

# **Grey College Alternative Handbook 2026**



# ~ Contents ~

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Who Should I Contact?          | 3  |
| Welcomes                       | 4  |
| Map of Grey                    | 8  |
| Map of Durham                  | 9  |
| Durham Dictionary              | 10 |
| What is a JCR?                 | 12 |
| JCR Finances & The Access Fund | 13 |
| Meet the Exec                  | 16 |
| MCR                            | 19 |
| Sports and Societies           | 20 |
| Areas around College           | 23 |
| College Traditions             | 26 |
| Events at Grey                 | 28 |
| Freps                          | 29 |
| Welfare                        | 32 |
| Reps Comm                      | 34 |
| SCR                            | 36 |
| Chaplain of the Hill Colleges  | 37 |
| Key Places in Durham           | 38 |
| Food and Drink                 | 40 |
| Newcastle                      | 42 |
| The North East                 | 43 |
| Frequently Asked Questions     | 44 |
| You are my Sunshine            | 46 |
| Our Unofficial College Song    | 47 |

# ~ Who Should I Contact? ~

## Emails

President - [grey.president@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.president@durham.ac.uk)

FACSO - [grey.treasurer@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.treasurer@durham.ac.uk)

Senior Frep - [grey.frep@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.frep@durham.ac.uk)

Vice President - [grey.vicepresident@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.vicepresident@durham.ac.uk)

JCR Welfare - [grey.jcrwelfare@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.jcrwelfare@durham.ac.uk)

College Principal (Sonia Virdee) - [grey.principal@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.principal@durham.ac.uk)

College Vice-Principal (Rhian Davies) - [grey.viceprincipal@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.viceprincipal@durham.ac.uk)

College Assistant Principal (Judith Barbaro-Brown) -  
[grey.assistantprincipal@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.assistantprincipal@durham.ac.uk)

College Student Support - [grey.student-support@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.student-support@durham.ac.uk)

College Reception - [grey.reception@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.reception@durham.ac.uk)

Students' Union Information – [info@durhamsu.com](mailto:info@durhamsu.com)

Students' Union Advice Service – [dsu.advice@dur.ac.uk](mailto:dsu.advice@dur.ac.uk)

University Counselling Service – [counsel.service@dur.ac.uk](mailto:counsel.service@dur.ac.uk)

Disability Support – [disability.support@dur.ac.uk](mailto:disability.support@dur.ac.uk)

IT Service Desk – [itservicedesk@dur.ac.uk](mailto:itservicedesk@dur.ac.uk)

## Instagram/TikTok

Freshers' Instagram - @officialgreyfreshers2026

JCR Instagram - @greycollegejcr

Sabbs (President and FACSO) Instagram - @grey\_sabbs

Welfare Instagram - @greywelfare

Reps Comm Instagram - @greycollegerepscommittee

College Instagram - @greycollegedurham

Grey Sports and Societies Instagram - @greysportsandsocs

The Greyhound (Bar) Instagram - @greycollegebar

Grey Pantry (Toastie Bar) Instagram - @grey\_pantry

College Gym Instagram - @grey\_college\_gymstagram

College Events Instagram - @greycollegeevents

Grey JCR TikTok - @greyjcrofficial

## Facebook

Fresher's Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/990361407159646/>

College Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/greycollege1959>

## Websites

JCR Website - [www.greyjcr.co.uk/](http://www.greyjcr.co.uk/)

Welfare Page - <https://greyjcr.co.uk/welfare>

## Emergency Contacts

College Porter - +44 7715 771447

Welfare Anonymous Messaging - <https://greyjcr.co.uk/welfare>

University Report + Support - <https://reportandsupport.durham.ac.uk/>

Durham Nightline - <https://durhamnightline.com/> 01913346444

NHS Information - <https://www.nhs.uk/>

# ~ A Welcome from our JCR President ~



Congratulations and welcome to Grey! I am Ishwari and I will be the Junior Common Room (JCR) President for this year.

I hope you are all looking forward to starting your Durham journey and exploring what a magical place it is! Not only are you being welcomed into such a prestigious university, but you are now part of the Grey community. We pride ourselves on the welcoming and diverse community that we have built, as well as the friendliness of our people and our growing sporting successes.

This summer I graduated with a Law degree and I will now stay on for the next year as JCR President, working full-time to make sure the student experience is the absolute best it can be. Over the past three years I have been heavily involved with the JCR, having held roles on the JCR Executive Committee, as Secretary and Chair. I also acted as a welfare officer for two years, and modelled in the Grey College Charity Fashion Show twice. There are so many opportunities to get involved in, and I would highly encourage you all to make the most of these!

We understand that starting university can be a daunting time- that's why we do Freshers' Week slightly differently. During the week, we host a range of events, which will help make the settling-in process just a bit easier, by introducing you to new people and helping you explore life at Grey and Durham. If you need any help with anything please do reach out: myself, the Freshers' Week team, the Grey College Staff and the University are more than happy to help.

Throughout Freshers' Week I will be around in a pink polo with 'JCR President' across the back. I can also be found in the JCR Office, which is a room attached to the JCR, the door is always open. Alternatively, feel free to email me at [grey.president@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.president@durham.ac.uk).

I look forward to welcoming you all into the Grey community, there's an exciting year ahead!

# ~ A Welcome from our Senior Frep ~

Hi, I'm Cam. Firstly, congratulations on being allocated Grey. It is by far the best college and I'm not biased at all. I will also be your Senior Frep for this year. I am a third year Geography student (BA), and outside of my degree, I am also JCR Chair and get involved in Student Theatre, Purple Radio and DUSCUBA. Around Grey, I love a good social, especially Mixed Lax, and I've also been involved in hockey and rowing throughout my time here and hope to get involved more in my final year.

As Senior Frep, it's up to me to plan your Freshers' Week so everyone can have the best time. I've spent my summer working with the rest of the senior team to organise lots of events and activities for you all to enjoy. There should be timetables on our social media (see page 3) as well as physical copies up around college, so have a look at these if you want to know what's on and when.

Moving to university can be very scary and stressful (I know I was nervous when I first arrived at Grey), but our incredible Frep and Welfare Team are here to help you with this transition - they will be there to help you move into your room, answer questions, and run lots of events during Freshers' Week. They are also very easy to spot in our bright pink and bright blue polo shirts!

The number one thing I would say to anyone coming to Grey for the first time is get involved as much as possible. There are so many ways to meet people when you get to Durham, and getting involved in sports and societies is a brilliant way to do this. We do have free sports and socs at Grey after all!

To keep up to date with everything you'll need to know about Freshers', make sure to join the Grey College Freshers' 2026 Facebook group and follow @officialgreyfreshers2026 on Instagram.

Have a great week, and feel free to ask me any questions - either online (either through the Instagram or by emailing me at [grey.frep@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.frep@durham.ac.uk)) or if you see me around college. I'm always happy to help!



# ~ A Welcome from our Assistant Senior

## Frep ~



Hi, I'm Nyree. I am a 4th year studying Spanish and Italian, and I am very excited to be the Assistant Senior Frep this year. My job is to help organise and run activities/events for freshers, making sure it all goes to plan and creating the best week possible! I will also be around to answer any questions or listen to any concerns.

My top tip is to get involved with some of the great events we run during Freshers' week. We will be putting on a range of activities, so hopefully you find something that interests you. And don't be afraid to do things alone! There will always be a friendly face to talk to, or a new friend to make.

During my time here I have been involved in the university orchestra, choir, and Open Mic Society, along with Grey Choir and Grey Women's Darts. I am also co-manager for Grey Pantry (our college toastie bar) for the upcoming year, so feel free to ask me about those things, and come along to the Pantry to try a toastie...

## ~ A Welcome from our FACSO ~

Hi, I'm Lucy and I'm this year's JCR FACSO (Financial and Commercial Services Officer). Like Ishwari, I also graduated in the summer, and will be working full-time in the office as the treasurer, looking after all things accounts, budgets and finance. I'm also in charge of both the college gym and pantry, so any questions about those, don't hesitate to ask.

My main advice would be to be patient: some of you will love University from the moment you arrive at Grey, but for other people, it can take more time to find your people and feel at home. Remember that everyone's time at uni is different, and just because so many people call it the best years of their life, doesn't mean everyone doesn't sometimes find it hard.

