

# ST AIDANS JCR

THE 2026 FRESHER'S  
HANDBOOK



**A GUIDE TO EVERYTHING  
COLLEGE AND BEYOND!**

# SOME WELCOMES...



## From the editor!

Hi guys and welcome to Aidan's! I'm Holly, your publicity officer, and also the editor of this freshers handbook! I'm a third-year studying history and politics.

Being in St Aidan's College led me to meeting my best friends and trying out new things I never would have considered before university. Going into freshers week can take you massively out of your comfort zone, but it is so worth it for the friends and experiences you can gain from it. My main advice would be to talk to as many new people as you can and try loads of new things, as this is an opportunity to discover more about yourself and your interests. Joining Netball and doing the fashion show last year has led to some of my best memories at University.

This handbook is made to give you an in-depth insight into life at both Durham and Aidans, and hopefully make it seem a bit more familiar to you. From FAQs to restaurant recommendations, we have tried to cover as many things as possible. However moving to a new place can be scary and you may want to know more so reach out to Freps or the social media pages with any questions you may have- I'm sure they will have asked the same thing at one point in their first year!

Spend the week and year enjoying yourself and making the most of everything Aidans has to offer. I won't be frepping but I am available on the Aidans social media accounts. Make sure to follow our instagram accounts and Tiktok!

Holly Kirby- Publicity Officer



# SOME WELCOMES...



## From the President!

Hey freshers! Congratulations on being allocated St Aidan's, you're in for a treat. We are so excited for you to join us and become a fellow Aidanite. I'm Emily and I will be your JCR President this year. I joined Aidan's in 2022 and have just graduated with a degree in Politics.

My time as a student at Durham has been so positively framed by my involvement and experiences with the JCR. The JCR is a community which you will make lifelong friends and memories in. We are so happy to have you with us and I sincerely hope you have an amazing time! I really urge you to make the most of everything Aidan's has to offer.



The JCR (Junior Common Room) is a huge part of life at Aidan's, and honestly, one of the best things about being here. It's both the physical space (kind of like a big, shared living room) and the student community that organises a plethora of events and activities to make your time at Aidan's both memorable and enjoyable. From sports teams and societies to balls, and a fashion show, the JCR is where so much of the fun happens. There is something for everyone and if there isn't yet, you can start something new! This is your chance to get involved, meet new people, and try new sports and societies. Please feel free to contact me at anytime if you have any sort of queries or worries. You can contact me using social media or just come and find me in college and I'll try my best to help you in any way I can. I'd also recommend joining the Aidans Overheard (SA JCR) Facebook page for a range of updates on college life and JCR democracy. I hope you're starting to feel at home already!

Emily Martin JCR President SDbTP

# SOME WELCOMES...



## From the Head Frep!

Hiya everyone, and welcome to Aidan's!

I'm Louis, your Head Frep this year, and I'm really excited to meet you all properly soon. I'm about to start my third year studying Maths, and honestly, Aidan's has made my time at Durham so far – the people, the college events, and the sense of community here are the best in Durham. Freshers' Week is such a great way to start uni, and we've been working hard to make sure there's loads going on to help you settle in, meet people, and feel at home.



Whether you're excited to get stuck into everything or feeling a bit nervous, we've got a brilliant team of Freps who'll be around all week to help however we can. There'll be a full schedule of events – a mix of big nights, relaxed stuff, and chances to get to know

Aidan's and the people in it. If you're ever unsure about where to be or just want someone to chat to, just come and grab one of us in a Frep shirt. We're all students ourselves and have been exactly where you are now. Can't wait to welcome you properly soon. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

Louis- Head Frep



# FRESHERS WEEK FAQs

ANSWERING YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS



## How do I know who the freps are?

All the FREPs will be wearing [blue shirts](#) making them very easy to identify. You may recognise them from the Aidans fresher's Instagram! Over the course of Freshers' Week, they will be around college, helping you move in, taking you on nights out and are there for any advice or questions you may need.



## Support in College

The first port of call is the FREPs. All the FREPs have had active listening training and are students themselves so they can help with things from queries to homesickness to worries about studying at university. Additionally, the entire student welfare team are frepping so you can talk to them if it is a more serious concern. The next tier of support is the Student Support & Development Team (aka college welfare team) who will also be in college all week to help you. If you have any queries or problems at all, then please go and speak to any of these individuals as we all want to help you and ensure you have the best week possible! If you don't want to speak to anyone in person, all of the social media accounts are available for you to message.

## What do we do in Freshers week?

Freshers week is designed for you to meet new people and get to know both Durham and Aidans. There is a mix of day and night events throughout the week that helps you get to know everyone in your college and settle in to Uni life. There are also ceremonies such as Matriculation. There are a range of club nights but there are also quizzes, tours and activities throughout the week so you can pick and choose what events you want to go to. We recommend spending the week making new friends and having fun whilst exploring Durham.

# FRESHERS WEEK FAQs

ANSWERING YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS



## How do I introduce myself to my corridor / house?

Introducing yourself to a whole new group of people can be daunting, but it certainly isn't something to be scared of! Remember you are all new and everyone will want to find someone to chat to, even if it is just a hello in the corridor at first. You will see people moving into your corridor so the best thing to do is start introducing yourself. There will also be a mix of new students and freps in the JCR so once you are settled in, head down there to meet new people. Most people in Aidans have stories of meeting their best friends by just sitting next to them in the dining hall!



