

st aidan's JCR

Freshers'

Handbook 2023



CIO Reg. 1191019

Established 1947 | Independent 2022





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JCR President's Welcome

Welcome Freshers from near, far, and wide, I am Harry, the **President** of St Aidan's JCR for 2023-24. We are so pleased to have you all join our college of "**Aidanites**", of which you are now one and will be for your time here in Durham.



The **Junior Common Room (JCR)** of St Aidan's college refers both to the **physical room**, in which you may find yourselves spending lots of time and making amazing memories, and the **charitable organisation / student collective** which acts independently to enable the best possible wider student experience. As president, I was elected to facilitate the running of the JCR and am no longer a student but work for the JCR full-time.



I myself was technically a fresher last year, as I came to Aidan's for the first time from my home in Perth, Western Australia. At Aidan's you will interact with students from all over the world and from widely unique backgrounds, and you will form close bonds with your peers as **everybody is welcome here at St Aidan's**. There really is **something for everyone** at our college, with our JCR operating a massive range of sports and societies.

If you choose to become a JCR member, you can get involved as little or as much as you would like to, and I recommend you try a little bit of everything when getting started, you are sure to find your people here in college.

Please come and find me around college and introduce yourself if we haven't met already, I'm more than happy to speak with you about anything Aidan's and Durham. Furthermore I am reachable by email president@st-aidans.com and Instagram; **aidans.pres**

For all updates, please make sure to join the official JCR Facebook group; '**Aidan's Overheard (SA JCR CIO)**'

A warm welcome to all once again,

President Harry Trice SDbTP



Senior Frep's Welcome

Howdy all!

Congratulations – you're coming to Durham! On behalf of St Aidan's, welcome! You'll quickly find that we Aidanites have the best heart and community in Durham. We've got sports, societies, and events of all kinds – there are people who share your passions.

I'm Wynn! I'm your **Senior Frep** (Freshers' Representative) for 2023! I'm a 3rd year, and my job is to run your Freshers Week. All the fun events this week will be run by me, or been coordinated with me, so if any questions need clearing up feel free to send them my way!

My Frep Team and I will be around all week, running events and here to help you settle in. We're all students from Aidan's, and we're here as **your first port of call**, student to student.

Coming to University is a big step for everyone. You've got the freedom to pursue your own path, and you're independent to grow and learn in so many ways going forward. Our job here isn't to tell you what to do, or to be any kind of "authority figure" – we're you, a year or two down the road. We want to help you kick off this new era of your life, here at Durham Uni, in the best way possible.

You'll spot us in our light green polos – we Freps are friendly faces from our community that you're already on your way to becoming a part of. My Team will be on the ground for Newcastle Night, Silent Disco, Karaoke, Film Nights, Cub Nights and Pub Quizzes – all the fun stuff! We're here to help make Freshers' Week be a fantastic introduction to Aidan's and help make your week the best it can possibly be.

Check out our Instagram **@staidansfreshers** for info on our team, as well as details for events throughout the week!

You're welcome to come talk to me at any point if you have questions, or drop me an email at:

seniorfrep@st-aidans.com.

See you around!

Wynn Jenkins

3rd Year, Biological Sciences

Email: seniorfrep@st-aidans.com



Editor's Welcome

Hi everyone,

I'm Rosa, the **Publicity Officer** at Aidans and editor of this year's Freshers' Handbook.

First of all, I'd like to say a **huge welcome** to St Aidans! I hope that you're excited to be joining Aidans.

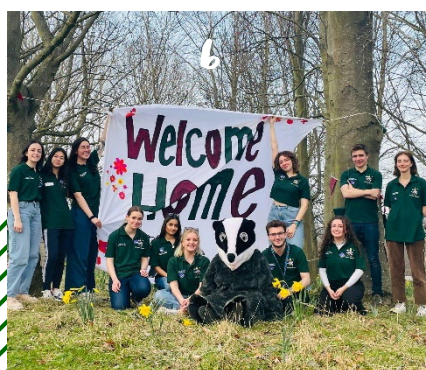
I've really enjoyed getting involved at Aidan's as I have found it to be a **welcoming** and **friendly** college community and I hope that you will grow to love it too! I have enjoyed being a part of Aidans and have got involved in many ways, from helping with Open Days to playing for the women's rugby team, Van Maidans.

I hope that this handbook helps to answer some questions you may have about what it's like to be at Aidan's, but feel free to speak to this year's wonderful **Freps** who I'm sure will be happy to answer any other questions. Unfortunately, I won't be around as a Frep during Freshers' Week as I am going on my year abroad, but I was a Frep last year and I really enjoyed the experience.

Happy reading!

Rosa Boyd

3rd Year, Modern Languages

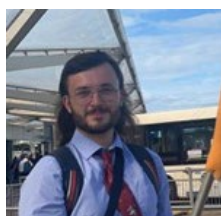


Meet the Freps...

Freps, aka **Freshers Representatives**, are there to help out and welcome students to the college. Freps are student volunteers that are there to run activities to help everyone settle into college life. The Freps will be there to greet you and help you to move in when you arrive in college. I'm sure that they'll be more than happy to chat with you.