Outside of the JCR office, I've been heavily involved in both squash and rowing, and have crashed most college sport socials at some point in my three years in Durham. I'd definitely recommend throwing yourself into as much as possible, and don't be afraid to try something new - I went to a squash taster session with a friend in Freshers Week, having never played before, and ended up as the President by my third year.



# ~ A Welcome from our Vice President ~



Hi everyone!! I'm Sam and I'm the JCR Vice President for this year. I'm a 3rd year Biosciences student and do many Grey-related things, from badminton to squash to the Charity Fashion Show!!

My main advice is to just get involved in as much as you can, and Grey has free sports and societies so its pretty hard not to! Grey is such a wonderful community with so many nice people, so get involved with the activities and you can make some awesome friends!!

I'll be around in Freshers Week with an iconic pink polo so make sure to say hi as I'm always down for a chat 😊

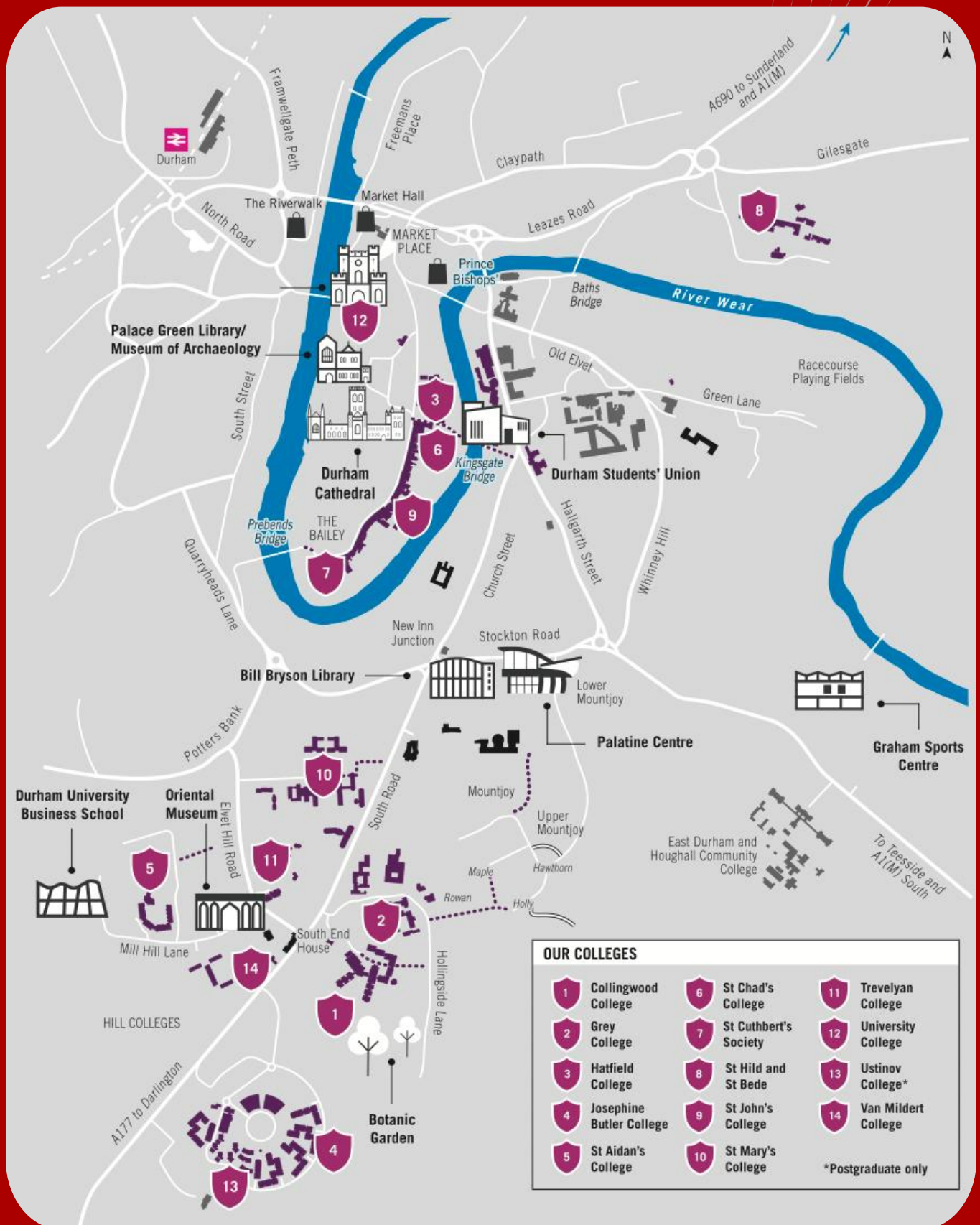


# ~ Map of Grey ~



If you need anything posted to Grey, the address is:  
Grey College, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LG  
You don't need to put your room number, just your name.

# ~ Map of Durham ~



# ~ Durham Dictionary ~

There are lots of new words you might see and hear during your time at Durham - here we've defined a few of them!

**Billy B or BBL:**

Bill Bryson Library, the University's main library. A very popular location for studying as well as being somewhere you can borrow books.

**BNOC:**

Stands for Big Name On Campus, usually describes someone who seems to know lots of people/is quite well known around Durham.

**Formals:**

A fancy dinner in the dining hall where you dress up and wear your gown - and there's usually entertainment afterwards too!

**Welcome and Orientation Week:**

The official Durham Name for Freshers' Week (also called Welcome Week or WOW), your first week at university.

**Frep:**

A shortened version of Fresher Representative, these are the people in pink polos who you'll see a lot during Freshers' Week. There's a whole section about them on pages 29-31, so check out those pages for more info.

**Durfess:**

A Facebook page that posts people's anonymous confessions. Another similar Facebook page is Tindur.

**The Greyhound:**

Grey's college bar, you'll often find it busy on an evening as people go to get drinks with friends. It will also host various events during Freshers' Week, and it should be open every night too!

**FACSO:**

Financial And Commercial Services Officer

**Cardiac Hill:**

A steep path connecting the science site (near the CLC) and Upper Mountjoy (near the Biosciences building). If you think you've walked up some steep hills in Durham, just wait until you have to walk up Cardiac Hill.

# ~ Durham Dictionary ~

## **Stash:**

The college- or university-branded clothes/items. You'll probably see hundreds of students walking around in their college-branded puffer jackets. Lucy (our JCR Secretary) is in charge of this, so keep an eye out for an email from her.

## **Jimmy's:**

Jimmy Allens, one of the most popular clubs in Durham.

## **Bailey Colleges:**

Refers to the colleges in town, on 'The Bailey', e.g. St Cuthbert's Society, St Chad's, St John's etc.

## **Hill Colleges:**

Refers to the colleges on South Road, e.g. Grey, John Snow, Josephine Butler, Trevelyan, St Mary's etc.

## **Matriculation:**

Your formal acceptance into the university. It's held in the Cathedral and should be happening on the Wednesday of Freshers' Week.

## **Michaelmas, Epiphany, and Easter:**

The names of the three terms at Durham, in the order that they occur.

## **Hust:**

A short speech that someone gives when they are running for a role in the JCR, or a sport or society.

## **Big Tesco:**

Tesco is a supermarket, and Big Tesco is just a big supermarket that's located in Gilesgate.

## **Angels:**

Angels by Robbie Williams is a song you'll probably hear a lot during your time at Durham; it's a favourite to be played at the end of a club night.

## **Senior Team:**

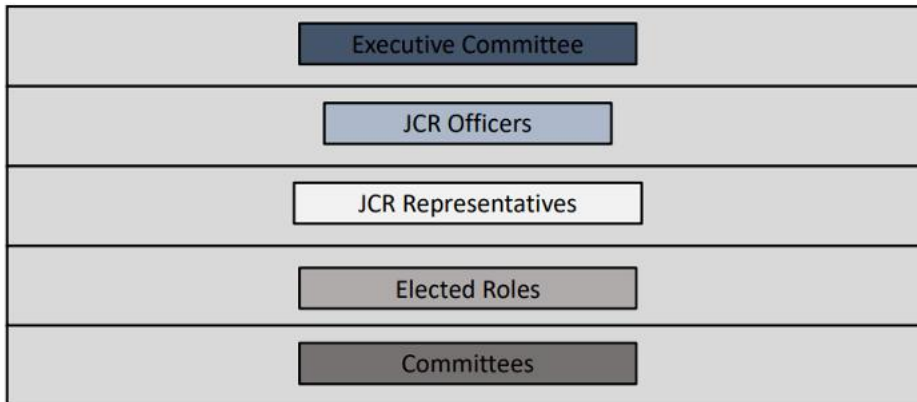
Grey JCR's Freshers' Week team, made up of the Senior Frep, Assistant Senior Frep, JCR President, JCR FACSO, JCR Vice President, and the two Senior Welfare Officers.

