

The Snowdown

2026



**JOHN SNOW COLLEGE
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**

Associate Principal

RUTH WILSON

This year has been one of ambition, resilience and remarkable achievement for John Snow College. We welcomed our largest-ever cohort of new students, supported brilliantly by an outstanding JCR who have risen to the challenge of nurturing community across our two sites at Mount Oswald and Ernest Place.

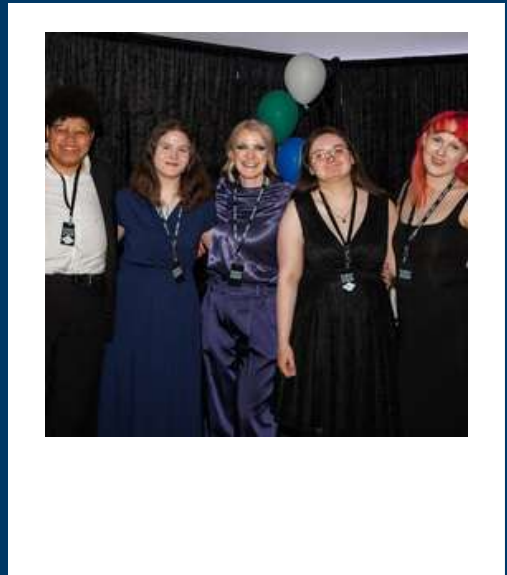
It has been a particular privilege for me to step further into the leadership of the College during a period of transition, as we marked the retirement of our Assistant Principal and as Nathan was called to focus more fully on his role as Dean of Colleges. Throughout this time, the strength, adaptability and spirit of our community have been truly inspiring.

Our students have excelled across every aspect of college life. We celebrated our highest-ever finish in the College Sport League, while our societies have continued to engage hundreds of members in activities both large and small. Our commitment to volunteering and outreach has been equally commendable. I extend my heartfelt thanks to those students and staff who have supported my own fundraising efforts for the mental health charity Mind—an endeavour that reflects the deep values of care and community that define John Snow.

This year also saw the successful pilot of our John Snow Futures Programme, bringing together alumni and members of our SCR to share insights on careers and lived experiences with our current students. Building on this success, we will launch the full programme in October 2026. I am immensely grateful to our entire college community—alumni, supporters, and friends—for helping us embed our commitment to enrichment, scholarship, and the Durham Graduate Attributes.

We have also embraced new opportunities across the College portfolio, not least in celebrating our 25th anniversary. The anniversary events brought together the largest number of returning alumni ever seen at a college gathering—an extraordinary testament to the lifelong connection people feel to John Snow. It was especially fitting to showcase our thriving performing arts community, with contributions from both alumni and current students. We remain deeply grateful to our alumni community, College Advisory Board and SCR for their continued support.

Our formals this year have been vibrant, distinctive, and full of character—proving that while we are a gowned college, we celebrate in our own unmistakable “John Snow way,” marking key moments in the academic year with both tradition and individuality.



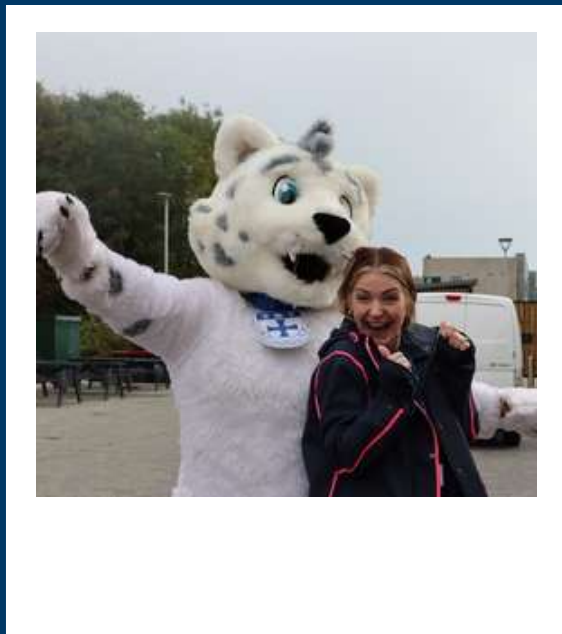
Associate Principal RUTH WILSON

As we approach the end of another year, I find myself reflecting on the passage of time. It is hard to believe that it has been nearly three years since I joined this extraordinary community, and that some of the very first undergraduates I welcomed will soon graduate in Durham Cathedral. Yet, in reconnecting with generations of Snow alumni, one truth is consistently reinforced: while time here may feel fleeting, the bonds of this community endure for life. It has been an honour to build so many connections, and I hope you will always look back on your time at John Snow with pride—and continue to reconnect with us in the years ahead.



