: you'll probably hear about them a lot, but what actually are they?

JCR Meetings happen 3 times in first and second term and twice in final term, and they're a chance for any JCR member (i.e. any Aidanite, who's paid their JCR Levy) to have their say on how the JCR operates and be heard. They're pretty chill, held on Sunday evenings in the JCR or the Bar, all with free pizza. The general structure of a JCR Meeting is-

Apologies – Any JCR Member who is unable to attend the JCR meeting sends their apologies (a reason not needed) to the Chair, and the list is read out at the beginning, to let all Members know.

Exec Officer Reports – Each exec member gives a report of what they've been doing in their role, any relevant updates or to make announcements of events to keep an eye out for!

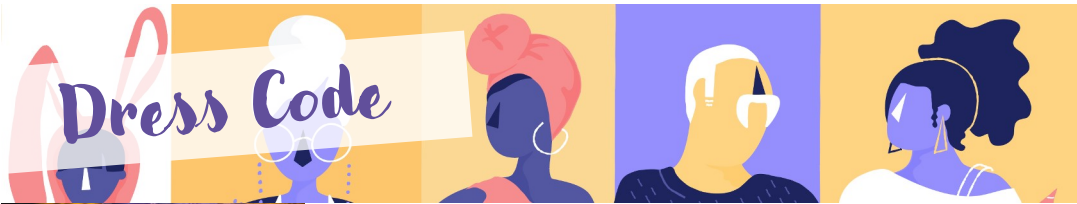
Motions – Any JCR Member can bring any motion, to change anything about the JCR they want. In the last few years we've had a variety of motions, ranging from making pool tables free to choosing to become an independent charity! The website has example motions, and I (Max) will be running drop in times before every meeting if you need any help.

Hustings – This is when people running for positions voted on online stand and give a speech (or hust), followed by questions from the relevant Exec member and then some from the crowd.

Elections – These positions are voted in-meeting, and anyone can run spontaneously. If they're not opposed, then they may be elected on a general 'Aye'.

AOB – This stands for Any Other Business, and is a time when any and all JCR Members can ask any question or raise an issue they wish the JCR to consider.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch, and I'll see you at the first meeting of the year on Sunday the 4th of October which will be held on Zoom !



Dress Code



Before I arrived at uni all I wanted was for someone to tell me whether I was meant to wear a long dress to the formal or a short one, so here's your vague and probably not very helpful guide to what to wear and when! One thing to remember is that Aidan's is not a gown college so you won't need a gown for formals or matriculation.

Matriculation

This is the ceremony when you're inducted into the university and takes place in the Cathedral (government guidelines permitting— at the time of printing this, the current advice is not to go ahead with matriculation, but this could change, so keep an eye out for updates by email and on the Aidan's Freshers' 2020 Facebook page). This is less formal than it used to be and from what I've seen most suits are dinner suits (not tuxedos) but shirts and trousers work just as well! Skirts, trousers and sensible dresses are all good options here (but make sure you're warm, it can get chilly inside). If in doubt frantically ask your roomie or your neighbours what they're wearing (that seems to be the general plan for most people on the morning of).

Formals

Fancy Dress: The theme for a formal can be anything from Disney to Party Animals but rest assured you'll find something to dress up in. Don't worry- you don't need to buy anything if you don't want to exhaust your budget, get creative; it's a sure-fire way to stand out.

Black Tie: This can range from a tuxedo to shirt and trousers (whatever formal means to you). We've had some stunning national dress from different countries and our Scottish Principal loves to see kilts. Anyone choosing to wear a dress tends to save gowns and longer dresses for balls and stick with shorter cocktail style dresses for formals. But really anything goes at Aidan's: we celebrate our diversity.

Balls

Generally, this is when you bring out your fanciest attire: black tie if you like, but even spicier. Velvet suits, ball gown dresses, 'little black dresses' and everything in between! The local charity shops are a great place to find some absolute gems for formals and balls and some students have even made their own outfits! Again, it's whatever 'fancy' means to you but it's super fun getting dressed up for the meal and entertainment!

Everything else is up to you!