# ~ What is a JCR? ~

Grey JCR (Junior Common Room) is a student-run charity that exists to create the best possible student experience within Grey. It runs sports, societies, all kinds of events, Freshers' Week, and so much more. The JCR is independent to the University, meaning every decision it makes is only for the benefit of students. The membership you can buy at the start of your time in Grey goes directly towards improving facilities run by the JCR, the day-to-day budgets of sports, societies, and events, on top of the general upkeep a charity of this scale needs.

Being a member has a host of benefits, such as free tickets for events, discounted balls, and free participation in sports and societies. The major decision-making regarding how the JCR spends its money, who gets elected to what positions (there are over 50!), and any votes or referendums occur during JCR meetings. These take place every few weeks on a Sunday. They're quite chilled, where you can turn up with a laptop, have a drink and buy some snacks. Open to all JCR members, you don't have to have any prior experience or knowledge with how the JCR operates. Getting involved couldn't be easier! You can find more information at [greyjcr.co.uk](http://greyjcr.co.uk), or by speaking to anyone in a pink or blue polo in Freshers' Week!

**JCR Hierarchy**



The JCR hierarchy can get confusing - here are some diagrams that should make it easier to understand!

There will be lots of roles up for election throughout the year so keep an eye on your emails if you fancy getting involved.



# ~ JCR Finances ~

## JCR Levy

The JCR is a charity, independent from both college and the university, which is run by Grey students for the benefit of Grey students. We have a membership fee which you can pay in order to join the JCR (over 80% of students in college do!) and participate in all of our extra-curricular events and activities for reduced prices or even for free!

For a 3-year Undergraduate degree (BA/BSc...) it costs £195, which is paid at the start of your degree programme. If you are doing a 4-year Integrated Master's degree, you get a discounted rate in your final year, making it £235. We appreciate that this is a lot of money to spend at once, so the Access Fund is available – see page 15 for details.

## **THE JCR ORGANISES MOST OF STUDENT LIFE IN COLLEGE AND ALLOWS MEMBERS TO:**

- Become a member of the JCR's sports, societies and committees and participate in trainings/rehearsals/meetings – we are the only college in Durham to offer this without having to pay separate joining fees!
- Compete for the JCR's sports teams in the college sports leagues.
- Access priority booking and payment of reduced members' rates to events organised by the JCR (including Balls, Formals and Grey Day)
- Be employed by the JCR as a member of Grey Pantry or the Technical Crew
- Get a reduced rate on membership to the college gym.
- Access and hire JCR equipment (musical instruments, sports kit, tech)
- Vote at JCR meetings and stand for roles within the JCR
- Access the JCR-run Welfare signposting service

**AND MUCH MUCH MORE!**

# ~ Welcome Week ~

Our JCR-run welcome week has many events that are organised throughout Freshers' Week, including club nights, inflatables, a petting zoo and more!

The JCR membership and Welcome Week package are recommended to be purchased in advance of arriving at Grey (details will be in the College Handbook or Vice Principal's letter) but can also be purchased on move-in day.

At Grey we aim to have everyone participate in our activities, but if you have any difficulty with paying any fees, the Access Fund is available and may be of assistance – see the next page for details.



# ~ The Access Fund and Grey College Financial Support ~

The JCR wants to ensure that no student is held back from participating in college life or the common room due to financial barriers. We understand that the costs of living in Durham and being at university can add significant financial pressure, sometimes limiting options for equal access for members and prospective members.

## ACCESS FUND

Within the JCR, we offer the Access Fund, that any member or prospective member is welcome to apply for. The Access Fund provides support in the form reducing immediate upfront costs, offering the option to pay in instalments, partially waive fees, or fully waive fees depending on your financial situation. The Access Fund can be used for the JCR membership fee, events tickets, gym memberships and participating in JCR sports and societies.

Applications are considered confidentially by the Access Fund Sub-Committee of the JCR's Board of Trustees. To apply for it, you will need to provide supporting evidence to show your situation. More information about this can be found on the JCR website, <https://greyjcr.co.uk/jcr/financial-support>, or by emailing the FACSO, [grey.treasurer@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.treasurer@durham.ac.uk).

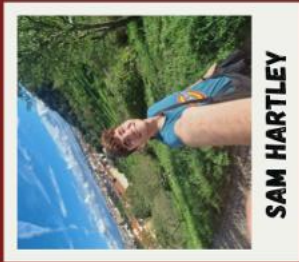
## GREY COLLEGE SUPPORT

As well as the JCR financial support, Grey College also offers financial assistance for individuals for cultural activities, sporting activities, intellectual development, employability development, degree-related travel opportunities, and research-based opportunities in the form of Grey College Trust Awards through donations and endowments from generous Grey College alumni. Applications for these open at specific times of the year, and the best person to contact is College Vice Principal, Rhian Davies, [rhian.r.davies@durham.ac.uk](mailto:rhian.r.davies@durham.ac.uk). For details surrounding the MCR, for postgraduates, mature students, and 4th years, you can read more on page 19.

# JCR Executive Committee Hierarchy



**PRESIDENT**



**VICE PRESIDENT**



**FACSO**



**CHAIR**



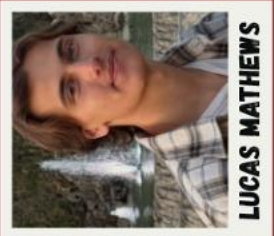
**EVENTS MANAGER**



**MCR PRESIDENT**



**SENIOR WELFARE OFFICERS**



**WEBSITE MANAGER**



**EDI OFFICER**



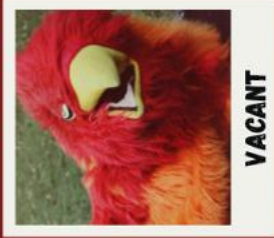
**BAR MANAGER**



**SECRETARY**



**SPORTS AND SOCS OFFICER**



**PUBLICITY OFFICER**

**TECH MANAGER**



# ~ Meet the Exec ~

## Vice President – Sam Hartley

Hi everyone! I'm Sam and I'm the JCR Vice President for this year. As Vice President, I'm the 'Most Senior Student' in Grey so I'm always around to help with anything. I also plan all the college formals so stay tuned for lots of exciting upcoming events! 😊



## JCR Chair - Cameron Howe



Hello again!! On top of being this year's Senior Frep, I am also JCR Chair. It's my responsibility to organise JCR meetings, as well as the various committees that keep the JCR running. I will be sending out plenty of emails for you to sink your teeth into, where you can have your say in how the JCR is run. I absolutely love Grey and have tried to get involved as much as possible, so if you have any questions about how the JCR is run, I should hopefully be able to answer your questions - if not, it'll be a bit embarrassing.

## Sports and Societies Officer – Aaron Maxey

Hi everyone, I'm Aaron, the Sports and Socs Officer for this year. Sports and Societies are arguably the biggest part of college life. It's my job to ensure they are accessible and run smoothly, and can even help you set a new one up. I have been involved in over 10 different sports at Grey, have been good at none of them, yet can say they have created some of my fondest memories here. From trying out new sports, playing something you are already familiar with, or joining purely as a social member, we have over 40 sports, societies, and committees available, most of which will have representatives at the Freshers' Fair. I encourage you all to get involved!



## Secretary – Lucy Idle

Hey! I'm Lucy. You'll see me at the front of JCR meetings and around Grey taking notes at meetings. The notes can be found on the JCR website. I also sort Grey "stash" (merchandise), so keep an eye out if you want puffer jackets, hoodies and other Grey-themed items!