Wynn
'Gremlin core'
Jenkins
(She/him)



Harry
'Tricey'
Trice
(He/him)



Emily
'F.O.Y'
Martin
(She/her)



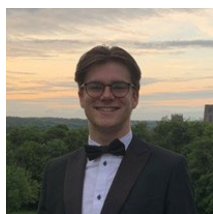
Thomas
'Captain'
Borrill
(He/him)



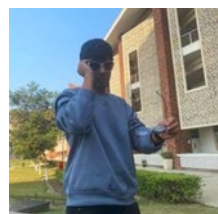
Grace
'Ribbit'
Taylor
(She/her)



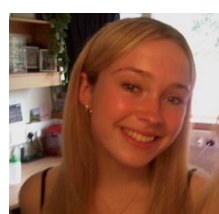
Hannah
'b'
Leece
(She/her)



Trystan
'TTT'
Thurtle
(He/him)



Vidipt
'Bossman'
Dhasmana
(He/him)



Erika
'Loves democracy'
Hewitt
(She/her)



Emily
'Em'
Hanks
(She/her)



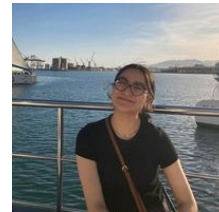
Lucie
'Lbenn'
Benn
(She/her)



Maria
'Ginny'
Giles
(She/her)



Jamie
'Wildthing'
Wildman
(He/him)



Piya
Ragoowansi
(She/her)



Natalie
'Sixty-four'
Gaunt
(She/her)



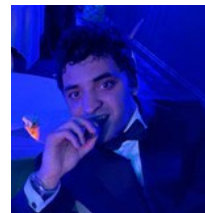
Sana
'No thoughts head empty'
Riaz
 (She/her)



Dylan
'The manc'
McLaren
 (He/him)



Isabelle
'Shame be damned'
New
 (She/her)



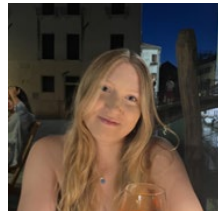
Awais
'C-cross'
Saddiq
 (He/him)



Ellena
'LNER azuma'
Tilden
 (She/her)



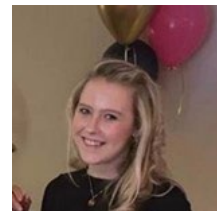
Harvey
'Tech man'
Balaam
 (He/him)



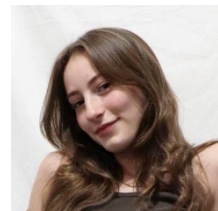
Emma
'Em'
Joll
 (She/her)



Lottie
'The ginger one'
Aulton
 (They/them)



Tess
'Tessica'
Cato
 (She/her)



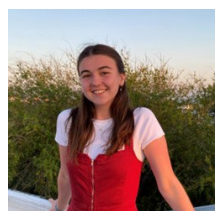
Lucy
Narunsky
 (She/her)



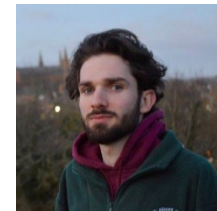
Georgie
'Toucan'
Huntington
 (She/they)



Severino
'Mr 'Debate is a DU sport''
Bonvini
 (He/him)



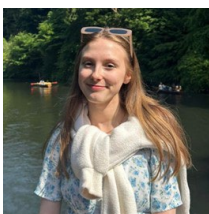
Charlotte
'For the plot'
Gowers
 (She/her)



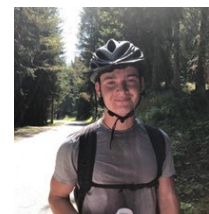
Aidan
'Oui oui baguette'
Cairns
 (He/him)



Missy
Bright
 (She/her)



Rosie
Richards
 (She/her)



Anton
'Anton'
Beugelink
 (He/him)



Team Frep 2022



The Aidans' Community

Here at Aidans we pride ourselves on **inclusivity** and aim to make everyone feel welcome and respected. St Aidans is even referred to as the '**Rainbow College**' due to the inclusive, diverse, and unique community that it fosters.

Aidans was founded as a woman's only college in **1947** and despite Aidans now being a college where all genders are welcomed, we still greatly value inclusivity.

Aidans is a very **active** college with lots of sports teams and societies that help to ensure that the different year groups are brought together.

The College Family System

Our college family system allows 2 (or sometimes 3) 2nd or 3rd year students to act as your college parents. As Freshers, you can choose to sign up for college parents who are allocated based on **interests** and **course**. The role of the college parents is to look after you and your college siblings and answer any questions you may have about university. Having a college family is a great way of allowing you to meet Aidanites in different year groups. College parents can also be a great place to go to ask for advice.



accommodation at aidans

The accommodation at St Aidans is divided up into **three sections**: the **Straights**, **Curves**, and the **Houses**. All accommodation in college is located close to the Dining Hall and JCR meaning that you don't have to travel very far for mealtimes.

The Curves

The curves (aptly named because of the curvature shape of the accommodation) consists of B-Curve and C-Curve. The curves consists of single and shared rooms. The bathrooms and kitchens are shared. The curves each have 6 bathrooms- 3 male and 3 female. Both curves also have 2 kitchens, - 1 small and 1 large. There is a laundry room on B-curve for students on the curves and straights to use.

The Straights

The straights consists of 3 floors- A-Straight, B-Straight and C-Straight. All of the rooms in the straights are single rooms with access to shared bathrooms and shared kitchens.

The Houses

There are 14 houses which are found at the back of the college. The houses consist of single rooms, some of which have shared bathrooms, and some have ensembles. Each of the houses has a shared kitchen and the houses share a laundry room.

Types of room

Single single-bed single room

Single single-bed rooms are found in all 3 parts of the accommodation and come with a desk with drawer space, a wardrobe, overhead and lockable underbed storage, a sink, shelves and a pinboard.

Shared single-bed room

Shared single-bed rooms are only found in the curves. Every shared room has two beds with underbed storage, two desks with drawer space, two pinboards and two shelves and a shared sink.