The collegiate system



When applying to Durham University many people are unaware that it is home to 17 colleges. So if you state a preference for one college, you may not end up there. However, completely mystifyingly, within days of arrival almost everyone will profusely defend their college and feel affiliated with all its quirks and traditions, making the collegiate aspect of Durham integral to student experience. Colleges are far more than accommodation. Their respective bars, libraries, JCRs and members combine to form Durham's collective identity whilst allowing students to get involved in whatever interests them with like-minded people. Colleges are located on the Hill, Bailey and the Riverbank

Hill

Trevelyan

Notorious for its 'hex appeal', this hexagonal college has an unusual but distinctive identity! Trevelyan students are also known for being musical and there have been numerous Aidan's-Trev's bands and ensembles.

Collingwood

The first word that comes to mind is always 'Sporty' when someone mentions Collingwood. It is one of the larger hill colleges and has a big charity fashion show scene. The dining hall also reminds me of High School Musical which is fun.

Van Mildert

Van Mildert is Aidan's cousin/ sibling/ friend/ rival college: depending on who you talk to. Undeniably Aidan's has strong ties with Mildert and it is location just down the hill from us. Its summer 'Jam by the lake' is a popular event worth attending, if merely to see the infamous Mildert ducks!

Josephine Butler

One of Durham's few self-catered colleges, Josephine Butler is lively and bright making its JCR one of my favourites. The bar serves food in the evenings and the whole college has a really relaxed vibe.

Grey

Grey has a bijou theatre (Fountain's Hall) which you can book for your own productions if the Assembly Rooms are elusive. Some tutorials are held here and it's a pretty shortcut from Aidan's to the Upper Mountjoy site.

Mary's

To be honest one of Aidanites' favourite things about this college is the short cut it provides to the Bill Bryson library and science site from Aidan's. However the grounds are really picturesque, especially in the Autumn once the leaves have fallen.

Stephenson College

One of Durham's youngest colleges and named after the "Father of the Railways" George Stephenson; its interior is themed as such. This college began in Stockton but it is now located behind Josephine Butler

John Snow

Another of the Stockton colleges which has moved into Durham now. This college is one of Durham's self-catered colleges and it is currently located just outside town (at Rushford



court) in transition to its new home on Mount Oswald (along with the recently built South College campus)

South College

Making its debut on the new Mount Oswald site, is the modern college with a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. A blank canvas for developing a whole new community in Durham and we can't wait to see it!

Ustinov

An exclusively postgraduate college located close to Aidan's, the inside is a mystery to me, and many others, as I have never been inside but I have heard good things!

Bailey

Chad's

Home to a lovely courtyard, this small Christian foundation college is one of Durham's hidden gems that is most greatly appreciated on an evening with the fairy lights illuminating the courtyard and the wall they have in the bar painted to look like a Durham version of the London Underground.

Hatfield

The T in Hatfield stands for traditional. Well, it definitely doesn't as it's not an acronym but it may as well since its formals are characterised by rules, manners and decorum. Occurring twice a week it may be worth befriending someone there to give one a go yourself.

Castle

Officially known as University college Castle's grounds make a lovely walk and are showcased in Durham's biannual Lumiere festival of light. The June Ball is also a very popular event (in non-corona times) but guest entry is competitive!

John's

A smaller college, proud home to the world's first fair trade shop and with a strong cohort of mature students from the Anglican seminary, it is the other Christian foundation college.

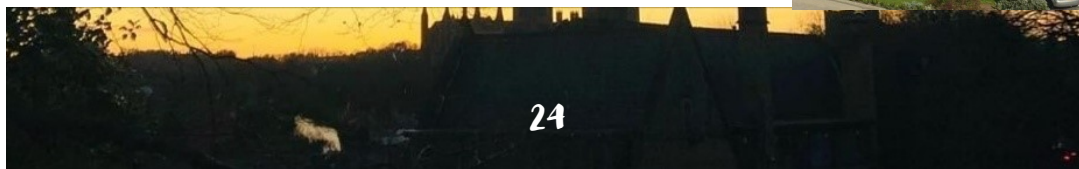
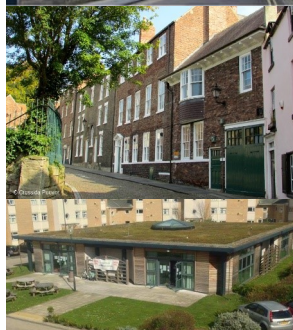
Cuth's

Previously home to one of Durham's greatest celebrities: Jack Edwards, this artistic college is the first one you will encounter on the Bailey if walking from Aidan's.