## Bar Manager – George Freeland

My name is George Freeland, and I am a Third Year studying Politics. I am also part of GCRFC and was President of Grey College Darts last year. My role as Bar Manager, alongside our two great Assistant Bar Managers, is to organise the day to day running of the bar, such as ordering stock and sorting the rota, alongside the big college bar events, such as Barfest, which happen every year.





### Events Manager – Iva Petrova

I oversee the organisation of the three largest college events: ✨ the Winter Ball, Phoenix Ball and Grey Day ✨ alongside the Events Committee, to give you all the opportunity to create lasting memories! If you want to get crafty and be involved in college life you can apply to be on the Events Comm; keep an eye out for applications during Freshers' Week! I would be happy to accept any ideas and suggestions, so get in touch at [grey.events@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.events@durham.ac.uk)

### Website Manager – Samuel Board

My job is to work with the website committee to maintain and improve our website infrastructure. You'll notice our quiet work most when the website doesn't crash at ball ticket releases! Outside of my role in the JCR, I love trains and choral music. Last year, I was the Musical Director for Grey Choir, and will be sticking with them as their social sec this coming year. You'll see a lot of me as I will be living in, so feel free to ask any questions, and I'll be happy to help!



### Tech Manager – George Jones

Hi I'm George and I am the Grey Technical Manager this year. This means I'm in charge of making the lights go flash and the sound go boom, as well as being in charge of Grey Tech Comm, who are always looking for more members. As well, I am part of the DST Board of Technicians, so feel free to come have a chat about all things DST and Theatre tech.

### EDI Officer – Georgie Barnes

Hi everyone! I'm Georgie and I am your EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) Officer at Grey. I make sure that all students at Grey College feel represented, heard and are treated fairly. Within my role, I oversee the Representatives Committee which consists of a team of Grey College students representing several different groups. We organise events across the year to celebrate different cultures and heritages. If you would like to get involved or have any suggestions, feel free to email [grey.representatives@durham.ac.uk](mailto:grey.representatives@durham.ac.uk) or on Instagram @greycollegerepscommittee.



### Publicity Officer – Vacant

The Publicity Officer is responsible for media within the JCR including taking photos, videos, managing social media and creating graphics for events. They work with other members of the JCR Exec and the Officers' Committee to ensure events and campaigns have appropriate publicity. This role will be up for election at our first JCR meeting, so if that sounds like the role for you, then keep an eye on your emails!

### Senior Welfare Officers - Lucas Mathews and Jemima Hrycak

Hi, we are Lucas and Jemima, your Senior Welfare Officers for this year. Between us, we lead the Welfare Team, provide training to the rest of the team and organise campaigns throughout the year to highlight important wellbeing topics. You can find out more about us and what we do under the Welfare section of this handbook.



There are also non-exec roles, including Charities Officer, Assistant Treasurer, Gym Manager, Arts Chair, Music Chair, Ball Chairs, Grey Matter Editor, Grey Day Supremos, Fashion Show Chairs and many more!

# ~ MCR ~

The Middle Common Room is a community of postgraduates, as well as mature and 4th year undergraduates (whether they live in or out of college). We have our own exec and run regular social activities throughout the year!

## MCR Vice-President - Edward Cecil

Hi everyone, and welcome to Grey! I'm really looking forward to meeting you all in September, I will be around in Freshers' Week in a bright pink polo so please come and say hello. Throughout your time at Grey I hope you make good use of the Middle Common Room (MCR) – we are the college's postgraduate community and will be hosting events during Freshers' Week and the rest of the year, follow @greycollegemcr on Instagram for more information. MCR membership also allows you to join all the JCR sports and societies for free, gives discounts on events and provides loads of other opportunities to get involved. I hope you are all excited to join the Grey College family, it really does feel like a home away from home and I wish you all the very best in your time here! See you soon!



One of the main benefits of MCR membership is access to our common room! Found in the North Elvet block, the Phoenix Room has a much cosier feel than the JCR.

There is a flat-screen television and surround sound system, a DVD player, Xbox 360 and live TV as well as a large DVD and games library for members to enjoy. The MCR even has a selection of board games and its own kitchenette, where you can make tea and coffee.

MCR membership also entitles individuals to use JCR services, such as sports and societies, vote in JCR elections and purchase event tickets at JCR member prices. For those mature students and 4th year undergraduates already in possession of a JCR membership, MCR membership is already included.



**Committee positions will be up for election in the first term so keep an eye out!**

# ~ Sports and Societies ~

Most, if not all, of the sports and societies within Grey will be at the Sports & Socs Fair during Freshers' Week. You can pick and choose whatever you want to try, as much or as little as you'd like – Grey JCR has free sports and socs for a reason! All you need to do is turn up. Here's what a few of them have to say...

## Football

We have both a fantastic women's team, which represents college in Division 1, and seven men's teams, which span the divisions. There is also a men's futsal team! Both the men's and women's teams are supportive and welcoming and cater to people of all footballing abilities. Regular socials help to foster a great sense of community and allow everyone to get involved.



## Mixed Lacrosse

Whether you've played lacrosse before or not, it's a great sport for all. Join one of our teams and help us keep the title of best Mixed Lacrosse Club in Durham!

## Rowing

A great sport for fitness, fun and socials. All levels are on offer at Grey, from complete beginner to national level. There are multiple socials a term and an end of year ball to enjoy.



## Cheerleading

Whether winning the intercollege competition or supporting college teams, hopefully you can help build on our successes, whether as a flyer or a base.

## Rugby

One of Grey's oldest clubs, we push hard while maintaining a great club ethos, accepting everyone. Grey also has a women's team, which enjoy great success in their own league.



## Squash

Definitely proven to have the most fun, Grey Squash has two men's teams and a women's team. Join for the great sport, stay for the great company.

## Pool

With loads of teams spanning all the divisions, pool is a laid-back society, giving the perfect excuse to lounge around college bars in the evening with the company of some good laughs and merriment.



## Darts

Spend a chill evening throwing a few spears with your teammates. What's not to like?



We have a men's and a women's team who have both been successful in recent years, with both coming in the top 3 of the league for the last 2 years. We also hold a relaxed training session once a week and have great socials.

## Hockey

## Netball

One of Grey's largest and most sociable clubs, there will definitely be a team for you, be that competitive or more chilled. We also have various socials throughout the year which have proven to be popular.



One of Grey's newer sports clubs which is open to anyone, regardless of running experience. We have a relaxed midweek run and then go to Durham Parkrun every Saturday.

## Running

## Cricket

One of Grey's highly decorated teams, with lots of success in both indoor and outdoor cricket. But fear not, if you want to play for fun, or just give the sport a go there's plenty of opportunity to do so.



We are a small but growing club. We're inclusive and have lots of fun while also being consistently among the top teams in the college league.

## Volleyball

## Choir

We are the largest non-auditioned choir in Durham, singing choral to modern music in venues ranging from Durham Cathedral to Edinburgh and Liverpool. We also have many social events, including a tour at the end of the year.



## Grey in the Community

Grey's volunteering organisations which work throughout the year organising events within and outside of college. These range from tea parties with the elderly to visiting the local care home to a Sports and Arts Day with children from the area.

## And so many more...

- Arts Comm
- Badminton
- Bar Comm
- Basketball
- Charities Comm
- Christian Union
- Climbing
- Croquet Society
- Discord Society
- Dr Who Society
- Dodgeball
- Environment and Ethics Comm
- Events Comm
- Feminism Society
- Finance Comm
- GCCFS
- Golf
- Grey Matter
- Grollingwood Band
- House of Phoenix Society
- Music Comm
- Phoenix Theatre Society
- Reps Comm
- Rounders
- Star Wars Appreciation Society
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tech Comm
- Tennis
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Website Comm
- Welfare

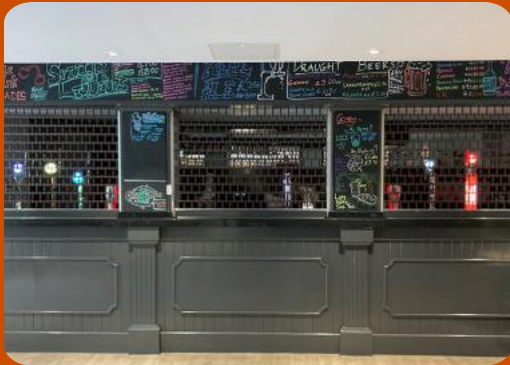
If you decide this variety isn't enough, then why not establish your own sport or society? This can easily be done during a JCR meeting. Just ask anyone mentioned on the Exec page, or any one of the Freps, and they'll point you in the right direction.