## Will I have academic work to do?

Everyone will have department talks during Freshers' Week. It is important you go to these so make sure you check when they are! The amount of academic work you may have in Freshers' Week varies by department, but it will not be anything too intense. More often than not it will just be a small amount of work to introduce you to your modules.

## How expensive is Fresher's Week?

How expensive Freshers' Week will vary depending on what you decide to do throughout the week. The Freshers' Week events in the schedule above are included in the JCR Levy meaning that you don't have to worry about paying club entry etc if you are a jcr member. non-levy payers will have to pay for club nights.. The rest of the expenses are up to you really i.e., whether you buy drinks in the clubs, whether you go out for lunch with your new friends in the city etc. My only piece of advice, remember you do need to have enough money to last the rest of term!

# FRESHERS WEEK TOP TIPS

Advice I wish I knew in Freshers week!



## Get stuck in!

University is often referred to as 'the best days of your life' and for many people that is true. In order to make the most of Freshers Week try to talk to as many new people as you can, as these corridor conversations could turn into your closest friends. Moving to University can be very scary, and you are out of your comfort zone, but everyone is in the same boat and wants to make new friends. It is also a fun opportunity to try out new sports or societies you have never considered before. Aidan's has a great range of choices and all are welcoming to beginners.



## Stay in the loop

When I moved to Durham I had no idea about any of the events or college related things until I got there but you quickly catch up. I would recommend following Aidan's social media pages as they will regularly update you on fresher events and life at college.

@staidansjcr on instagram

@staidansfreshers on instagram

@therainbowcollege on instagram

@staidanscollegejcr on tiktok

there is also an account @mouthful.of.marys which posts the menu for catered colleges everyday

## Explore!

You will be given a tour of Durham by the Freps in freshers week and walked to club nights so you don't get lost but I would recommend that you and a group of friends go into Durham and learn your way around as it will be your home for the next few years! It will also be helpful to work out where your lectures and seminars are so you don't end up like me who accidentally sat through a third year lecture in my second week as I got lost!

Durham is a gorgeous and small city so it is easy to find your way around and you can always use the cathedral as a guide as you can see it from most points in the city!





# LIFE AT AIDANS



# ACCOMMODATION

## ALL THE INFO YOU NEED

Aidans has 4 areas of accommodation, but it is a small , tight knit college. All of the accommadations develop their own personality and reputation throughout the year- leading to constant debates about which is the 'best'

### THE CURVES

Aptly named because of the curvature of this wing of college, the Curves has two floors. The Curves has a mixture of both shared and single-bed rooms. It has shared bathrooms and kitchens. Each Curve has 6 shared bathrooms (3 male and 3 female) which contain two showers, two loos and two sinks. Additionally, each floor has two shared kitchens, a large one and a small one. Those living in the Curves have a laundry room just outside the entrance to the wing.

### THE STRAIGHTS

The Straights, once again very creatively named due to this area of college being formed from straight corridors, has three floors. All the rooms in this area of college are single single-bed rooms and have shared bathrooms and kitchens like the Curves. There is 1 shared kitchen and 2 shared bathrooms (1 male and 1 female) on each floor of the Straights. Those in the Straights share a laundry room with the Curves. The 3 different corridors are on different floors (a,b, c) and all give you a view of our famous stairs

### THE HOUSES

The Houses - you've guessed it! - are 14 houses located at the back of college around the courts. The Houses are not connected to the main building. No rooms in the Houses are shared and there are a mixture of single single-bed rooms with shared bathrooms and single double-bed rooms with ensuites. Each house has a shared kitchen. If you live in the Houses, you share a laundry room with the others living in the Houses.

### Sheraton Park

Sheraton Park accommodation is based in the Ustinov College site. This is a 20 minute walk from St Aidans.

Students who live here will be self catered. The rooms here have  $\frac{3}{4}$  beds and en-suites. There are no shared rooms but students will share kitchens with other students.

Whilst students at this satellite site will not be living physically in Aidans, they are still able to use Aidans facilities such as the library and music rooms and will be encouraged to join and participate in the JCR.





# ACCOMODATION

## ALL THE INFO YOU NEED

### What to bring to Aidan's!

**Essential:** Bedding (pillows, duvet, mattress topper, sheets, blankets etc.), towels, toiletries and medication, stationary and bag to carry your laptop/any books to classes, clothing, coats, shoes, formal wear (note: anything goes at Aidan's. This could be black tie, or something more casual. Just whatever you feel comfortable in.), coat hangers, photo ID and any important docs, debit cards and cash, decorations (posters, photos, battery-operated fairy lights), snacks.

**Optional:** Laptop/Computer, printer, cups, glasses, crockery & cutlery, cooking utensils, sports/hobby equipment, Bluetooth speaker, headphones.

**Not permitted:** Door wedges; fridges; large televisions; portable heaters; mains powered fairy lights; candles or incense; pets or animals; drinking games or paraphernalia; hotplates; combination ovens; toastie makers; coffee machines; rice cookers; pressure cookers; slow cookers, airfryers.