Riverside

Hild Bede

Its location being infamously far away means you may not make your way down to Hild Bede for a while but if you find yourself needing a walk or picnic stop Hild Bede offers ample opportunity for both.



DURHAM STUDENTS' UNION

Enabling Students



Durham
Nightline 

As a Durham student, you are automatically a member of the SU. However, for several reasons which I won't go into here, Aidan's JCR voted last year to disassociate ourselves from Durham SU. Since Aidan's is governed democratically, we're not advertising them here, so if you want full detail on the SU, you'll find it on their website. However, there are a couple of services they provide which are important to make you aware of:

Associations – These provide university-wide representation for traditionally underrepresented/discriminated-against groups: LGBT+ Students, People of Colour, International Students, Women, Students with Disabilities, Trans Students, Mature Students, and Working Class Students. If you self-identify as a member of one or more of these groups, I would encourage you to check them out.

Advice Service – If you have serious problems with any part of your university life for which the JCR or the college cannot give you sufficient support, the SU Advice Service can help you out in these situations.

The Nightbus – The Nightbus is essentially a taxi service, but if you're out at night and you need a way home it can be a lifesaver. It's £2 a journey, and it's good to keep their number on your phone just in case: 07922 648802

Nightline – Nightline is a confidential listening service, open from 9pm-7am every night during term-time, where you can talk through any problems you're having with someone completely anonymous and just there to listen - also good to keep their number in your phone (it's on the back of your campus card).

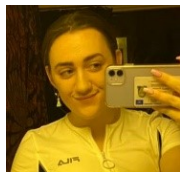
Of course if you have any questions about the SU or our relationship with it I'd be happy to answer them if you drop me an email at president@st-aidans.com.

A working week



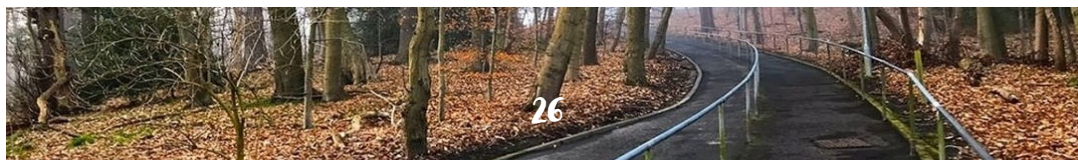
Hi, my name is Jing and I am a second-year physics student. In my first year I had an average of 20 contact hours every week, consisting of labs, lectures and tutorials which all took place at the science site. I am a member of DU fencing team, we compete with other universities almost every Wednesday and have a social afterwards, it is so much fun. I also took part in college football and table tennis; you can always join the matches and trainings whenever you are available. If you are doing a STEM subject, it is always helpful to look at the tutorial questions beforehand. Enjoy your first year!

Hi, I'm Victoria and I'm a second-year Chinese studies student, and in my first year, I had around 11 – 13 hrs a week. The module choices are very flexible and so it's a great opportunity to take modules that you are interested in! When I wasn't in class or studying, I would be playing netball and volleyball, doing theatre, trying out new sports, such as boxing and spending time with my friends. My biggest advice would be to try out new things and say 'yes' to as many opportunities as possible because you never know which one will stick! I personally started theatre during Epiphany term and absolutely loved it! I would say that staying on top of your work at the start is really important, but make sure to enjoy as much of first year as possible and be active in the community!



I'm Aisling, a second year English Literature and French student. Last year I had 8-10 contact hours a week, consisting of weekly lectures and fortnightly tutorials. I spent the bulk of my time doing independent reading: JSTOR and the Billy b were my best friends. I read roughly a primary text every week alongside a few secondary articles for analysis to include in essays. Alongside academia I did gymnastics, cheerleading and *very occasionally* went to the gym. In the evenings, I did a mix of clubbing, language mixers and college events, but very rarely did work. The hardest part of first year is definitely balancing academia and maximising student experience.

Hi, I'm Irenitemi and I'm a second year studying Computer Science. In my first year I had around 23 contact hours per week (although this can vary based on the elective module that you choose). You get to choose an elective module in first year so feel free to take something outside your comfort zone! (I took Italian after getting a D in GCSE French). My lectures last year were usually on the science site which Aidan's is already close to! Durham provides many opportunities to join societies for whatever you are interested in. For example, I got involved with the Aidan's international Society and Durham Computing Society.