Grey offers sport from a super casual level to the quite competitive. However, if you want to regularly test yourself against other universities, then you can sign up to represent Durham University, either at the university Freshers' Fair, or even before arriving!

# ~ Areas in College ~

## The JCR

The JCR is the main social hub of Grey. Containing two pool tables, a table tennis table, and loads of comfy sofas, it's a grey-t place to chill and relax. It is also where you'll find the TV room, which is another great place to hang out with friends and watch something together.



## The Greyhound Bar

Welcome to the Greyhound, multiple times winner of 'Best College Bar' and our very own hang out! Whether you're after a chilled evening with mates or one of our classic bar-run events like a quiz night or a society social, the Greyhound is your place! Normally open from 20:00 - 23:00, and until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, it is the place to find affordable and delicious drinks. We also have various college drinks which are always popular. It's a great place to socialise and hang out with friends - you'll almost always find someone you know. All the friendly bar staff are also fellow Grey students, and anyone can apply to work here!



## Grey Pantry

The one and only Grey Pantry is the place where your deepest cravings will be fulfilled... toasties, milkshakes, sausage rolls, chocolate, the lot! There's also a 'Greggs' range, and special items now and then. Come on down to try our menu, or even just to chat to our team and maybe meet Timmy Toastie himself! Immaculate vibes guaranteed. Make sure to follow @grey\_pantry on Instagram for more!!





## The College Gym

Grey Gym has three rooms for cardio and weights. Looked after by our FACSO, it's often busy with people making "gains". Membership is £65 for JCR Members, with the option to pay for each individual term.

## The Dining Hall

The dining hall is one of the best places to catch up with friends over some elite scan. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are all served here for a couple of hours per day, with brunch on weekends. Be warned, it is cordial (you'll find out soon enough).



## Victor Watts Library

A dream for some, a nightmare for others, but whatever you choose, the library is a key room in college. With computers and a printer, and loads of study spaces, it's perfect for some quiet time. There are also books, available when a student librarian is around. It can be found on the bottom floor of Holgate.

## Fountains Hall

Fountains Hall is Grey's own multi-use building. It has a chapel, art studio, music practice rooms and a larger hall space. Rooms can be booked for free and used for sports, rehearsals, and lots more.



## Holgate Conference Room

The Holgate conference room allows us to invite some great guest speakers to college to speak about all kinds of things. Sometimes you might have lectures or seminars here, and in the summer, it becomes a study space to use alongside the library.



## The MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area)

This facility was put in just over a year ago and is used by lots of Grey's free sports and socs, be it tennis, football or basketball, so you can get involved in as much as you want without breaking the bank! Even better, it is free to book for Grey Students, making it the perfect place to go to kick a ball round with your mates or for a friendly game of tennis. But be fast, the MUGA gets booked out very quickly, especially during the summer!

## The Servery

The servery is where you go to get your meals, made by our amazing catering team, headed up by College's famous Food and Beverage Manager, Nic. Options include, soups, yogurts, mains, salad, and sides, plus the famous squash, which most definitely needs diluting - please don't make the same mistakes we did.



## The TV Room

The TV Room is just next door to the pantry. It has been recently updated with a new TV and the iconic Wii, plus loads of fun games. You can book out the TV room for a chill movie night or an all out Wii battle, it's up to you!

# ~ College Traditions ~

## Formals:

Formals are fancy dinners organised by the Vice President that occur every few weeks in term time. During these you'll have to wear your gown (which you'll get during Freshers' Week), so it is the perfect chance to get some nice photos to send home to family and friends.

Formals are really popular, with tickets sometimes selling out in minutes, a testament to how much fun they are. Even if you miss out, it's worth heading to the Greyhound afterwards, since it's always packed full of people.

Some formal themes from the past year are as follows:

- Welcome Formal
- Burns Night
- Christmas Formals (with carols!)
- Valentines (including its own traditions...)
- Sportspersons Formal
- End of Year



## College Families:

An odd concept to anyone outside the Durham bubble, 'College Families'. Nothing beats the pause when relaying an anecdote about your "mum" and having to clarify which 'mum' you mean!

Your college 'parents' are older students who are here to help you settle into Grey in any way that they can. Easily one of the most helpful resources when you start out in Durham, your parents should contact you and your new siblings not long after Freshers' week. Be sure to ask them anything that comes to mind, since they are the best people for the job. They are on hand to tell you all about life at Grey, the various sports and societies you can join, answer any 'silly' questions (of which there are none) and generally act as a friendly face around college.

You'll probably hear that your college parents are married (we love a big, complicated, extended family!). This is a popular Durham tradition that you can get the chance to join too by proposing to or being proposed to by a friend. These proposals normally happen nearer the end of the year, often in Jimmy's (you'll learn about it soon) or at Grey Day.



# ~ Events at Grey ~

Events in Grey are organised by students, with a wide variety throughout the year. They're primarily organised by the Events Manager, but everyone can get involved, by being a chair of an event, or just by being a member of Events Committee. All you need to do is ask around if you're interested!



## Winter Ball

The big black-tie event in first term. Previous themes have included 'Masquerade' and 'A Night Under the Stars'. This includes a 3-course meal and a huge range of entertainment afterwards - such as fairground rides, inflatables, arcade games, candy floss, popcorn machines and more.

## Barfest

Run by the Bar Committee in Epiphany term, this is a day of chilling in college with a huge variety of drinks and entertainment. There is also cheese and wine tasting, not one to be missed...



## Grey College Charity Fashion Show (GCCFS)

Widely recognised as one of the most professional student fashion shows in Durham, this is a great night of strutting the catwalk all in aid of charitable causes. Previous themes included 'A Night in Hollywood' and 'A Stitch in Time'.



## Gittins Cup

A 5-a-side football tournament that happens in the 'three weeks of nothing' before the summer holidays. Named after our catering manager Nic, there is often a bar tab awaiting the winning team.



## Phoenix Ball

The self-proclaimed biggest event of the year. This rounds up the year by giving everyone the chance to get dressed up and pretend to be sophisticated at an external venue, where many-a grey student can be found dancing the night away. A 12-hour black tie ball that you'll never forget.

## Grey Day

Just after exams, this is Grey's own mini festival. A great chance to relax on the lawn, listening to a wide variety of music and enjoying some drinks. There are also activities to get involved in like inflatables, face painting, and fairground stalls.



# ~ Freps ~

## What is a Frep?

Freps (or Fresher's Representatives) are a team made up of Grey's most enthusiastic members to support you through the first week here.

We have a Senior Team, the Freps, and a Welfare Team who will all gladly help with whatever you need.

## Meet the Freps:



### Lucy - Psychology

I'm Lucy! I'm a second-year, as well as JCR Secretary (which means I get to go to lots of meetings!), and President of Grey College Running Club. I'll definitely be encouraging you to join JCR meetings and come along to Durham ParkRun!



### Zack - History

I'm Zack - I love to scuba dive and play the drums, so anything noisy or underwater I've got you covered.



### Izzy-Biosciences

While arguably the world's worst cook, I love swimming, tennis and a good chat. You'll probably find me in Fashion Show rehearsals or deep in conversation with anyone I bump into.



### Kirsty - Psychological and Behavioural Science

I'm from Scotland and have lived internationally for most of my life, love Thai food, sports, and a fun night out. I'm so excited to meet everyone!



### Ollie-History

History and Jimmies are my two greatest loves at Durham. As a certified Paddy's addict, I'll be there most nights, and failing that, Victor Watts for an all-nighter lock in.



### Georgie-CHSS

A second-year who loves all things outdoors, sports, and meeting new people. Please feel free to come and chat with me about anything, I would always love to hear from you!



### Vince - Accounting and Finance

I am Vince; the JCR Assistant Treasurer and Boat Club President for the 26-27 academic year. I am in my final year at Grey, and took a year abroad before coming to uni. I look forward to meeting everyone!