*If you are not sure whether something is not permitted, please check the Livers In Guide.*

### General Facilities

St Aidan's has a fantastic range of leisure facilities available for you to use. We have a **multipurpose court** and a **music room** that are available to book out for free. The college also has a multi-faith and meditation room. We also have a **college gym** open for any Aidanites with memberships to use. The gym has lots of equipment and it is a very convenient way to fit in a workout. Information on gym membership and how to pay for it will be sent out soon.

At Aidan's, we are lucky to have a 24/7 college library with lots of desk space, computers and a printer alongside a small collection of books. The college library really stands out because of its stunning view of Durham Cathedral!

# FACILITIES AT AIDAN'S



## CATERING

St Aidan's is a fully catered college meaning three meals a day are provided for you in the Dining Hall. At each meal, there are always lots of main course options and a variety of sides to go with it. Our wonderful catering staff cater to all dietary requirements from vegetarian and vegan to allergies to religious requirements. If you do have any requirements or queries, do ask the catering staff to help you.

I know a lot of you will be a little nervous about being catered as it inevitably involves finding somewhere and someone to sit with to eat meals. I assure you after the first few days, these worries will disperse. Everyone will feel the same way and within no time you will have found people to sit with, whether it be your roommate, someone from your corridor or simply people you've met on a night out. In fact, some of my fondest memories from college are from the Dining Hall whether it was us joking around, collectively grumbling about deadlines or simply discussing what our plans were for the evening. I assure you it will all be alright and if you want someone to sit with initially, please come and sit with us FREPs as we will be in the Dining Hall in Freshers' Week!

Even though we are a catered college, each area of college accommodation has a shared kitchen, so if you do fancy cooking for yourself everyone once in a while you can! As a hill college we are 20 minutes walk from the nearest shop, but luckily there is a college shop in the JCR which sells snacks, drinks, toasties and pizza!

## Meal Times

### Weekdays

Breakfast: 8:00-10:00

Lunch: 12:00- 14:00

Dinner: 17:30-19:30

### Weekends

Breakfast: 8:00 - 10:00

Brunch: 11:30 - 14:00

Dinner: 17:00 - 19:00

# FACILITIES AT AIDAN'S



## THE BAR

At Durham, each college has a bar. They all have their own reputation and many societies do college bar crawls. Here at Aidan's, our college bar is located just behind the Dining Hall and has an amazing Beer Garden with a stunning view of the Cathedral. Aidan's Bar is a great place to socialise whether you drink or not as it serves both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and holds many different events. It is used as a bar (obviously...), a place to watch sports and events like Eurovision, a place for college sports and societies socials, and a place for bar events such as the Summer Festival!

The bar is run by Karen, who is the loveliest and most helpful person, and she is always open to new events and socials being run in the space. If you have an idea, do not hesitate to get in touch with her once you're in college! For example, the amazing Paint and Sip society had some of their events in the bar this year and it is frequented by many of Aidan's societies socials.

Each college has a unique college drink (or drinks) in their bar. These drinks are used to express the college's unique identity. At Aidan's, our alcoholic college drink is 'The Badger', a Guinness mixed with an Ice VK (though many of us are partial to trying it with different flavour VKs!). Aidan's Bar also frequently introduces new, delicious non-alcoholic mocktails every now and then to cater to everyone's tastes.



The above pictures are from 'Summer Fest,' one of my personal favourite bar-run events in Aidan's !

# PEOPLE



## Friendly Faces that are here to help!

At St Aidan's the collaborative and mutually respectful working relationship between students and the college is central to our community. The college staff are not part of the JCR but rather integral to the running of the college. Here is a brief introduction to these individuals, but you will almost certainly have met them all by the end of your first week in college.

### College Officers

Dr Susan Frenk, College Principal (@ [s.f.frenk@durham.ac.uk](mailto:s.f.frenk@durham.ac.uk))

Mr Shane McHugh, College Administration Co-ordinator (@ [shane.a.mchugh@durham.ac.uk](mailto:shane.a.mchugh@durham.ac.uk))

Dr Christopher X, Vice Principal (@ [christopher.c.jones@durham.ac.uk](mailto:christopher.c.jones@durham.ac.uk))

Luca Hazlesgreaves, College Co-ordinator ([luca.e.hazlereaves@durham.ac.uk](mailto:luca.e.hazlereaves@durham.ac.uk))

### Student Support and Development Team

*The student support team are here for you in any aspect of your life at Durham. Whether this be to help navigate a personal issue that is impacting your life and studies, or to help co-ordinate with your academic department, you can rely on the student support team. They were hugely helpful to me when I was navigating some difficulties in second year, so I can vouch for their effectiveness!*

Kate Anderson, Assistant Principal (@ [kate.a.anderson@durham.ac.uk](mailto:kate.a.anderson@durham.ac.uk))

Dr Fiona Kaley, Assistant Student Support Officer (@ [fiona.m.kaley@durham.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.m.kaley@durham.ac.uk))

AJ Fraser, Student Support Administrator ([alana.j.fraser@durham.ac.uk](mailto:alana.j.fraser@durham.ac.uk))

### Operations

*The college operations team enable the college to work effectively, safely, and smoothly. They have a close working relationship with the JCR, in order to co-ordinate events and are always on hand to help.*

John Hutchinson, Community Operations Team Leader (@ [john.hutchinson@durham.ac.uk](mailto:john.hutchinson@durham.ac.uk))