Single double-bed room

Single rooms with a double bed are only found in the houses and they come with a desk, wardrobe, pinboard, shelves and an ensuite bathroom.



Food in college



St Aidans is a **fully catered college** meaning that breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided in the dining hall in college **every day**.

There are **lots of options** to choose from and the catering team caters for a range of dietary requirements including: gluten-free, dairy-free, halal, kosher, vegan, and vegetarian options at each meal. The menu changes regularly and there's brunch at weekends too. If you have any dietary requirements or queries, you can speak to the catering staff.

Despite being a catered college, each part of the accommodation also has **access to a kitchen** which is equipped with microwaves, hobs, and fridges, meaning that you have the option to cook although it's not necessary. If you have a commitment, such as training or lectures all day, you can request a packed lunch or dinner which you can get by signing up for it in the dining hall.

Eating in the Dining Hall can be a great way of getting to know new people and sitting with people from your corridor, your roommate or people from your course can be a great way to get talking. It can be daunting, particularly during Freshers' Week, and you can free to sit with the Freps for meals during Freshers' week.

Timings

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



College Staff

Whilst the college staff aren't a part of the JCR, they are **central** to the running of St Aidans. Throughout your time at Aidans you will become familiar with the wonderful staff at Aidans.

The College Officers

Our college Officers work together to run the college and each Officer is responsible for a key aspect of college life.

Principal: Dr Susan Frenk, Vice-Principal: Helen de Montes, Operations Manager: Lesley Peak

Student Support and Development Team

This team is there to provide support to students and can be reached **@sa.studentsupport@durham.ac.uk**.

Assistant Principals: Sukanya Miles-Watson, Kate Anderson

Student Support Administrator and DU LGBTQIA+ Staff and Student Network Co-Chair: Shane McHugh

Assistant Student Support Officer: Dr Fiona Kaley

College Administration Coordinator: Emma Wilson

Operations Community

Operations Manager: Lesley Peak & Community

Operations Team Leader: John Hutchinson

Lesley is in charge of Health and Safety and ensuring that events within college can go ahead and John directs housekeeping staff, cleaning rotas and



Catering Staff Food & Beverage

Supervisor: Diane Walker

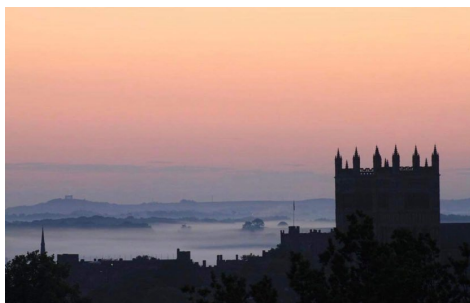
Diane coordinates the front of house catering and oversees Team Bar. Diane also directs a wonderful team of server staff.

The Reception Team

Carolyn Barker and Una Elsy are our two Reception staff, and they do a lot behind the scenes as well as being around to help you.

The Porters

The Porters are there to look after you night and day and ensure that your college experience is the best it can be. The Porters are very friendly, helpful, and always around for a chat.



Facilities at Aidans

Here at Aidans we are fortunate to have access to **great facilities** including a multipurpose court, a welfare room, the University's only kosher kitchen, and a meditation room. We also have a well-equipped gym which students can pay to join. Further details about joining the gym will be sent out soon.

One of the advantages of being on the hill is that there is excellent access to **green spaces** in college. The quad, which is located between the Curves and Straights, is an open green space that gets particular busy in Easter Term as it's a great place to revise and hang out with friends after exams.

Additionally, Aidans has its own library which is **open 24/7**. Having a library in college is very convenient and as well as being equipped with lots of books, the library also has computers and printers which students can use. Another perk of the college library at Aidans is the great view of town as it looks over the cathedral which makes for a nice study view!



The JCR

JCR stands for **Junior Common Room** and each college has its own student-run JCR. Students can choose to join the JCR by paying the **JCR Levy**.

You can choose to get JCR membership by paying for 1 year's membership or you can get a 3-year membership which lasts up until you graduate. Paying the JCR levy also means that you become a JCR member and can access sports and societies within college. JCR membership additionally means that you can attend and participate in JCR meetings, vote in JCR elections, and run for roles within the JCR.

The St Aidan's JCR is a student-run charity consisting of undergraduate and postgraduate members as well as being a physical space.

The physical space of the JCR is commonly used by Aidanites as an area to chill and hang out. It is located between the Plodge (Porters' Lodge) and the Dining Hall. It also hosts several events throughout the year, such as Live lounges and Karaoke Nights.

If you cannot afford JCR membership but would like to join, you can talk to us, and we will try to help you. Additionally, the JCR Participation Fund was set up last year to support students who are experiencing particular financial hardship.



The JCR Exec 23-24

The **JCR Executive Committee** meets weekly and presents officer reports at JCR meetings. Members of the Exec are **elected** by other students and all JCR members can apply to be on the Exec. You can apply to join any of the Exec committees which can be a great way to get involved.

JCR President

Harry Trice
Sabbatical

JCR Chair

Erika Hewitt
2nd year, Geophysics

Treasurer & acting Shop Chair

Vidipt Dhasmana
2nd year, Law

Publicity Officer

Rosa Boyd
3rd year, French and
German

Senior Frep

Wynn Jenkins
3rd year, Biology

Sports & Societies Officer

Lucie Benn
2nd year, Geography

Compliance Officer

Jamie Wildman
2nd year, Economics
and Politics

Outreach Chair

Liv Eren
2nd year

Socials Chair

Emily Martin
2nd year, Politics

Tech Chair

Harvey Balaam
2nd year, Maths

Senior Welfare Officer

Natalie Gaunt
4th year, Chemistry

Over the next 10 pages, you can meet the Exec. and find out a bit more about what each Exec. member does. You can also learn more about our Exec. on our JCR Instagram account **@staidansjcr**. Harry, Wynn, and Rosa have already been introduced at the start of the handbook (p4-6).