### Breanna-Chemistry

I am an eternal optimist who firmly believes that there is little that can't be improved by a sweet treat. When I'm not helping to grow the grey pantry fan club, you'll find me attempting to play badminton, reading or wandering along the river.



### Felix-Biosciences

I'm super excited to frep again this year. My main hobbies are listening to too much music and being okay at racket sports, feel free to chat to me about Squash, Fashion Show, Music or anything really!



### Iva-Biology

I'm a second-year biologist and love playing squash and choir. Ask me about music as long as you're willing to talk for an hour.



### Anya- English and History

I'm a second year toastie bar enthusiast who's involved in way too many Grey Sports and Societies. You can find me at Jimmy's any day of the week... until the Billy B calls.



### Charlotte-International Relations

Lover of a chill pint with friends. Somehow convinced myself that early starts for rowing are a good idea. Always happy to help!



### Kayla-Natural Sciences

I am the B-team captain for Grey Mixed Lacrosse, play football and dodgeball for the college and I'm social sec for the run club. Get involved!!



### Sophia-Biotechnology MA

I'm a Biotechnology masters student from Hertfordshire. For my undergrad I studied Chemistry and Biology, but I've also loved getting involved in theatre tech and photography, as well as running Grey's LGBTQ+ society House of Phoenix!



### Alex-Physics and Philosophy

I'm a member of the cheer team, support officer for both the running and table tennis club, and an absolute pub FIEND. Catch me in the Jimmies smoking area, I'll always be up for a chat.



### Charlotte - Ancient History and Archaeology

Probably doing anything but my uni work. Most likely hidden in the AR or at Library bar (definitely not the Billy B).



### Ollie-Computer Science

Mostly found at Maiden Castle, either playing cricket or running laps around the track. Always happy to talk about anything CompSci or sport related!



### Bella-Politics

I love skiing, playing lacrosse and yapping about my gap year. Most importantly I'm never far away from a cup of coffee!



### Millie-Religion

I'm Millie, I am studying religion, culture, and society and I am the new social sec of Grey tennis!



### Beau-Archaeology

Hi, my name is Beau and I'm obsessed with Pokemon and love learning new languages! I can't wait to meet you all! :)



### Katie-Biology

If I'm not on the hockey pitch, I'll probably be in my kitchen making sweet treats. Come find me for a cracking Gru singing impression, or if not I'm always down for a yap :D



### Oliver-Engineering

Big fan of maths, wine, the toastie bar and Ratatouille. Also a mid musician.



### Millie-History

I'm captain of the Grey Women's Football Club and love getting involved with college events. I'm always happy to chat, answer any questions, or help you settle into college life.



### Izzie-Geography

Hi I'm Izzie, I am a Geography student and social sec for Grey tennis this year!



### Finlay-Maths and Economics

My name is Finlay, I use she/they pronouns, and I am the grey LGBT sexuality rep. I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Maths and Economics student, and I am part of DU waterpolo and DU Triathlon.



### Aaron - Engineering

Greys resident social enthusiast, find me on a random social any night of the week or in Jimmys smoking area. Don't ask me about transport to Phoenix ball.



### Neeve - Archaeology

Aside from my unhealthy passion for a midday power nap, I enjoy playing grey Netball, watching films and going on walks with my friends.



### James-Sports and Exercise Science

Just love playing football and getting involved in the many other sports that Grey offers.



### Joseph-Natural Sciences

I can usually be found revising for my course and playing pool with friends but I also manage to make time to visit the SU for some tapping of my boots and solving of mysteries.



### Rishita - Law LLB

Can usually be found taking suspiciously long walks through the woods or hunting down Durham's newest food spots, but there's always time for a drink and a catch-up during the day!



### Alice - Biosciences

I can usually be found in the gym or at one of many sports socs at grey! I love spending time outdoors (I do biology after all!) as well as trying out new recipes at home!



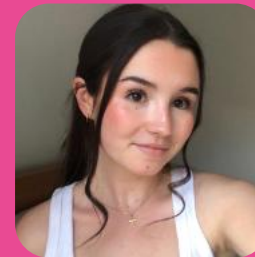
### Nena-Liberal Arts

Can be found in the greyhound with friends, on the annual ski trip, watching student musical theatre or grey sports matches!



### As-Samee - Computer Science

Hey, my name's As-Samee and I'm a 2nd-year computer science student. Throughout the year you're most likely to find me in the Billy B or out on a parkrun. Wherever you spot me, feel free to come and say hi :)



### Ella - English Lit

Hey! I'm looking forward to welcoming everyone to the best college in Durham. Find me rowing to the theatre, scribbling down the odd article or sleepwalking around the Billy B :)



### Muznah - History

My favourite things to do in Durham are finding cute places to walk, playing badminton with friends, and watching new releases in the cinema!



### Delphie - Maths

Born and bred Scot and proud member of the GCPC. Find me in big Tesco, on a walk or watching The Chase.



# ~ Welfare ~

## What is Welfare?

At Grey College, our Welfare team is dedicated to supporting every student throughout the year. During Freshers' Week, they can be easily spotted in their blue polos during the day, at the clubs, and giving tea and biscuits out at night. Coming to university can often lead to a range of emotions, and our welfare team is here to listen to you about anything, big or small. Our team offers a non-judgmental, confidential, and compassionate listening and signposting service available to you throughout the year, not just Freshers' Week!

## How do I get in touch?

Our welfare team hold drop-in sessions 3 times a week: Tuesday and Thursday 18:30-20:30 and Sunday 14:00-16:00 in the bottom floor of Hollingside and on Teams. During Fresher's Week, drop-ins are held daily - check out our Instagram (@greywelfare) for times! Outside of drop-in times, you can contact our Senior Welfare Officers through our anonymous messaging service on the JCR Website ([greyjcr.co.uk](http://greyjcr.co.uk)), where we aim to reply within a few days.



### Lucas- Senior Welfare Officer (Exec Position)

Hi, I'm Lucas and I'm a fourth-year French and Spanish student. You'll often find me in the Victor Watts or enjoying a coffee somewhere in town. I'm really looking forward to being one of your Senior Welfare Officers this year and I'm always happy to have a chat so feel free to come and say hi!

### Jemima- Senior Welfare Officer (Exec Position)

Hi, I'm Jemima a 3<sup>rd</sup> year criminology student! I'm really excited to be a senior welfare officer this year, and if you ever want a chat you can often find me in the students union building or the TLC.





### Kiah - Law

Hi everyone! I'm Kiah, a second-year law student from Mumbai. I am one of your Welfare Officers and my door is always open for a chat, a laugh, or support whenever you need it!

### Lucy - English

Hi, I'm Lucy! I'm a second year English Lit student, and when I'm not reading I love to swim, pole dance, or occasionally play football! You can usually find me in the SU or library working on my essays, always feel free to come and say hi!



### Imogen - Psychology

Hey I'm Imogen and i'm super excited to be part of the welfare team at Grey this year! I study psychology and can usually be found on the top floor of the TLC or on a walk around Durham. I'm always open for a chat so come say hi!

### Amelia - Psychology

Hello! I'm Amelia, a second year Psychology student and I'm so excited to be a part of the welfare team this year. You'll probably find me in the TLC cafe after all my lectures or in the Greyhound playing darts! If you see me around, come say hi, I'm always free for a chat or if you just need someone to listen!



### Yana - Psychology

Hi! I'm Yana and I am a second year Psychology student and I am so excited to be part of welfare this year! I know that starting university can be exciting and overwhelming. Whether you need someone to chat to, have questions about university life or just fancy saying hello, I'm always happy to help!

### Sharade - Law (International Rep)

Hi! I'm Sharade Mutturaj, a penultimate-year Law student and one of your Welfare Officers. I love meeting new people, so if you ever fancy a chat, have a question, or want to say hello, you'll probably find me at the Toastie Bar or tucked away in the Victor Watts Library!!



### Matilda- Psychology

Hi, I'm Matilda a second year Psychology student from Leeds! I'm really looking forward to being a part of the welfare team this year. If you ever see me and want to chat you can often find me getting folded pizza or trying to find a seat in the Billy B.

### Liv - Psychology

Hi I'm Liv, I'm a second year studying psychology and I'm on the welfare team this year! I love acting, drumming, matcha, and the Jimmy's dancefloor... Feel free to say hi if you see me around college!