Lesley Peak, Community Operations Manager (@ [l.p.peak@durham.ac.uk](mailto:l.p.peak@durham.ac.uk))

Diane Walker, Food & Beverages Manager (@ [d.p.walker@durham.ac.uk](mailto:d.p.walker@durham.ac.uk))



# COLLEGE LIFE FAQs

## ANSWERING YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS

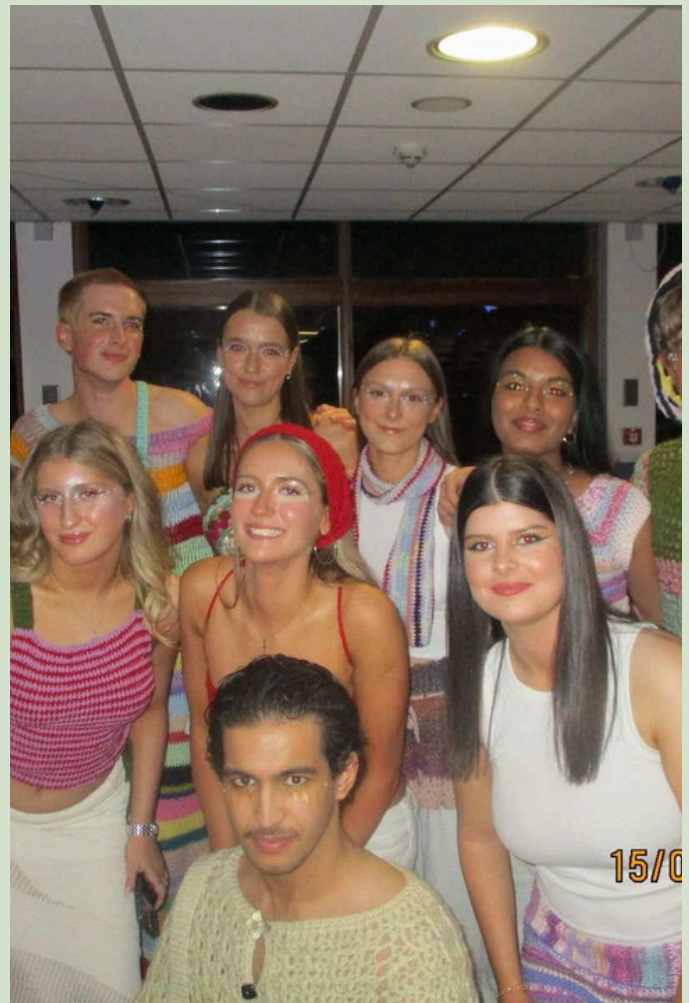


### What is the WiFi like at Aidan's?

The WiFi is generally quite good at Aidan's. There can be the odd glitch where it doesn't work very quickly, but on the whole, it works well!

### How does laundry work?

A video should have been circulated telling you how to use the laundry rooms located next to F House and B Curve. Any problems find one of the Frep Team to try and help you. We use circuit laundry at Aidans so make sure to download that app.



### How do I collect letters/parcels?

The Porters will place your letters into the alphabetised pigeon holes (organised according to surname) found next to the Plodge. Parcels can be collected from the Plodge 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.



# SPORTS AND SOCIETIES

a spotlight on a range of clubs



**SACNC**- St Aidans College Netball Club (which I would argue is the best club in Aidans) Netball has weekly socials and this year their B team won the `College Plate! SACNC is open to beginners and non-playing members. They also host a yearly dinner and tour.

**SACLAX**- St Aidans mixed lacrosse, who have been the reigning champs in the college league, have weekly training sessions and are open to anyone wanting to play

## SACRFC

St Aidans College Rugby - they also have weekly socials and compete in floodlights and in division 1 of the college Rugby League.

## SAC AFC

St Aidans college football- with a range of teams in different divisions they welcome players of all abilities and also host weekly socials

## HWAFC

Haidans Womens football- Joint with Hatfield our womens football club also competes in floodlights and college games

## SACHC

St Aidans College Hockey Club - offering weekly socials and training nights this club also competes against other colleges with strong men and womens teams

## Societies

**Fashion Society**- Fashion society is comprised of students who model, plan or help out in our annual charity fashion show

**ACT**- Aidans College Theatre Society, a newly created society for anyone interested in theatre and musicals



## Joining in

Aidans has a large range of societies and there will be a sports and societies fair during freshers week where you will be able to see the range Aidans offers, talk to current members and sign up.

Societies are a great way to make long lasting friendships, stay active and get involved with the Aidans community. If there is a society that is inactive or not yet created, we are constantly making new societies and you should enquire to set it up.

# DURHAM LIFE FAQs

## ANSWERING YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS



### Does my college matter?

Durham has 17 colleges and they all have their own reputations. Your college, however, doesn't impact your academics or seminar groups. It is true that everyone becomes 'college proud' very quickly and ends up loving their college due to the friends and experiences it gives them. There are also opportunities to meet people from other colleges through your course and university wide societies.

### What events are there?

Durham has a wide range of events throughout the year. Some are fashion shows, such as DUCFS, which has over 4,000 attendees. We also have a range of sporting events such as the Regatta, Varsity and Hill vs Bailey matches. This year will see the return of the Lumineer lights festival as well!



