

ST AIDANS JCR

THE FRESHER'S HANDBOOK



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

SOME WELCOMES...



From the editor!

Hi guys and welcome to Aidan's! I'm Charlotte, your outgoing publicity officer, and also the editor of this fresher's handbook. I do English Literature at Durham, but I am currently on a year abroad in Paris. Whilst at Durham, I was the social sec of St Aidan's Netball (SACNC, obviously the best club in the college...) the pres of the pub quiz society and attempted to do my degree as well!



This handbook should give you an overview of life at Aidans, answering any questions or helping with any teething problems you might have at the start of Fresher's Week. It will explain key parts of Aidan's life, such as the JCR, Sports and Socs and events, as well as operational bits about the college. Hopefully this should enable you to really hit the ground running in the first week, as it truly is such a fun time.

Although I'm not physically in Durham, I am always on hand to help remotely so please feel free to message the Aidan's JCR Instagram (@staidansjcr), and either the President or I can answer any questions.

Finally, have the most fantastic Fresher's Week. Please do lean on your Freps, throw yourself into any activities, join sports and societies, and have as much fun as possible! First year is such a fun time, and I am already jealous of you all getting to experience it for the first time....

Lots of Aidan's love,

Charlotte xxx

SOME WELCOMES...



From the President!

Hi everyone and a warm welcome to Aidans! We're all excited for you to join us and become an Aidanite yourself. My name is Joe and I will be your JCR president this year. I originally joined Aidans in 2020 studying Liberal Arts, and have just finished a Masters in English. For me, Aidans has been more than just my college at university, as it has been my sports team, the fashion show, friendship groups, and lifelong memories, and I hope all of you get the most out of your Durham and Aidans journey.



The JCR, or junior common room is what really makes Aidans. It is both the physical space which Aidans takes up, and the organisation which shapes your student experience and offers you all sorts of areas to get involved in. From a diverse range of sports and societies to balls, and events the JCR is one of the best places to get involved and meet new people. I encourage you all to throw yourself into anything that takes your fancy. There is something for everybody, and you can even create new societies if you feel there is a gap to be filled. Feel free to contact me at anytime if you have any sort of queries or worries, whether on social media, in person or by email, 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.

I hope you all settle in quickly and enjoy your time as an Aidanite!
Joe Kelly, JCR President

FRESHERS WEEK FAQs

ANSWERING YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS



How do I know who the freps are?

All the FREPs will be wearing **burgundy shirts** making them very easy to identify.

Over the course of Freshers' Week, you will get to know the FREPs really well as we will be milling around college in the day, taking you on nights out and more often than not embarrassing ourselves for your (and our) amusement!



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!

Do I have to go clubbing?

Absolutely not! A whole week of going clubbing is only for the brave and most of you will want a few breaks throughout the week. If you don't fancy going out clubbing, there will be chill activities for you to join in at college every time such as Paint and Sip, film nights and bracelet making! I promise you will make just as many friends and have just as much fun on a night in at college as going out clubbing!

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. My best advice is put a post-it note on your door with your name and subject on it, prop your door open and to regularly go into your corridor's/house's kitchen to see who is in there. These simple tips are an easy way to start making small talk and in no time you will have made a few new acquaintances (and soon friends) in your corridor/house!



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. 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!



LIFE AT AIDANS



ACCOMODATION

ALL THE INFO YOU NEED

THE CURVES

Aptly named because of the curvature of this wing of college, the Curves has two floors and is known for being a very sociable area of college. 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 HOUSES

The Houses - you've guessed it! - are 14 houses located at the back of college. 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.



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.

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!

Meal Times

Weekdays

Breakfast: 8:00-10:00

Lunch: 11:45- 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. 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 new Paint and Sip society had some of their events in the bar this year.

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 flavours 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)

Mr Shane McHugh, College Administration Co-ordinator (@ shane.a.mchugh@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)

Dr Fiona Kaley, Assistant Student Support Officer (@ fiona.m.kaley@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)

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

Diane Walker, Food & Beverages Manager (@ 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



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.