Key Campus Locations

Bill Bryson



Bill Bryson Library: Durham's main University Library (as the Billy B) at the heart of the Science site, with 1,800 study spaces for students. You can book private study rooms, use University computers and laptops, and access the thousands of academic texts available.

Science site: 10-minute walk from Aidan's, this is where science or lab-based classes occur. These will probably be in the department buildings for science or human science departments (e.g. Physics, Chemistry, Geography and Anthropology.)

Science Site



Palace Green: Between the cathedral and the castle, this grassy spot is central. Humanities seminars can occur here, and you will also find the Music, Theology and Religion Departments.

Palace Green



The Palatine Centre



The Palatine Centre: Part of the Science site, the Palatine centre is where you can access Durham's specialist student services and where the law department is found.

Elvet Riverside

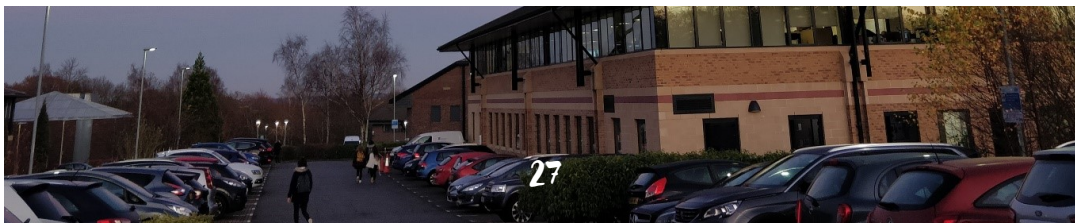


Elvet Riverside: 10 minutes down the road from the science site you will find Elvet Riverside 1 and 2 where many Arts and Humanities lectures and seminars take place. It's only a 5-minute walk from town and most Arts and Humanities departments are around here.

Maiden Castle



Maiden Castle: This is where the university sports facilities are located, including an athletics track, volleyball courts and a fencing salle! This is where the majority of sports training occurs.



What to Bring...

Essentials



Bedding: pillow, duvet and sheets.
College provides the mattress, bedding packs can be purchased from college



Formal wear



Stationary



Cash

Others



Tea/coffee
and some
snacks



Posters/decorations/
homey things

- +Photo ID and passport
- +Fancy dress (safety pins are useful)
- +Coat hangers
- +Important documents (student finance etc.)
- +Blu-tak

Optionals



Laptop/computer—
also provided in college and main libraries



Printer—
also provided in college



Desk lamp



Painkillers and
other light medi-



Speakers



Camera

Cutlery/
crockery/
mugs



Leave behind



Candles/incense/ any-
thing that'll set off the
smoke detectors

Panic and stress— you'll
have a good time we promise!



Parents



Textbooks (most are
available at the library/
can be purchased from
second years)

Not permitted

Door wedges, fridges, large TVs, portable heating, fairy lights (main powered), pets or animals, drinking games or paraphernalia, hotplates, combination ovens, toastie makers, coffee machines, rice cookers, pressure cookers, slow cookers, electric clothes airers

Join the Freshers' Group on Facebook

Search "St. Aidan's Freshers' 2020 (official)" and request to join the fresher's group! This page is specially created for you and from here you can access to a forum to communicate with your fellow students. You can find out the exciting plans for fresher's week. The whole Frep team is also on this page so feel free to ask any question or express any concerns, we are here to support!

Money Money Money...

Uni can be expensive so it's best to get your finances sorted out before you arrive. St Aidan's is a fully catered college, so you don't need to worry about food, yikes. Make sure you bring along your student loan forms just in case they're needed. Expense may include travel, night out, cinema, college event and societies. You can always find information and finance support on the main university website.

Insurance

Whilst Aidan's is undoubtedly one of the safest places to study, there is the occasional 'incident' involving a broken laptop or an awful tea-spill. Basic contents insurance cover for your room is included as standard for student residents in all university accommodation. This insurance covers some of the items in your room in case of theft, fire, and flood risk. There will be more information available at the University Freshers' Fair during Induction Week.