### What are the best spots in Durham?

Durham has a range range of resturants and cafes to visit. Here are some personal favourites that are tasty and affordable are:

- La Spaghetta (also reffered to as Spags)

This is a very popular and affordable italian restaurant in town centre

- Flat White Kitchen

This is known as the go to brunch spot in durham but get there early on weekends and is can be very busy!

- Chapters

This is most students go to for a coffee catch up as it is right in the centre of town!



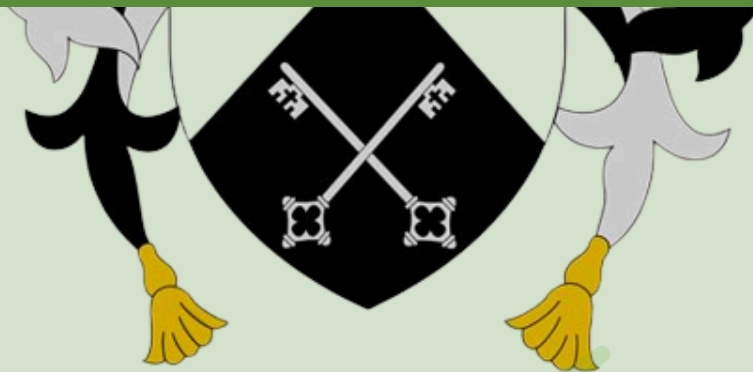
# COLLEGE IN PICTURES

FROM THE STUDENT POV





# THE JCR





# WHAT IS THE JCR?

## A QUICK SUMMARY

The JCR is a central part of your college and university experience, so let me fill you in on what a JCR is and what it can do for you. The term 'JCR' stands for Junior Common Room. The JCR is a **student organisation** that puts students at **the center of the decision-making process** as well as providing student welfare services, events like formals and balls & the funds for college sports and societies. These events and services are student-central. They are organised and run by students and decisions regarding them are made either by elections or elected committees.

At Durham, each college has a JCR. Every college JCR is structured and run completely differently and these differences create a unique identity for each JCR. Here at Aidan's, the St Aidan's Junior Common Room (SA JCR) is both a physical space and a student run charity whose members are both undergraduate and postgraduate Aidanites.



### The Physical JCR

The JCR is located between the 'Plodge' (Porters' Lodge) and the Dining Hall, and it is the center of college life as it is a multipurpose space used for a range of events and functions.

On the average day, Aidanites often use the JCR as a space to chill, study and hang out with friends. But, the JCR is also the space where we host various events throughout the year. Each term, several JCR meetings, live lounges and karaoke nights are held within the JCR and on more special occasions, it is turned into a college wedding chapel or a silent disco and so much more!

The JCR contains various facilities too. It is home to vending machines, several indoor sports facilities (pool tables, a table tennis table and darts boards), a Wii, beanbags and - most importantly - the Aidan's Shop!





# WHAT IS THE JCR?

## A QUICK SUMMARY



After years of hard work, the St Aidan's JCR has recently become – like some other JCRs at Durham – an independent registered charity. As a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), the SA JCR is independent from the college. Although we still collaborate and work alongside the college, this independence means that the JCR is truly a student organisation run by students for students.

Our objectives as a charity are to:

1. Promote the interests and welfare of students at St Aidan's College.
2. Be recognised as a representative channel between students and St Aidan's College and other external bodies.
3. Provide social, sporting, cultural and recreational activities and forums for discussion and debate for students at St Aidan's.

Put simply, the SAJCR has three main roles: a representational body for the students at St Aidan's, an events management organisation & a sports and leisure organisation. Being a representational body means that the JCR supports and 'sticks up' for students at St Aidan's whether that be at college, at the Students' Union or even at a university level regarding a wide range of things. Essentially, this means that we are on your side and here to help you.

Events management involves organising and funding things like formals and balls & student welfare services.

Last but certainly not least, being a sports and leisure organisation means that the JCR funds and organises the many sporting and societies opportunities available at St Aidan's. The JCR funds these through the money raised from the JCR Levy.

### The Levy

JCR Levy is a one-time payment of £200.00 that covers your entire degree – up until the day you graduate. The Levy is a voluntary payment, but we would encourage all new Aidanites to pay it so that they can become members who benefit from its perks and fully immerse into college life. You can either get a year long membership or pay for 3 years.

# JCR DEMOCRACY

## A QUICK SUMMARY

As mentioned, the JCR is run by students for students. There are three levels of student involvement in the JCR structure:

### **1. Trustees:**

As a charity, the JCR has a Board of Trustees who ensure that it runs smoothly and that the JCR Exec comply to regulations. This Board consist of both external trustees (non-students) and student trustees. The student trustees include three members of the JCR Exec (President; Compliance Officer; Treasurer) and a Student Trustee elected by JCR members. Having current Aidanites on the Board of Trustees means we can ensure that our voice is recognised and considered.

### **2. JCR Executive Committee & Committees:**

The JCR Executive Committee – better known as the Exec – consists of Aidanites who have been elected by the members of the JCR to undertake their roles. Except for the President (a graduate in a paid sabbatical role), the Exec are all student volunteers who work hard to ensure you have the best experiences. We organize everything from sports to formals to tech to the college magazine. You will shortly be given a 'whose who' of the Exec and their specific role for the JCR.