# ~ Reps Comm ~

There are several elected 'reps' who act as points of contact to communicate concerns to the JCR from different perspectives. There are FAQs on the JCR website, and you can follow @greycollegerepscommittee on Instagram for more information.

## Senior Frep – Cameron Howe

My role is not only a Representative role but also an Officer role. I'm responsible for organising and running Fresher's Week (with help from the rest of the senior team), as well as putting together this Alternative Handbook, with help from the JCR President and the Assistant Head Frep. I'm also the main representative for the views and interests of the first years to the Executive Committee and Officers, so I'm here to make sure your voices are heard within the JCR!



## Disability Rep – Yana Jaiswal

My job as Disabilities Representative is to be the point of contact for all students at Grey with disabilities to ensure everyone is accommodated for and included within the JCR. I communicate with the JCR, college and the university about any issues that arise throughout the year. I also help to settle in freshers on the early arrivals programme ran by disability support who will arrive in Grey a few days earlier than the rest of the home students.



## LGBTQIA+ Rep- Finlay + Sophia

The job of the LGBTQ+ rep is to act as a point of contact for LGBTQ+ students in Grey, making sure they feel at home and can express their views in college. They are also there to help raise awareness and organise events with House of Phoenix - Grey's LGBTQ+ society.



## Access Rep – Hamza Ibrahim

The Access Representative is a point of contact and support for students who have experienced barriers to participation or access based on their background, be that working class students, first-generation university students, those from a disadvantaged socioeconomic background, and many more. They work to ensure that everyone regardless of their background or journey feels supported, valued, and able to thrive at Grey, through initiatives, events, and policies that promote inclusion and widen participation across the college.



### Year Out (Year Abroad) Rep – Heather Johnson

The Year Abroad Rep's role is to represent the students currently on years abroad in college affairs and to be a point of contact for them too. They also ensure that they are informed about what happens at Grey throughout the year. Any questions or concerns from students who are considering years abroad can also be directed to them.



### Year Out (Placement Year) Rep- Amy Parker

The Placement Year Rep's role is to represent the students currently on years out in college affairs and to be a point of contact for them too. They also ensure that they are informed about what happens at Grey throughout the year. Any questions or concerns from students who are considering placement years can also be directed to them.

### International Reps – Sharade Mutturaj and Simeon Suen

As international reps, we are here to support international students' adjustment to a new country, culture, and academic system, not only during Fresher's Week, but throughout their time at Grey. We help make this transition smoother by working closely with college and the wider JCR to ensure all students feel welcomed, informed, and included. We also help run the international induction programme and organise cultural events that celebrate the diversity of our community. Whether you're looking for guidance, support, or simply someone to talk to, we are here to listen and help however we can.



### **Vacant roles:**

**Livers Out Rep, BAME Rep, Mature Students' Rep, Finalists Rep, Grey in the Community**

It's really important that everyone is represented at Grey, and our reps are a great way of getting everyone's experiences seen and heard. If you'd like to run for a rep position, have a look on the JCR website and consider running at one of the JCR meetings.

# ~ SCR ~

The Senior Common Room (SCR) is a non-student community within Grey. It includes the Principal, Vice-Principal, Assistant Principal, and Fellows. They all sit at the High Table during formals.

One of the main aims of the SCR is to support the student body at Grey, allowing for an environment that lets students fulfil both their academic and social potential. They do this through their mentorship programme which you will have the opportunity to sign up for during your first year. This is a great way to connect with experts in your field and beyond - as well as attend free formals!

Just like the JCR, this is also a (much fancier) room in college, as well as a group of people.



Instagram: hillcolleges\_chaplain\_du

# College Chaplaincy:

## Information, services and events!

Hello! My name is Fiona, and I am the College Chaplain for Collingwood, Grey, Trevelyan, and Van Mildert!



I provide emotional and spiritual support for students, including students who are not religious and students from any faith. Please email me to make an appointment:

[hillcolleges.chaplain@durham.ac.uk](mailto:hillcolleges.chaplain@durham.ac.uk)

### Cookies and Prayer

OPEN

**7th** October  
2026

2pm - 3pm  
Lattin Chapel  
Fountains Hall

### Services and Events with Grey College Choir!

...More to follow...!



**7th Oct 2-3pm: Chapel Open Event -  
Cookies and Prayer** - Fountains Hall, Grey College  
**11th Nov 10.50-11.10am: Act of Remembrance** -  
Trevelyan College  
**9th Dec 5.15-6.30pm: Carol Service** -  
St. Oswald's Church, DH1 3DQ

# ~ Key Places in Durham ~

## Science Site

The home of those strange students who do science degrees. Located a handy 5-minute walk from Grey, so it's easy to roll out of bed at 8:55 for a 9am lecture. You can also find lots of study spaces, including the Bill Bryson (Billy B) library and the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC).



## Elvet Riverside

Not to be confused with the Elvet block at Grey, this place hosts the humanities students. A risky walk down a very busy path, allow a good 15 minutes to get here.

## Student Union

A curious looking building, designed by the architect of the Sydney Opera House, the SU has numerous rooms that can be booked out and also a roof terrace for summer. It's also the home of Grey Boat Club. Anyone who says they don't like it is wrong...



## Maiden Castle (Graham Sports Centre)

Team Durham's sports complex. It hosts many pitches including crumb and water-based pitches. There's also netball, tennis and squash courts, indoor sports halls and a fencing gallery! Bit of a trek if you like sports.

## Cathedral

The centrepiece of Durham, and a prime filming location from Harry Potter to Avengers Endgame. You'll matriculate and graduate here, and there's always music and choir performances happening. Voted best cathedral in Europe 2024! Legend says you can't climb the tower until you graduate, unless you want bad luck!



## Durham Castle

Although a rival college, the castle is a statement of Durham. Catch a great view of it as the sun goes down, perfect for a few pictures! Their bar isn't bad either.

## Dunelm

A must know location if you live on the hill, it's the closest place to go for snacks, drinks, and cash alike.



# ~ Key Places in Durham ~

## Freeman's Quay and Gala Theatre

You can find the city centre's only swimming pool (sadly slide-less) and a theatre/cinema here with cheap tickets. Also close to Spoons, bowling, and Nando's!



## North Road

Host to the bus station, a couple of clubs, bubble tea, sushi, Chinese restaurants, milkshakes, and more, you can almost do anything here. The best place to start the journey to the beach in summer.

## Market Square

Boots, Tesco, fancy dress shops, and the market at weekends, this is the place to do most of your shopping. It's also home to the Market Hall which has lots of stalls run by small businesses.



## The Racecourse

Many football pitches, a cricket ground and by the river. Lovely walks and scenery, but very claustrophobic during the summer! A great flat spot for a run – Durham parkrun finishes here.

## Botanic Gardens

Free entry for students, with a coffee shop and loads of space to relax or study. And a bonus...it's just behind collegel



## The Viaduct

Yes, there is an actual viaduct! The term generally refers to the area around it though, where lots of second and third years choose to live when they move out of college.

## Gilesgate

A veritable urban legend for freshers, but home to many cheap houses. Here you can find the legend that is big Tesco, as well as padel courts, a trampoline park and lots of supermarkets.



# ~ Food and Drink ~

## Flat White Cafe

Often found with queues out the door, the food is fab, and great to take some Instagramable pictures!



## Riverview Cafe

A beautiful setting that is great for brunch, coffee, cake and more. Go with friends and family alike. Their pancakes are particularly impressive!

## Chapters Cafe

One of the tastiest hot chocolates in Durham, it's also a great place to meet friends for a catch up and chat.



## La Spaghetтата

A student favourite due to their tasty food, cheap wine and free garlic bread!

## Fat Hippo

Great burgers with loads of veggie and vegan options too! Sometimes you'll get lucky and find their van on the science site...



## Lebaneat

A great restaurant to hold socials in, with wraps, kebabs, chips, and only a small corkage fee to take in whatever drink you want!

## Paddys

En route back to college from town makes it a great pit stop. Cheesy chips on top here.



# ~ Food and Drink ~

## The Swan and Three Cygnets

Located on Elvet Riverside, perfect for spotting any passing rowers. A Sam Smith pub – put your phone away!