Fancy Dress

Aidan's is renowned for its spectacular fancy dress events and Freshers' Week is no exception. A white, non-fitted bedsheet is an essential piece for toga night, and safety pins will always come in handy. You don't need to spend a fortune on a whole new fancy dress wardrobe but do have a little rummage through your closet and bring along a few bits and bobs lying around at home. Durham has a few fancy-dress stores where you will be able to purchase the finishing touches for your outfits, and if all else fails, Amazon offers students free next-day delivery for six months. Enjoy yourself and be creative

Getting in Touch with College Parents

We have a fun tradition in Durham - you will be assigned to your college parents or parent, who normally does the same subjects as you. You will shortly find out who they are, and they will give you tips on your subjects and introduce you student life in Durham.

FAQs

How long is the walk to town?

This depends on the path which you walk on. The quickest is 15mins to the centre of town through the bailey. And if you go through the other side of town, it can take you 25 – 30mins depending on which path you take.

WiFi situation ?

WiFi is generally quite good at Aidan's. There can be the odd glitches where it doesn't work very quickly, but on the whole, it works well! There have been some exceptions where certain houses have experienced worse wifi than the rest of the college, notably slower and cut wifi.

Trials for DU and college sport?

Trials for DU sports will be announced at the fresher's fair in the DSU. These trials will be more competitive and not everyone will be accepted. College sports usually do not have trials, though it's up to the team's / club's discretion to hold trials where they can place new members into different teams. Everyone succeeds in college trials! With the exception of college rowing teams as they are very competitive.

How many hours do you spend studying?

This completely depends on the number of contact hours you have which is dependent on your subject. On average to get all the work done for a week, I would count between 10-14 hrs of work. If you divide that daily, then it's about 2 hrs a day or less. The thing to remember is that although you shouldn't let your grades slide, you should still make sure that you are being active in the community and having fun!

How much does a night out cost?

This completely depends on if you have pres in your rooms or if you go to college bars or go out directly. Though college bars are less expensive than clubs and independent bars, a bar crawl can come up to be a bit pricey. The average night out if you have a couple drinks in clubs or bars is around £20. You can cut that down if you pre-book entry tickets and don't buy drinks. This also very much varies depending on if you are willing to brave the long, cold walk home and whether or not you buy a takeaway on the way back.

What's the Durham bubble?

The Durham bubble is very hard to describe especially when you're in it! Essentially, when you're at Durham during term time, everything goes very very quickly and you don't see time go by. You also frequent the same people throughout the term and are nearly sucked into the little world of Durham university students. The collegiate system coupled with Durham's small community means sometimes you can feel the need to break away from the intensity of life as a Durham student. Often a trip to a larger city such as Newcastle or somewhere more isolated such as a local beach allows you to gain perspective.



How does laundry work?

You will get a key card which you can top up for washing (£3.50) and tumble drying is free.

What happens during term break?

Over Christmas you can stay for free, although food will not be provided. Over Easter the college holds open days so you may (not) be required to pack away your things for their duration (this is only a couple of days.) You'll be contacted with details and given the opportunity to raise any queries closer to the time.

Are the bathrooms shared?

Yes. There are two showers and two toilets between eight people. There are a limited number of ensuite rooms available. Regardless, you rarely have to queue for a toilet or shower.

How do I collect letters/ parcels from college?

Letters are found in pigeon holes (organised according to the first letter of your family name). Parcels can be collected from the porter's lodge before 11am and after 4pm. All posts should be sent to St Aidan's College address with your name and room number in the first line.

Can visitors stay in my room during term time?

Visitors can stay in your room for up to three nights at a time. For health and safety purposes reception must be informed; there are slips available in the plodge to fill in for this reason. You can borrow an inflatable mattress in the JCR (subject to a £5 refundable deposit.)

Why can't I bring my kettle?

A question very close to my heart. Essentially kettles, toasters and other kitchen appliances serve as fire risks. To be honest you are never more than a few steps from all of the above and if there's one thing you'll have to queue for less than the toilet it's the kettle and toaster.

How and when do you get college families?

Your college parents will be allocated to you according to the forms you are asked to fill out in advance.

Durhamby day

'Objectively' the best cafes in Durham:

Cafedral- have the best scones (if you get there before late afternoon)

Chapters Tea Rooms- Multi-floored café on paddys bridge. A good spot for lunch as well as just a coffee/snack.

Treats- small café, do a great deal some afternoons- £3.99 for a cake and hot drink (good on a student budget).