The members of the Exec each run a committee relating to their role. Each committee is structured and run differently and has different roles within it, with its members being either interviewed or elected. These committees' members are integral to the functioning of the JCR and the events that are put on. The committee each Exec member runs is mentioned in their introduction but if you want more information about specific committees then check out the JCR website or contact the Exec member who runs the committee your interested in!

### **3. JCR Meetings & Elections:**

All the members of the JCR have their voices and opinions heard at the JCR meetings held throughout the year. These meeting are chaired by our JCR Chair, Diya. At JCR meetings, Exec Officer Reports are given on what members of the Exec have recently been working on, announcement of events and relevant updates. Then Motions can be proposed by any member of the JCR about anything from setting up a society to proposing something for the JCR to buy to introducing a greener policy. Then Husts and Elections for positions are given by those running. Finally the Meeting is rounded with with AOBS (any other business).

There are three JCR Meetings in Michaelmas and Epiphany term & two in Easter term held on a Sunday evening in the JCR. I would highly recommend going to the meetings to ensure that democracy is upheld but also because you also get free pizza!

# MORE ABOUT THE JCR



## Independence: what is it and what does it mean for you?

In 2018, Aidan's voted to become independent from the University, and full independence was achieved in 2021 after extensive negotiations. The JCR has operated as an independent charity since 2022

## Why?

We chose independence due to repeated issues, including a lack of student consultation and financial control. Aidans also showed strong support for independence in the 2018 referendum.

## Benefits of independence:

- The jcr is autonomous and controls their own finances, events and decisions
- As we control finances we are able to manage our own bank account and use card readers in the jcr shops
- We have a board of trustees who guide and support the JCR
- Students running the JCR allows for our voices to be heard and is great experience for exec members
- There are multiple methods of accountability both for the exec members and for the university
- The JCR is also flexible and strong student opinions can really make a difference





# MEET THE EXEC

## AND A FEW WORDS FROM THEM....



### JCR CHAIR: Diya Sura

Hi everyone! My name is Diya, and I'm responsible for the democratic running of the JCR. This entails overseeing everything to make sure things are fair, updating our Operating Policies and Procedures, and running JCR meetings and interviews for all JCR positions. I encourage all Freshers to get involved in the JCR in any way possible! Whether that's running for a role, joining committee, or just showing up to the JCR meetings, the experience is so rewarding, and a lot of fun. The JCR is at the heart of St Aidan's, and has been a massive part of my first year at Durham - it helped me meet so many friends, and fostered a huge sense of community for me! Go and follow @aidanschair on Instagram for updates about elections, upcoming meetings, and opportunities, and request to join 'Aidan's Overheard' on Facebook! Please feel free to reach out to me at any point throughout the year with any questions - I'm more than happy to help

### SOCIALS CHAIR: Alannah Mckee

Hi! I'm Alannah, your Socials Chair, which basically means I get to plan all the fun stuff! From organising our iconic Winter and Summer Balls, to putting together Bops, themed nights, and even our "college marriages". I'm here to make sure you always have something to look forward to. We're always looking for new ideas and friendly faces to join the committee - so please don't hesitate to come have a chat or even join the committee! I'm looking forward to celebrating our vibrant college life through all of our upcoming events this year!



### COMPLIANCE OFFICER: Ben Hobbs

Hi there, my name's Ben and I'll be the JCR's Compliance Officer for this academic year. The role involves me holding to account the actions of the Board of Trustees and the Exec, thus ensuring that the JCR meets the legal requirements that being a charity entails as well as the expectations set out in our constitution, including the maintenance of our independence from the college. I also oversee our compliance to Health & Safety and do the minutes for JCR meetings on Sundays.



# MEET THE EXEC

## AND A FEW WORDS FROM THEM....



### SHOP CHAIR: Martha Deyermond

Hi I'm Martha and i am the interim shop chair. Along with being the perfect place to grab an evening snack, or stock up on uni essentials, Aidans shop is also a social hub with an action-packed calendar throughout the year. Last year, we were instrumental in supporting language events, hill pride, and every single JCR meeting. Your time at Aidans will run hand-in-hand with your time around the shop - and if you can't get enough, there'll be opportunities to join our friendly staff in paid roles behind the counter!

### SPORTS AND SOCIETIES OFFICER: Rohan Patel

Hi my name is Rohan and my role entails organising sports and societies at St Aidans college. I will be organising a Freshers fair for all societies and sports during your fresher week so you can join any societies that you like. If no societies are your cup of tea, then you can always have a chat with me to organise your own society. My biggest message to all freshers is please a join a society or sport ! Life at St Aidans is heightened when you have a mini family within this massive community. My main role during the year is to make sure everyone has training slots and games run smoothly. Alongside that I will organise sport events and other activities for charity in order to help a range of different causes. From a personal standpoint, many of my highlights have come from joining a sport and societies with weekly socials with sports teams alongside games. And with the tours at the end of the academic year, your time at St Aidans will only get better throughout the year. Please follow the @staidanssports account on Instagram and send me message if you have any questions about sports and societies at St Aidans College. Or feel free to contact me on my personal instagram @rohan.p103