Treasurer + Shop Chair

नमस्ते (Namaste) Aidanites. My name is Vidipt and I'm your JCR Treasurer.

I am currently studying a bachelor's in law and hold an undergraduate degree in Political Science. My main responsibilities as treasurer include managing the day-to-day finance of the JCR and together with Finance Committee ensure that the JCR Levy you pay is used as efficiently as possible. The JCR Levy covers a wide variety of activities such as sports and societies.

Beyond being treasurer, I am additionally acting shop chair. As acting shop chair, I am largely responsible for stocking, pricing, and setting the menu for the shop together with Shop Committee. The shop is open from 7:30PM to 11:30PM everyday during term time, serving up toasties, pizza, chips, chicken nuggets and much more. We'll be hiring soon and would love for you to apply. Don't forget to ask for the Bossman Special!!

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at treasurer@st-aidans.com.



JCR Chair

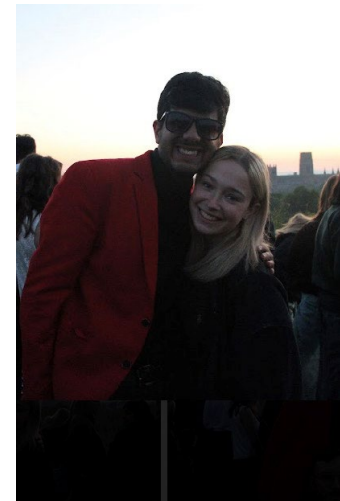
Hello, my name is Erika, and I am your JCR Chair!

I am a member of St Aidan's Netball Club (SACNC) and I am an avid and noble supporter of supremely underrated football club that is Tromsø FC (literally no one has heard of it I know). I am also the social secretary for St Aidan's Cheer Club, and you may catch me playing hockey from time to time (no guarantee though).



I have really enjoyed living in Durham so far and firmly believe you will too! It's quaint and small for a city but still full of character, even when you least expect it! If you ever need brunch recommendations for pretty much anywhere, I could write my thesis on it.

My role as Chair is to remain neutral in all JCR business and ensure democracy is always achieved. I have the very fun and totally not laborious job of keeping the OPP's up to date and organising all the JCR meetings. Being chair is one of those jobs where most of the work is behind the scenes, and it would not be possible without my wonderful vice chairs Lottie and Joshua, who are the beauty and brains of my steering committee and probably know more about the JCR than I do! I also have the challenge of assigning your college mentors (older students who can give advice and guidance to you) so please keep an eye out for any and all emails regarding this. My personal experience of St Aidan's has been that it has been so welcoming for someone that was very new to the area and the idea of living so far away from home, and again I am positive you will think the same.

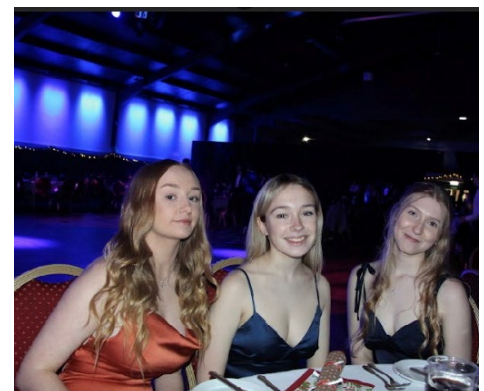


Though Freshers' week is probably one of the busiest weeks I will have as Chair, I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know each and every one of you! If you have any queries or questions, please drop me and email anytime!

Erika Rose Hewitt (She/Her)

2nd Year, Geophysics

Email: Chair@st-aidans.com

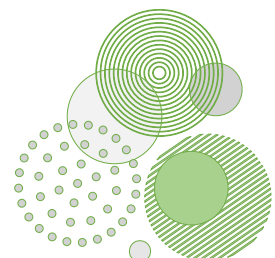


Tech Chair

As Tech Chair, I head the Technology Committee, and I'm responsible for ensuring the JCR's tech equipment is up to date, as well as allowing it to be rented out to other colleges for a small fee.

I'll also setup staging, lighting, audio, and anything else that might be required to ensure the smooth running of an event. On the IT side, I oversee the JCR's website, and any of the JCR's software projects.

Harvey Balaam



Sports & Societies Officer

Hello Aidan's! I'm Lucie and I'm your Sports and Societies Officer for the coming year!

At Durham, we have a two-tier system for sports: a university level and a college level. At the university level, members of any college can represent Durham by becoming part of Team Durham (DU). DU sports give you the opportunity to compete at a high standard in various competitions and also offers a wide range of sports not covered at the collegiate level. However, sport isn't just limited to the DU teams - over 90% of students participate in sport at a college level during their time at Durham and is an amazing way to meet new people with similar interests (and it has been one of my favourite parts of university so far!). At Aidan's we have over 40 teams participating in over 16 sports from rugby to pool, from mixed lacrosse to ultimate frisbee. Aidan's sports teams participate in inter-college leagues with sports teams from other colleges. We welcome sportspeople from any level and background from those who have played for years to complete beginners.

Additionally, there is always a fantastic atmosphere of healthy competition between the colleges, so get involved and help us maintain our high standard of sporting achievement! Make sure to check out our Instagram [**@staidanssports**](#) to view photos and match scores. Aidan's is also home to a wide variety of societies, such as our award-winning Wardrobe Society, which was established last year. Societies provide a welcoming space within the college for people to explore their hobbies, meet like-minded people, and participate in and host events. Anyone is welcome to join any pre-existing societies, but you also have the opportunity to start your own society which will receive funding from the SAJCR! My job is to ensure our sports and societies are successful and well-run. We have a wide range of sports and societies, so there's something for absolutely everyone to get involved with!