Flat white- one of the most popular cafes in Durham, great for brunch!

Riverview Kitchen- nice café/ restaurant with a scenic view. Pancakes are to be recommended!

Leonards- many great brunch options, known for its delicious hot chocolate.
(Whitechurch, Esquires, Bean Social Duhram and many many more)

Restaurants:



La Spaghetтата (Spags)

La Spaghetтата- connected to Fabio's bar, a great affordable Italian. Great atmosphere too :)



Fat Hippo

Fat Hippo- the best burgers in Durham. Would recommend the milkshakes!

Lebaneat- great Lebanese restaurant on the bailey.

Plus most of your favourite chains- Nandos, Pizza Express, Zizzis, Bills, ASK Italian, Bella Italian, Subway...

Outings:

Durham Castle and Cathedral: You can get into the cathedral for free and get a guided tour of the castle with your campus card. (UNESCO world heritage site).

Market Square on a Saturday: multiple stalls with food, vintage clothes and plants.

Botanical Gardens: free to enter with your campus card, plus there's a café inside!

Newcastle: Roughly £5 each way on the train (or even less if you have a 16-25 railcard). Great for shopping or eating out, or if you fancy a change of scenery.

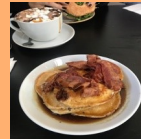
SU Vintage Sales: Keep an eye out for the facebook events, happen once or twice per term.

Palace Green Library: Have cool exhibitions throughout the year.

Riverside walk: lovely walk along the river, mind out for cyclists on rowing days.



Riverview Kitchen



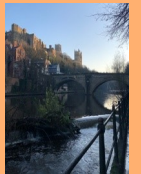
Leonards coffee



Treats coffee shop

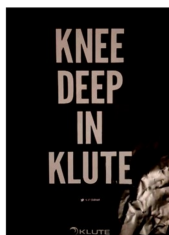


Cafedral scones



View from the riverside walk

...by night



Lloyds (No.1) Bar
The Bishops' Mill



Clubs/Going Out

Lloyds: Fanciest toilets in all the clubs of Durham, cheapish drinks and probably the next best thing to a Wednesday at Players.

Players: Aidan's favourite Wednesday night out, slightly pricy.

Fabios: cocktails and frequent live music (but a bit spenny).

Klute: Once hailed as the worst club in Europe. Love it or hate it—figure it out for yourself.

Jimmy's: As John Heatley once said 'we could indeed just go to Jimmy's' and with free entry it would be rude not to.

Wiff Waff: Ping pong nights and Hang Loose, another Aidan's classic. The photo booth is a Durham staple.

Osbourmes: Host LGBTQ+ events every Monday and collect the Klute stragglers on other nights.