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.

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, Emma. 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!

MEET THE EXEC

AND A FEW WORDS FROM THEM....



JCR CHAIR: EMMA MERCER

Hi everyone! I'm Emma, the JCR Chair, and I'm responsible for the democratic running of the JCR, overseeing everything to ensure fairness whilst upholding our operating policies and procedures. The Chair is also in charge of running JCR meetings and interviews for all JCR positions so don't hesitate to reach out (chair@st-aidans.com).

SOCIALS CHAIR: ELYS WALKER

Hi, my names Elys and I'm the socials chair for 2024. As socials chair, I'm the head of the Socials Committee (SocCom for short!) and we organise and run a variety of JCR events, such as Winter ball, Summer Ball and college marriages. Keep an eye on our instagrams ([@staidanssocials](https://www.instagram.com/staidanssocials) and [@staidansballs](https://www.instagram.com/staidansballs)) for all the information about our events!



COMPLIANCE OFFICER: MARTHA DEYERMOND

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 Executive Committee. Within both roles, I have to ensure that we comply (it's in the name!) with charity law and our governing documents. Outside of this, I help plan for the future and manage the charity's operation, while guaranteeing our independence and democratic values are protected. If you have any questions about how the JCR operates both internally and as a charity, let me know!

MEET THE EXEC

AND A FEW WORDS FROM THEM....



SHOP CHAIR: OLLY HUTLEY

Hi, my name is Olly and I'm the Shop Chair at St Aidan's. This means I run the shop in our JCR, where most first years living in college will socialise and have access to a wide array of food and drinks, so if your reading this make sure to spend your time at college in the JCR! I also play rugby for college and box in Durham.

SPORTS AND SOCIETIES OFFICER: LEONIE ROWE

Hey Aidan's freshers! I'm Leonie, your Sports and Societies Officer (SSO) for 24/25! I look after Aidan's wide range of Sports teams and Societies, ensuring they are well-run and successful during the year. We have a wide range of Sports and Societies on offer at Aidan's which everyone can get involved with. As SSO, I plan and run events throughout the year, such as Aidan's -Mildert Varsity (a day where we play our neighbours, Van Mildert in almost every sport), Photo Day, and Sports and Societies Formal. The Sports and Socs Formal involves the distribution of awards commemorating the achievements of individuals and teams from our Sports and Societies during the year, which is a hugely popular social event allowing all of Aidan's to get together and celebrate!



TREASURER: BEN ROUSE

Hi I'm Ben and I'm a fourth year chemistry student and the treasurer of this JCR. My role involves managing the day to day finances of the JCR, paying invoices, compiling reports and creating our budget. I manage a committee that has plenty of roles available if you're interested in finance in general or how the charity sector works! I'm also co-captain of the mighty SAC AFC third team in my free time and we are always looking for new players, so please feel free to ask any questions you have about that.

MEET THE EXEC

AND A FEW WORDS FROM THEM....

TECH CHAIR: HARVEY BALAAM

The Tech Chair, with the help of the Tech Committee, is responsible for all things Tech at Aidan's. One of the biggest duties is organising and running sound, lighting, and any other tech that might be required for the different JCR events throughout the year, and liaising with external providers for larger events such as our Independence and Summer Balls. Such events might include setting up lighting and headphones for a silent disco, putting together staging, amps, and instruments for bands, or organising microphones and speakers for our JCR meetings. There's also more day-to-day tasks, like hiring out tech from our extensive store, keeping it all up-to-date, PAT tested, repaired and/or replaced, and most difficult of all: keeping the storeroom tidy!

Along with the Tech Committee's IT Officer, as well as the JCR's Publicity Officer, the Tech Chair also oversees the JCR website. This includes hosting the site and managing the domain, as well as the site's content itself. Together with the IT Officer the Tech Chair additionally helps to resolve any technical issues that Aidanites might face when it comes to IT at Aidan's and the wider University. TechComm is always looking to welcome new members, so feel free to send me an email to hear about any roles that might be available!