As SSO, my main goal is to make sure everyone is able to participate and have a great time doing so. There is also a chance to win college colours and half-colours through great sporting achievements, which is always a crowd favourite! Awards are given out to celebrate the achievements of our sports teams and societies as well as to individuals within them. In Epiphany term, our sports teams participate in Varsity (dubbed 'King of the Hill') where we play Van Mildert - our friend/rival college - in every sport possible! I look forward to meeting you all and getting you involved in our sports and societies!

If you have any questions feel free to contact me by emailing **sportsandsocieties@st-aidans.com**, sending me a DM on the **@staidanssports** instagram, or come and find me in person! 😊



sports and societies at aidans

Here at Aidans we have **lots of sports teams and societies** to join. There's something for **everyone!**

Our sports teams...

- Netball
- Men's rugby
- Van Maidans women's rugby
- Men's football
- Women's' football
- Mixed lacrosse
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Running Club
- Mixed Rounders
- Aidan's Cricket
- Men's basketball
- Women's' basketball
- Mixed badminton
- Men's Hockey
- Women's Hockey
- Aidan's Boat club
- Mixed squash
- Mixed tennis
- Mixed volleyball



Our societies...

- LGBTQIA+ Society
- International Society
- POC Society
- St Aidans First Generation Scholars
- Chess club
- Aidans/ Mildert Christian Union
- Aidan's Local Society
- Aidan's Wardrobe
- Aidan's Fashion Society
- Aidan's Dance Society
- Chemistry Society
- Aidan's Cheer
- Aidans Alumni



Socials Chair



Being socials chair is so exciting! I get to run both balls - the Michaelmas Independence Ball and Summer Ball. I also get to run BOPS, Silent Discos, and Live Lounges in the JCR. It's a very creative and fun role.



As I sit on the exec, I am also a voice for the students of St Aidan's JCR and will always put their best interests at heart.



Emily Martin

2nd year

Follow our Aidans Socials Instagram accounts to stay up to date with all of the fun events that we have coming up!

[@staidanssocials](#)

[@staidansballs](#)





Senior Welfare Officer

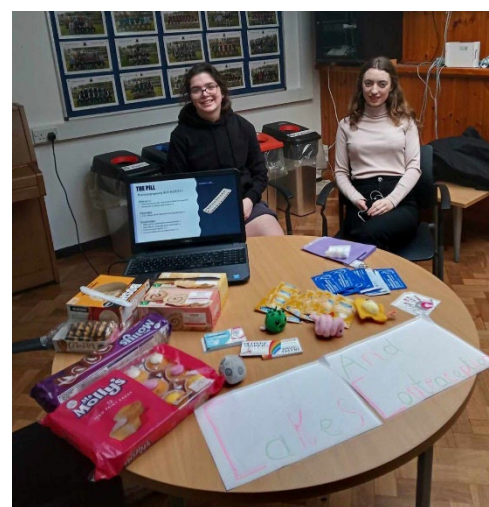
Hello, I am Natalie and I'm the Senior Welfare Officer.

I am a 4th year chemistry student and as well as college welfare officer, I am also co-captain of the college's women basketball team. I also play rugby for Van Maidans Rugby (Aidan's women's rugby joint with Mildert), if you have any questions about any of these feel free to ask me.

Here at Aidan's, I run the welfare team, in which we run welfare hours (check out the Instagram [@staidanswelfare](#) for when these are). We also give away free contraceptive supplies on the welfare room door – these are restocked every time there is a welfare hour!!

In addition to this we run campaign weeks and events, such as stressless and SHAG week. We also signpost places you can find support across Durham.

If you have any concerns feel free to contact me directly via welfare@st-aidans.com, or you can grab me for a chat if you see me around during Freshers' week 😊



Outreach Chair

Hello Aidan's,

We're looking forward to welcoming you to our college for the 23/24 academic year. University is a great place for individuals to find themselves, and we have some great things for you to get involved in, including outreach and volunteering schemes!

My name is Liv, and I'm JCR's Outreach Officer. My role involves the planning and co-ordination of our charitable projects. Last year we replenished a community pantry with food donations, organised food drives and provided support services for our fantastic Identity Fashion Show.

I am also the 'Keeper of College Spirit', an undefined role that sees me organise the college stash, represent St Aidans on the SU's representative committee and work with Exec colleagues to deliver various fundraising initiatives.

Charity and Outreach are truly embedded into our culture at Aidan's. We have so many fantastic projects that we are so excited to have your participation in.

You can contact me **via outreach@st-aidans.com** or **@staidansoutreach** on Instagram - please feel free to get in touch!



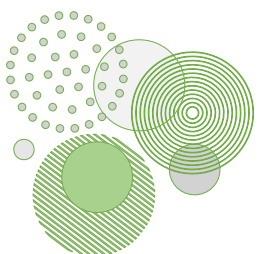
Compliance Officer

My role splits into two main responsibilities. The first is as a trustee on the JCR's board. The second is as a member of the Exec.

Within both roles I have to ensure that we comply (it's in the name!) with charity law and our own governing documents. Outside of this, I help to plan the future for our charity, while guaranteeing our independence and democratic values are protected.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Jamie Wildman



The shop



Here at Aidans we've got our very **own shop** which is run by the Shop Chair and shop committee.