### TREASURER: Jake Burden

Hello, my name is Jake Burden, and I am Treasurer of the JCR. My day-to-day role typically consists of processing payments and reimbursements, but I am also involved in drafting the yearly budget, sitting in the Board of Trustees, and delivering termly updates. The JCR is the ideal way to meet new people, participate in sports and societies, as a playing and social member of rugby and football, it was sports that allowed me to integrate myself easily into college life. But I would recommend everyone tries to get themselves involved into anything they have an interest in, and the more the better. One piece of advice? Probably to buy the levy - it's a cost-effective solution if you are wanting to attend balls and events throughout your time here, and it helps us to fund everything from subsidising sports subs to the participation fund (a scheme to help those in need of financial support). Also, if you're looking to run for a position in the JCR, which I highly recommend, purchasing the levy and becoming a member is a requirement. If you have any questions, do reach out. My email is Treasurer@st-aidans.com, and my personal Instagram is @jakeburden.\_. I'm looking forward to meeting you all!





# MEET THE EXEC

## AND A FEW WORDS FROM THEM....

### TECH CHAIR: Tom Haigh

Hi my name is Tom and im the tech chair at Aidan's. My role involves me leading the Tech Committee. We are responsible for ensuring our tech equipment is up to date, as well as permitting it to be rented out to other colleges for a small fee. We also make ensure that there is always a team of volunteers available to plan, setup, and run the technical aspects of college events, both big and small. This includes staging, lighting, audio and anything else that might be required to ensure the smooth running of an event. Tech committee also works closely with the other committees of the JCR to help run any events that they might want to hold.



### Outreach Chair: Hannah Charlotte

Hello! My name is Hannah and I am the Outreach Officer. This relates to charity, engagement in our Aidan's community and stash! I run volunteering schemes, aim to engage students in wider college life, and release a stash drop each term (Redbird and Canterbury!). We have lots of roles open within the committee so please get involved! Feel free to email me with any queries you might have, about Outreach or college life in general



[outreach@st-aidans.com](mailto:outreach@st-aidans.com)



### ECO CHAIR: Thom Wheeler

Hi, I'm Thom Wheeler, and I am the Eco Chair.

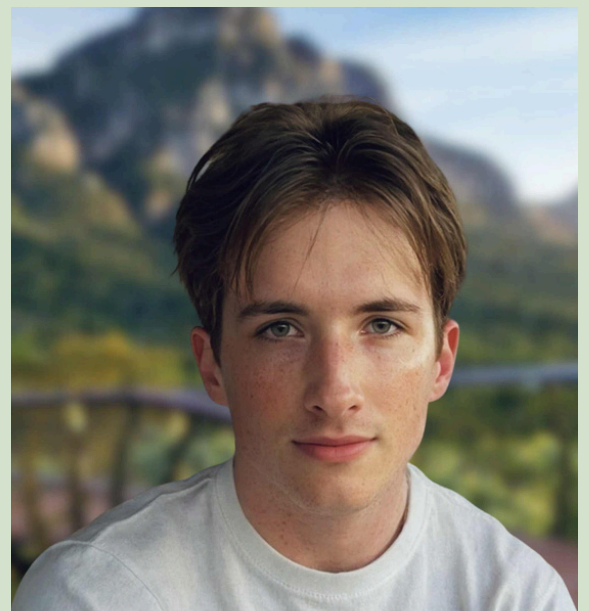
Eco chair is a newly created position, added in response to the JCR's commitment to improving environmental sustainability within the college. The role consists of two main responsibilities: First, to oversee and implement the college's environmental policies, ensuring that sustainable practices are encouraged and maintained across all areas of college life. This includes engaging with university-wide green initiatives.

The second responsibility is to engage the college community in sustainability efforts by raising awareness, organising eco-friendly events, and promoting long-term behavioural changes that align with environmental goals. The Eco Chair is also the public face of sustainability.

If you want to get involved with the JCR, join EcoComm- the committee that oversees the college's environmental policies.

### ST AIDANS WELFARE: Seb Boeddinghaus

Hi everyone and welcome to Aidans! I'm Seb and along with the other welfare officers it's my job to help you with everything related to student support at college. Moving out and starting uni can be daunting and the most important thing to remember is that there is a lot of support if you ask for it. Whether you want a quiet space outside the stress of uni or you want to ask about something you're struggling with and not sure where to go, I'm here to help. The welfare room is open most evenings with someone to listen or just have a cup of tea with and anyone on the team can help discuss all the options for student support that Durham has. We also organise lots of college events ranging from board game evenings and guest speakers to picnics and pub quizzes and they are always open to everyone! I really recommend coming along to get to know everyone in college throughout the year. I know there's a lot of information coming at you from every direction so feel free to pop me an email at [welfare@st-aidans.com](mailto:welfare@st-aidans.com) with any questions (there are no stupid questions!) and definitely follow our instagram @staidanswelfare where we advertise events and share helpful information. See you soon!





# LIFE IN DURHAM



# CAMPUS LOCATIONS

## ALL THE INFO YOU NEED

### Teaching & Learning Centre

The Teaching & Learning Centre - referred to as the TLC - is located opposite the Science Site and next to Mary's. It is an alternative study space to the Billy B and is often considered the more chill of the two. However, the TLC does not contain any academic texts. You may also have some lectures and seminars in the TLC. Walk time from Aidan's approx. 8 minutes.