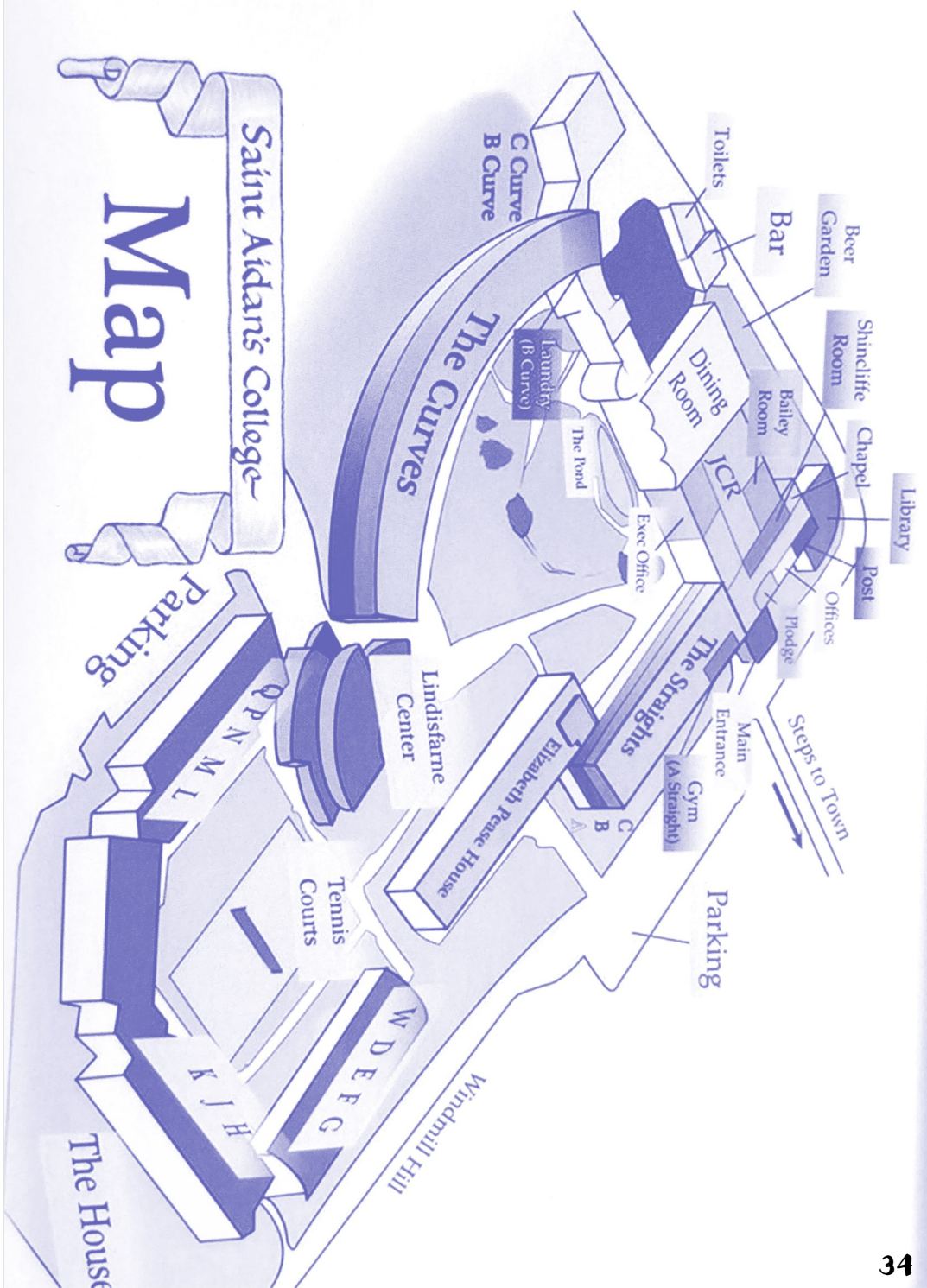
Bars and Clubs

The Library	Yee Old Elm Tree	Inn
Whisky River	The Boat Club	All the College Bars
Swan & Three Cygnets	Osbourmes	(and many more)
	The Half Moon	

Durham Student Theatre (DST)

Acting as an umbrella organisation for all its affiliated theatre companies, DST offers a wide selection of products running through term time evenings. There are directors who submit their ideas to theatre companies, then apply for a venue, get a cast, order costumes and props, do promotions and perform.

Read more about what else you can get up to in the Bumper Badger at the first JCR meeting!



Credits

Susan Frenk

To the principal for funding and reviewing this Handbook

President Tom & Senior Frep Joe

For all their contributions to writing and hard work over the summer to make this a Freshers' Week to remember

The Exec and Frep Team

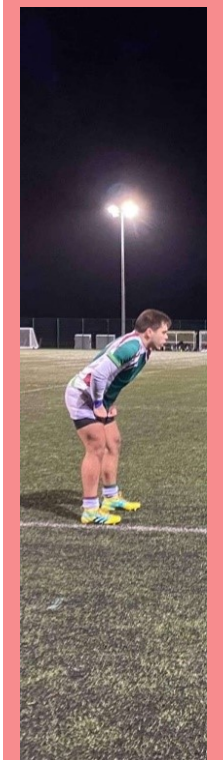
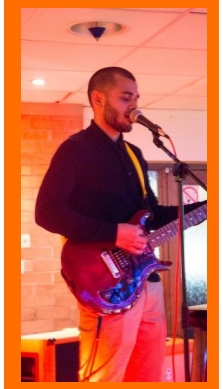
For all their articles, expertise and dedication the JCR (and for responding to my messages really really quickly)

Aisling O'Toole

For proof reading and dedicating her time to helping write and edit this handbook

Joseph Eaton

The biggest thanks of all goes to last year's secretary and my friend Joe for his encouragement, jokes and guidance. I'm grateful for his confidence in me I have big big shoes to fill.





See You Soon!