The shop sells customisable toasties and nachos as well as chocolate bars, sweets, soft drinks, and essentials such as toothpaste. Shop committee bought a pizza oven last year, so the shop now sells pizzas too which is a popular snack amongst Aidans students. In addition to this, the shop has its own air fryer and offers cooked snacks such as chips too.



Our shop is located in the JCR and is the perfect place to go for late-night snacks.



The shop is run by the **Shop Chair** (Vidipt) who directs Shop Committee. Students from Aidans can apply to work at the shop on a part-time basis.



Shop Committee & Team 2022-23



The Bar

Aidans has its own bar which can be a great place for students to socialise, regardless of whether or not you choose to drink as it serves alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

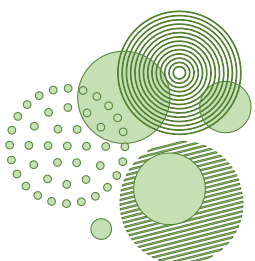
Each college has its own college drinks- at Aidans we have '**The Badger**' which contains Guinness and Ice VK as well as a non-alcoholic option, '**The Secret Garden**' which consists of grapefruit juice, lychee juice and grenadine syrup.

The bar also regularly shows sports matches as well as hosting a Eurovision night every year.



Students at the college can apply to work at the bar and it's a great part-time job. Whether you have bar experience or not, all students that are interested are encouraged to apply.

The bar hosts events throughout the year, such as Winter Festival and pub quizzes. The bar also hosts an annual Summer Festival which has food trucks and live music and is a fun event that brings together Aidanites from all year groups.



Key locations on campus...

The Bill Bryson Library (Billy B)

The main library, more commonly known as the Billy B, is around a 10-minute walk away from Aidans. It offers lots of study spaces with computers as well as a range of texts and printers. To access the library, you will need to bring your Campus Card which you will scan to enter.

The Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC)

The TLC is located opposite the Science Site and is an alternative study space to the Billy B. Some lectures and seminars take place in the TLC, and it takes around 8 minutes to walk there from Aidans.

The Science Site

The Science Site is where most tutorials and lectures take place for students studying STEM or Human Sciences. It takes around 10 minutes to walk there from Aidans.

Elvet Riverside

Many Humanities and Arts students will have lectures in Elvet Riverside and it takes around 20 minutes to walk there from Aidans.

The Palatine Centre

Located on the Science Site, the Palatine Centre is where the Law department is based and where specialist student services can be accessed.

The Students' Union (SU)

The SU building provides study spaces and has its own café. Some Humanities subjects also hold lectures in the SU building. It takes around 20 minutes to walk from Aidans to the SU.

Palace Green

Is where the Arts and Humanities departments are mainly based. It takes just over 20 minutes to walk from Aidans to Palace Green.

Maiden Castle (MC)

MC is the university's sports ground. College teams often play matches at Maiden Castle as there are plenty of playing fields. It's also where DU athletes go to train.





The college system

Durham is divided up into 16 colleges for undergraduates and postgraduates and then there is a further college (Ustinov College) which is solely a postgraduate college.

The Hill Colleges

Van Mildert (Mildert)

Mildert is Aidans' closest neighbour. We share a women's' rugby team with Mildert, the Van Maidans. Mildert is just further down the hill from Aidans.

Trevelyan

Trevelyan is well-known for its hexagonal structure which distinguishes it from other colleges.

St Mary's

Mary's is one of Durham's oldest colleges and offers a scenic view over Durham.

Collingwood

Collingwood is one of Durham's largest colleges and is well-known for being a very sporty college.

Josephine Butler

JoBo is located next to the Botanical Gardens and the Mound which is shared between JoBo and Stevo.

John Snow

John Snow is a modern college which is named after Dr John Snow.

Stephenson

Stevo has many railway-themed decorations as it was named after the 'Father of the Railway'.

South

South is the newest of Durham's colleges and is located on the Mount Oswald site.

Grey

Grey is next to the Mountjoy site and just behind the Science Site.

Ustinov

Ustinov is exclusively for postgraduate students, so it tends to be a college that undergraduate students are less familiar with.

The Bailey Colleges

St Cuthbert's Society

Cuth's is known for being a more informal bailey college as well as for 'Cuth's Day'.

St Chad's

Chad's is one of the oldest and smallest Durham colleges.

Hatfield

Hatfield is Durham's second oldest college and prides itself on its sense of tradition.

St John's

John's is one of the smallest colleges in Durham and it offers great views of the Cathedral.

University College (Castle)

Castle is the oldest Durham college and sits on Palace Green.

Riverbank College

St Hild and St Bede

Known more commonly as Hild Bede, this college is neither on the bailey or the hill.

Durham Student Union

DURHAM SU

As a student at Durham University, you are automatically a member of the Student's Union (SU). The SU officers are **elected** by the students and representatives from each college vote in elections to make SU decisions. The Outreach Chair, Liv Eren, votes in elections on behalf of the JCR.

The SU additionally offers several societies which you can join if you'd like to. Make sure to attend the **Freshers' Fair** on Wednesday the 27th at the Sports and Wellbeing Park, Maiden Castle to have a look at what's on offer.

The SU offers a **range of societies and associations** from the People of Colour Association and the 93% Club to Engineering Society and Beekeeping Society- so there's lots to try out. I'm a member of French Society which I've really enjoyed as it has been a great way to meet new people and practice my French.

Types of student groups offered by the SU:

- Academic Groups
- Active Groups
- Interest Groups
- Political and Causes Groups
- Cultural and Faith Groups
- Professional Development Groups
- Media Groups
- Fundraising Groups





Durham by day...



There's **lots** to do in Durham, meaning that it's a great place to explore.