### Science Site

If you are studying STEM, Politics or Human Sciences, most of your lectures and tutorials will take place at buildings located at the Science Site. Walk time from Aidan's approx. 10 minutes.



### The Bill Bryson Library

Located on the Science Site, the Bill Bryson - more affectionately known as the Billy B - is Durham's main library. It has 1800 student study spaces located across 4 floors. There are collaborative work spaces, computer spaces and you can even book private study rooms. The Billy B is home to thousands of academic texts and will likely become a second home to humanities students. It is also where you can access help from the IT Services Help Desk. Top Tip: get there early during exam/summative season to secure a seat. Walk time from Aidan's approx. 10 minutes

### Elvert Riverside

For Humanities students, some of your lectures will be held in Elvert Riverside. This is located next to the Student Union and the main town, so it is conveniently placed for a post lecture coffee. Walk time from Aidan's approx. 20 minutes.

### Palace Green

Palace Green is located between the Cathedral and Durham Castle. It is the location of most of the Arts and Humanities departments like History, Music, Classics and Theology. There is also a smaller library on Palace Green, however the departments on Palace Green often have their own small libraries for students studying their subject. Walk time from Aidan's approx. 15-25 depending on the route taken.



# DURHAM

## ALL THE INFO YOU NEED

### Nightline

A confidential listening service which is open everyday during term time from 9pm to 7am. You can anonymously use this service to talk through any problems with someone on the other side of the line simply being there to listen to you. Think of it as a safe place where you can vent whatever you may be feeling. Their phone number is on the back of your campus card and it may be a good idea to add it as a contact in your phone.



### Support in Durham

Durham has multiple layers of student support available.

For academic issues, your first point of call should be to your academic advisor or department. There are also multiple forms of welfare support in departments, colleges and through the JCR and you should speak to whoever you feel most comfortable with. Our JCR welfare team are all trained and operate welfare hours in college throughout the week.

# DURHAM

## ALL THE INFO YOU NEED

### **The Student's Union**

As a Durham student you are automatically a member of the Students' Union (SU). The SU is democratically run, with its officers being elected by the students. The decisions of the SU are undertaken through elections voted upon by representatives from each college.

The SU offers lots of university wide societies which you can join. These range from academic to arts to food & drink to religious and so much more. These societies are a great way to make friends outside of college as well as a brilliant way to either continue a passion you already have or find a new one! You will get a chance to find out more about the societies the SU offer at the SU Freshers' Fair on Wednesday 20/09, but of course before then you can always look at the SU website ([durhamsu.com](http://durhamsu.com)) to learn more about the societies available for you to join!

### **Associations**

The SU Associations provide university-wide representation for traditionally underrepresented groups or those who have been frequently subject to discrimination. There are associations for: People of Colour; International Students; LGBT+ Students; Trans Students; Students with Disabilities; Mature Students; Working Class Students. They provide a space where students who identify with one or more of these groups can come together, discuss issues affecting them and campaign to improve their student experience. For more information on these or to join these associations please visit: [www.durhamsu.com/associations](http://www.durhamsu.com/associations)

### **Advice Service**

If you feel you cannot address a serious problem within your university life with the JCR or that the college cannot give you sufficient support, the SU Advice Service is another support system in place for you. It is independent from the University and can offer impartial advice and advocacy for any students at Durham.

# DURHAM

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EDITOR

### RESTAURANTS

#### ITALIAN

##### Rudy's

A relatively new addition to Durham, Rudy's quickly became a favourite of the student population. Amazing pizzas for a reasonable price with very cute interiors, perfect for romantic or friend dates! I hear they also hire Durham students as well so keep a look out for openings....

##### Spag's

A Durham classic, Spags is an affordable Italian with a great atmosphere - need I say more!

#### **Pubs: a list of student favourites**

- The Swan
- The Three Bridges (also known as 'Thridges')
- Waterhouse
- and of course Wetherspoons

#### **Quick lunch or dinner option**

Subway, Greggs, Starbucks etc

If you want to treat yourself whilst in town and get an easy lunch or dinner there are a lot of affordable and quick options

### Places to take parents

**If your parents come up to Durham to check out your University life, here are the top places to show them in Durham (bar obviously a tour of Aidans):**

#### **The Cathedral**

Durham's Cathedral- being both a UNESCO world heritage site and the key feature of the city, makes it a great place to show visiting family members. It has a cafe, gift shop and gorgeous features inside.

#### **Dragonville Retail Park**

Located in Gilesgate, most students are less than willing to walk all the way uphill however it does have the closest McDonalds, KFC, Dunelm, Lidl and Big Tesco so this could be an opportunity to stock up on snacks

#### **Around the University**

Durham is a walkable city and many parents will appreciate seeing where you spend your day to day. This way you can give them a guided tour of your first year at university and stop off at the restaurants along the way!





# A 'SEE YOU LATER' FROM THE EXEC



**GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE!**

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR FRESHERS WEEK AND THE NEXT 3 YEARS AT ST AIDANS COLLEGE, IT'S A GREAT COMMUNITY! MAKE SURE YOU SPEND TIME ENJOYING IT, AS 3 YEARS GOES VERY QUICKLY! AIDANS IS A GREAT PLACE TO MEET YOUR BEST FRIENDS AND TRY NEW THINGS.

**-THE 2025 EXEC**