ST AIDANS WELFARE

Welcome to the St Aidan's College community! As the JCR welfare committee, we want to introduce ourselves and explain what we do.

We are all student volunteers who work to maintain your wellbeing so that you can thrive in all aspects of university life. We run campaign weeks to highlight key issues that you or your peers around you may be facing. Campaign weeks consist of fun, inclusive events and informative posts on our instagram. Throughout the year, we are also available to anyone for a drop-in hour. Here you can chat about anything that might be bothering or worrying you and we are there as a listening ear. Drop-in hours are confidential, non-judgemental and non-advisory although we can direct you to further support if you ever want.

We are so looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our college! If you have any questions or think welfare might be something you want to be a part of, don't hesitate to email us at

welfare@st-aidans.com and check our instagram @staidanswelfare.

All the best

St Aidan's JCR Welfare Team



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 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. Walk time from Aidan's approx. 10 minutes

Student Union

For Humanities students, some of your lectures will be held in the Students' Union building, a famous example of brutalist architecture. The SU Building also has study spaces and a café-bar which has pool tables and darts boards. 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.



Night-cab

This is a taxi service run by the SU which operates within a two-mile radius of Durham city centre. This service offers a way to get you home safely in the evening. It runs from 9pm to 2am Monday to Saturday and 9pm to 11pm on a Sunday in term time, and costs £3 a person. It may be useful to put their phone number (07922 648802) in your phone just in case you need it.

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) 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

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!

BURGERS

Fat Hippo

Undoubtedly, Fat Hippo has the best burgers in Durham as well as a delicious selection of milkshakes.

ASIAN FUSION

The Rabbit Hole

Whilst one of the more expensive restaurants on this list, TRH is possibly my favourite place in Durham. Amazing food, lovely interiors and a great spot for a special occasion dinner.

Zen

Located opposite the SU on Elvet Crescent, Zen is an amazing Thai restaurant which offers a range of delicious dishes. Another slightly more expensive one, but again is lovely for a special occasion or a visit from parents.

MEXICAN

Zap's

A real favourite for me to meet up with friends in between classes (close to Elvet Riverside). Relatively cheap with amazing burritos.

DURHAM

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EDITOR

CAFES

Chapters

One of my personal favourite cafes, Chapters is located on Elvet Bridge, just opposite the infamous Jimmy Allen's nightclub. Although it can get busy on the weekends, Chapters is the perfect spot for a bit of people watching and a bacon sandwich!

Whitechurch

Located just opposite the Billy B, Whitechurch is the perfect place for a cheeky coffee if you want to procrastinate during a library sesh.

Flat White:

A Durham classic, Flat White often has large queues for good reason! Its brunches are unmatched, and it offers the perfect place to take an aesthetic photo or two.

Honourable mentions: Riverview Kitchen and Vennels.

PUBS

The Swan

An absolute Durham institution, the Swan sits just on the river. A pub for all seasons, its interiors are cozy in the winter whilst its beer garden provides a lovely place to sit and chat after exams in the summer.

The City and the Half Moon

I've put these together as they are located right next to each other! The Half Moon is great for watching live sport with its outdoor screens, and the City has a student discount which is always worth asking about.



A 'SEE YOU LATER' FROM THE EDITOR



Thanks to everyone who has read through to this point – it is a lot of information to take in!

As I was putting this together, it just made me realise how much of a wonderful experience living and studying at Durham truly is. I hope each and every single one of you has a fantastic first year and makes the most of the city and all the things that are unique about the uni.

As I'm not here this year (living that Paris life is such a struggle...) I am relying on you ALL to keep my college thriving. I can't wait to get back and see what you've done with the place.

A special thank you to my friends for letting me use pics of our time at uni in this book.

See you in 2025.

Charlotte x

p.s. join SACNC and I'll meet you even sooner (@aidansnetball)