Outings

Botanical Gardens: As a Durham student, you can get in the Botanic Garden for free using your Campus Card. It's a great place to visit with beautiful flowers and plants to look around.

Durham Cathedral: You can get into the Cathedral for free by showing your Campus Card.

Riverside Walk: There are lots of nice walks that you can take along the river. The riverside is particularly pleasant in the warmer months as you can even take a picnic to the riverside.



Cafés

The Pawsome Cat Café: the cat café makes the perfect place to go for coffee if you like cats! The cat café also serves delicious cakes, although you will have to book.

Flat White Kitchen: Flat White is a very popular brunch spot, and it gets particularly busy at the weekends so it's worth getting there early to avoid long queues.

Whitechurch: located just opposite the Billy B, Whitechurch is a great café to go to for a break from studying and it offers a range of drinks and cakes.

Treats: Treats is a small café near the centre of town and is reasonably priced too.

Vennels: Vennels offers great coffee and cake, as well as sandwiches, making it a nice place to stop for lunch in town.

Cafédral: Cafédral is a very pretty café that's definitely worth visiting. It's located near the cathedral and offers reasonably priced coffee and cake. It's worth remembering, however, that it's closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.



Restaurants

Lebaneat: this Lebanese restaurant offers a variety of delicious food and is a popular choice amongst students. Lebaneat also offers some great veggie options.

La Spaghetтата: known more commonly as Spags, this Italian restaurant is very popular amongst students as it's fairly affordable and serves delicious pizza and pasta.

Fat Hippo: Fat Hippo serves the best burgers in Durham and is a great restaurant to go to if you like burgers and milkshakes.

The Food Pit: The Food Pit makes a great place to go to eat as it offers a wide variety of street food, meaning that you're really spoilt for choice!

Durham by night...



Here are some selected Durham clubs:

Jimmy Allen's: Jimmy's, as it is more commonly known, is a popular Durham nightclub that offers free entry every day of the week! It can get very busy, particularly on Fridays so it is a good idea to get there fairly early to avoid missing out.

Bohemia: Bohemia is a popular club for sports socials (both DU and college) and tends to get especially busy on a Wednesday and Friday.

Osbourne's: Ozzies is best known for 'Ozzies Mondays', the most popular LGBTQ+ night in Durham.

Extras...

Babylon, Loft, Lloyds, Fabio's.



Some Bars and Pubs:

- The City
- Ye Old Elm Tree
- The Half Moon Inn
- The Boatclub
- Colpitts

alternatives...

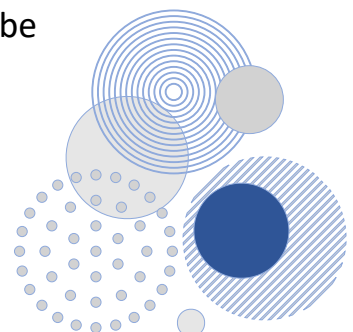
There are lots of **great alternatives** to clubbing in Durham!

Gala Theatre: This great cinema in Durham shows a great selection of the latest films and offers reasonably priced tickets too.

Durham Student Theatre (DST): performs a range of shows and plays throughout the year that you can watch.

Escape Rooms: Durham has got its own escape room which makes a fun daytime or evening activity.

It is important to remember that going out can also be enjoyed sober and whether or not you choose to go out, everyone's decisions should be respected, and everyone should feel included.



Events throughout the year

Michaelmas Term

- ☆ Matriculation
- ☆ Freshers' Formal
- ☆ Newcastle Night
- ☆ Winter Ball
- ☆ Winter Festival



There are lots of fun events to look forward to throughout the year at Aidans!



Epiphany Term

- ☆ Lunar New Year Formal
- ☆ St Aidans Charity Fashion Show



Extras

- ☆ Formals throughout the year which are organised by the college
- ☆ Livelounges
- ☆ JCR Meetings
- ☆ Welfare campaigns such as SHAG (sexual health and guidance) week and mental health awareness week

Summer Term

- ☆ 'Stress Less' Week
- ☆ Summer Festival
- ☆ Summer Ball
- ☆ St Aidans' Pride
- ☆ Going Down Formal
- ☆ 'Destress with the dogs'
- ☆ Aidans Pride



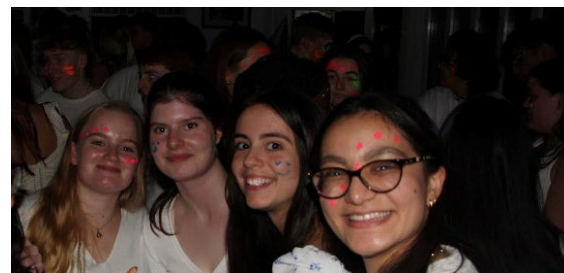


Freshers' 2023 Week Timetable

Saturday 23rd	Move into college day 1/2 The Freps and porters will be around to help you move into accommodation.
Sunday 24th	Move into college day 2/2 Corridor Games Movie Night Loft
Monday 25th	'Newcastle Night' Activity with 'Aidans Wardrobe'
Tuesday 26th	Sports and Activities Fair Freshers Formal Silent Disco
Wednesday 27th	Freshers' Fair Karaoke Bohemia
Thursday 28th	Pub Quiz Babylon
Friday 29th	Bongos Bingo
Saturday 30th	Pub Quiz with College Mentors



About Freshers' Week...

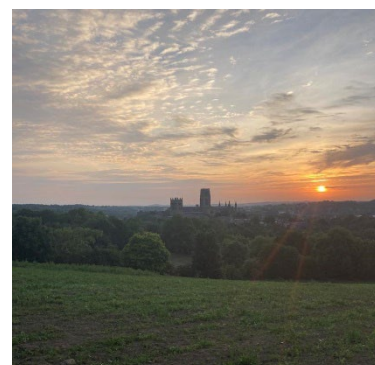


Freshers' week is organised by the **Senior Frep** (Wynn) and the **JCR President** (Harry).