## Bishops Mill Wetherpoons

Head down to Walkergate for a classic spoons evening. Cheap pints and occasionally some bingo. Sometimes transforms into the legendary disco Spoons.

## The Boat Club

Another perfect river watching spot. Keep your eyes peeled for the 2-for-1 deals and maybe stay away from the boats for hire when day drinking.



## The Library Bar

Not many books can be found here. Tasty cocktails and located on The Bailey, so perfect for a stop on the way to Jimmys.

## Jimmy Allens

Definitely a lot of Durham student's favourite place to be on any night of the week. Walk in here and you'll always find a fellow Grey student.



## Babylon/Loft

A slightly further walk from Grey but worth it. Home of sports socials on Wednesdays and busy dancefloors.

## Fabio's Bar

Come for the cheap cocktails, stay for the (sometimes) live music. Located above spags, their LGBTQ+ Thursdays are popular!



## Klute

Popular on a Sunday night, legend has it that Klute has been around over 40 years. Famously the second worst club in Europe, until the worst burnt down!

# ~ Newcastle ~

If you decide you fancy the venture further north, trains to Newcastle take 15 minutes and cost as little as £5. There are also buses that go from Durham Bus Station to Newcastle which are cheaper but involved a longer journey.

## Getting There

During the day, there are regular trains to Newcastle, taking only 15 minutes. There are also regular buses, but these tend to take closer to an hour.

The last train to Durham leaves at 22:55 (although this can change so check before you go!), so if you're there for the night you'll need to get the bus back, or wait for the first morning train, normally at about 04:30.

Night buses (the N21) run on Friday and Saturday nights, leaving from the Monument Market Street, Monument Grainger Street or High Level Bridge North End stops.

## Things to do/places to go:

- Live music/comedy at the O2, Metro Radio Arena, NX Newcastle, Utilita Arena and many more
  - Shopping in Grainger Market
  - Visit an art gallery
  - Go ice skating
  - Play mini golf
  - Sing karaoke
  - Take the Metro to the seaside
- And the list goes on!



## Clubs:

There are loads of clubs in Newcastle, so here are a few:

- Soho rooms - a popular four storey club
- Tup Tup Palace - hip hop and R&B
- Cosy Joes - club / karaoke bar
- TheCUT - indie music
- Tropicana - pop classics

Most of these are on the roads marked in red.



# ~ The North East ~

There is so much more to see and do around Durham than just Newcastle! Here are a few of our favourites...



## Beamish Museum

Beamish is a unique museum that allows you to become fully immersed in the story of the people of North East England in the 1820s, 1900s, and 1940s. You can taste traditional food from a coal-fired range, go on a tram or steam train, play schoolyard games, or even pop into the Co-op shops. You can also visit as many times as you want in a year when you buy your ticket!

## Seaham

One (of many) great things about Durham is how close it is to the coast. There are dozens of beaches that are relatively easy to get to by public transport, including Seaham which is accessible by bus from Durham Bus Station. Known for its sea glass, Seaham is a lovely pebble beach with plenty of cafes around to go to grab something to eat or drink.



## Alnwick Castle

Alnwick Castle has quite the history - from battles and rebellions to tradegy and romance. You might recognise it from the Harry Potter films or even Downton Abbey as both have scenes filmed here. There's all sorts to do at Alnwick Castle, including guided tours, medieval crafts, and broomstick lessons.

## High Force and Low Force Waterfalls

High Force is a gorgeous waterfall in Upper Teesdale which cascades 21 metres into the plunge pool beneath it. The Pennine Way footpath leads through pretty woodlands and takes you past both High Force and Low Force falls.



## Bishop Auckland

Easily accessible from Durham city centre by bus, Bishop Auckland is a historic market town known for its stunning castle, rich heritage, and vibrant arts scene. There's even an annual food festival held in the castle grounds every April.

## National Glass Centre

The National Glass Centre is located at the University of Sunderland and showcases Sunderland's glass making heritage as well as celebrating the work of contemporary artists working at the cutting edge of their field. It has an interactive exhibition which covers the history of glass making in the city from the 7<sup>th</sup> Century to the present day.



## Angel of the North

You may spot this iconic landmark on the train to Newcastle, but did you know you can go right up to it? Simply catch the X21 bus towards Newcastle, and get off at the stop conveniently named Angel of the North for a closer look.

# ~ Frequently Asked Questions ~

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions that you may have before coming to Durham and to Grey, including some questions our livers-out students may have about getting involved in university/college life:

How can I stay involved in university life while living off-campus?

Joining societies, sports, clubs, or volunteering opportunities are a brilliant way of meeting people outside of your flat/house - they're also open to everyone. Grey JCR has free college sports and societies for all JCR members so it's also free to get involved and meet new people!

Are there any perks or events just for livers-out students?

Yes! Keep an eye on emails and SU social media - there are meetups, socials, giveaways, and more, especially designated to help livers-out students feel included.

I feel disconnected living far from campus. What can I do?

You are not alone! Try creating a routine that includes time on campus, message group chats to find people to walk or bus in with, and don't hesitate to reach out to our Livers Out Rep or Welfare if you want someone to talk to.

# ~ Frequently Asked Questions ~

What's the best way to make friends if I don't live in student halls (or if I want to meet people outside of my corridor/flat)?

Attending events for livers-out students, chatting with classmates, and hanging out in common university spaces like the library or SU building can be a great way of meeting people. Also, everyone at Grey is invited to all of our Freshers' Week events/activities so this is also a brilliant opportunity to make friends.

Who do I talk to if I'm struggling or just need support?

You can always reach out to your Student Rep, the SU, the university Wellbeing Service, or our Welfare team if you need support. Welfare regularly run drop-ins (both online and in-person) for any Grey student if they need it.

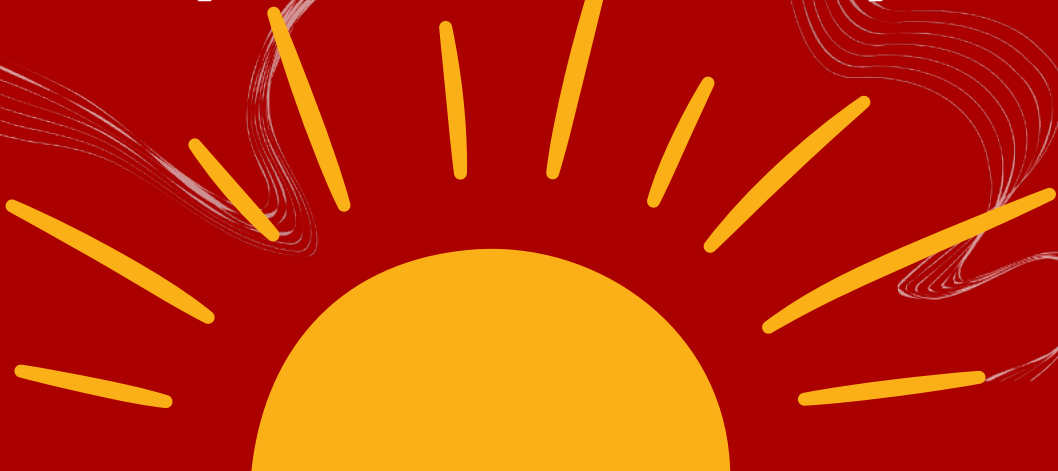
I have a question that hasn't been answered in this handbook. How can I find out the answer?

Please get in touch! Both the Grey Freshers' Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/990361407159646/>) and Instagram ( @officialgrexfreshers2026 ) are run by the people organising your Freshers' Week, so hopefully we can try and answer any questions, or point you in the direction of someone who can!

# ~ You are my Sunshine ~

The official college song, very occasionally heard at the start of the welcome formals:

You are my sunshine  
My only sunshine  
You make me happy  
when skies are grey  
You'll never know dear  
how much I love you  
so please don't take  
My sunshine away



# ~ Our Unofficial College Song ~

There is also an unofficial college song,  
more popular with students, especially at  
floodlit football matches! To the tune of  
Parklife, by Blur:

All the Grey Boys  
So many Grey Boys  
And we all go hand in  
hand  
Hand in hand for the rest  
of our lives...  
**GREY BOYS!**

**We hope you  
have the best  
time here at Grey**