The **FREPS** are there to support you in Freshers' week and will be wearing **light green tops** (so they should hopefully stand out)! You will get familiar with the Freps throughout freshers' week as they accompany you on nights out and are around college to help you settle in and answer any questions.

Support

The Freps act as the **first port of call** during Freshers' week and are there to help you. All freps undergo **active listening training** so they are there to **help you to settle in**. The Senior Welfare Officer is also frepping, along with members of Welfare Committee, so you can talk with them if you have any queries. If you would like further support, the Student Support and Development Team (the college welfare team) will additionally be around in college all week to help you.

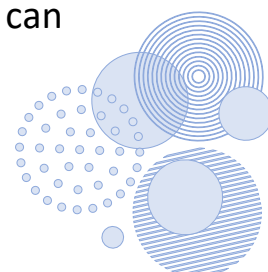


Academic work in Freshers' Week

Each department will hold **department talks** during Freshers' Week. But apart from these talks, there are no academic commitments in Freshers' Week.

Going out

During Freshers' Week, different nights out are organised by the Senior Frep and the Freps which you can attend if you like. If you pay for the JCR Levy, these nights out are included within the levy, so you don't need to pay extra. However, there is no need to go out as the Freps will also run more **chilled evening entertainment**, such as movie nights that you can attend if you would prefer.





Top tips...

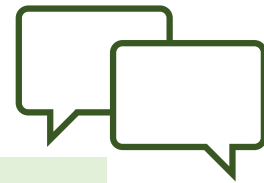
Don't feel under pressure to go out every night in Freshers' week, it can be an intense period with a lot going on, so getting enough rest is really important. Similarly, if you'd prefer not to go out at all, don't feel like you have to as there will be plenty of other students who also don't want to go out and there are lots of alternative options to going out.

I'd recommend joining sports and societies within college to meet new people. In my time at Aidans so far, I've found that I met a lot of my friends through joining sports teams in college. Joining sports and societies is also a great way to meet people from different parts of the accommodation.



Writing your name and course on a piece of paper to put on your door can be a great way of getting to know new people in the accommodation around you. I'd also recommend going to the kitchen to meet new people in Freshers' Week and chatting to people when you're in the corridors. I lived on B-Curve in my first year and I found that I met a lot of my friends in the B-curve kitchen!





Frequently asked questions

Is St Aidans far away from other colleges?

No, not at all! This is a common misconception about St Aidans. It's very close to the other hill colleges and only a 2 minutes' walk from Trevelyan and Van Mildert which are our closest neighbours.

Where are the Welfare drop-in sessions held?

The Welfare drop-in sessions take place in the Welfare Room on C-Cross.

What's the difference between university-level (DU sport) and college sport?

College sport is generally a lower commitment that allows you to try new sports whereas DU sports teams compete at a university-wide level and may require trials although there are lots of DU sports teams that are open to beginners. There's also a sports fair on x to have a look at all of the sports on offer at the university. Lots of sports teams offer taster sessions for Freshers in the first few weeks of term so it's definitely worth checking out.

Where do I go to collect letters and parcels?

Letters and parcels are delivered to the plodge (porters' lodge) where you can collect them. To collect parcels, you will need to show valid ID- e.g., a driver's licence or passport.

How far away is town?

It takes around 15-20 minutes to walk into town from college.

Where do I go to do my laundry?

There are two laundry rooms at Aidans, one on B-Curve and one in the houses.

What is a JCR meeting?

A JCR meeting is when students come together to discuss relevant issues, as well as to review and vote on motions and listen to husts (people applying to Exec. or non-Exec roles within the JCR). JCR meetings take place regularly and allow JCR members to have their voices and opinions heard. These meetings are chaired by our JCR Chair, Erika.



What's Next?



- Ensure that you **register with the GP**. If you are moving to Durham from another area, it is important to change your GP. Most students register with Claypath and University Medical Group, which is the university practice. It's always good to sort this out early on so that you're registered if you ever need to see a GP. You can register at: www.durham.ac.uk/colleges-and-student-experience/welcome-and-orientation/essential-medical-information/



- **Login to your university email account** and make sure that it's all correctly set up for when term starts.

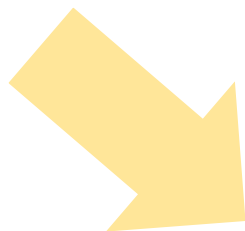


- **Organise finances**. It may be a good idea to speak with your parents or guardians as well as considering a budget so that you can manage your finances effectively.

- **Consider insurance**. Although basic contents insurance cover for your room is included as standard for student residents in all university accommodation, it may be worth getting additional insurance for your possessions, for example, in case your phone gets damaged. The insurance included with your accommodation covers some items in your room in case of theft, fire, and flood risk.

Stay in touch...

Lots of updates are given via social media so it's definitely worth following some accounts, especially during Freshers' Week.



Join our official Freshers 2023 Facebook page:

St Aidan's Freshers Official 2023

Follow our Freshers' Instagram page:

@staidansfreshers



And the JCR Instagram account:

@staidansjcr



Thanks...

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped put together this handbook.



Susan Frenk and Helen Demontes

For reviewing this handbook.



Wynn Jenkins

For organising Freshers' Week and supporting me in writing the handbook.

The Exec and Frep Team

For their contributions in putting together this handbook.



Elle Woodfield

For all of her tips and advice that really helped me write the handbook.





There's only one
aidan's college...