It is also important to pause and remember two much-loved members of our community, George Bowron and Abi Eggleston, who sadly died this year. I have been profoundly moved by the way our College has come together to support one another and to honour their memory. They will always remain part of John Snow.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises continued growth and opportunity. John Snow is now the most popular catered college first choice for incoming undergraduates, and third overall across Durham—a powerful reflection of the strength of our community. I am excited to build on the exceptional foundations laid by Nathan and to continue shaping the future of the College—with perhaps a little added “Ruth style and panache.”



To our extraordinary JCR and staff team: this year has tested us in many ways, but it has also demonstrated the power of teamwork, resilience and shared purpose. In the spirit of John Snow, we have challenged convention and worked tirelessly to create positive change, and I could not be prouder of all we have achieved together. Thank you never feels enough—you are the heart of this College.

Finally, I want to pay special tribute to Nick Evans, our JCR President, who has given so much to the College this year. Nick’s fairness, integrity, hard work and adaptability have shaped an outstanding year for the Common Room. It has been a pleasure to work alongside him, and I know the incoming team will be inspired to build on this success and create their own distinctive John Snow experience in 2026/27.

JCR PRESIDENT

NICK EVANS

As outgoing JCR President I am so immensely proud of the effort the JCR has put in this year to make it truly amazing. From the planning of Freshers Week to the efforts of our sports teams at varsity, this year has been truly special. Here are a few key highlights for me.



Freshers week was a mammoth task, one of which I only could've got through with the help of my amazing committee and the team of FREPs, WREPs, Agents who helped us along the way. Hats off to Beth in particular for planning an amazing week, which was attended by 506 people.

As part of Freshers' Week we also welcomed 485 new members to the JCR. This has led to heavy investments into our sports and events this year, which I believe have been reflected both in sporting success and the standard of events we have offered.

As one of our many charity efforts across the year, the Movember campaign this year was really strong. The very popular budgie smuggler calendars and T shirts, a new edition to the ever-growing campaign by the rugby team brought their fun to the task at hand. I am proud to say we raised £7673 this year.

A whopping 694 of you came with us to Hardwick to Winter Ball and the numbers grew even bigger to 776 for Summer Ball at Wynyard Hall. Chloe and the Ball Committee did a fantastic job in putting on two amazing events and I would encourage students to get involved next year.

Hockey's Bongo's Bingo was one of those events where I was so happy to watch others in the community thrive. From the idea to the delivery, the Hockey team were outstanding. It is no secret that they raised £1000 for Mind, helping Ruth on her way to the mammoth task that she undertook. Our final charity event saw the charity fashion show raise money for Harbour Support Services. The team behind the fashion show was vast and multi-faceted. They worked tirelessly to ensure the show ran smoothly and showcased our creativity. Our charity efforts this year have been truly immense.

On the sports field we finished 4th in the college sports table, won festival of sport and varsity to boot. A personal highlight was our 5-2 victory in the Women's Floodlit Football Final. A truly enjoyable evening and huge congratulations to the women's football team.

JCR PRESIDENT - NICK EVANS



The year was rounded off spectacularly with Mega Snow Day! The Entertainments Committee put on a fantastic show with three tribute acts (Katy Perry, Pitbull & ABBA) alongside fairground rides, inflatables, a wide food offering, mini golf and bowling. A fantastic day with many compliments from the tech and security teams.

This year has truly been special, and I could not have done it without my amazing committee. Thank you John Snow, I have made memories for a lifetime.



MOVING FORWARDS

**Alex McCalmont - Incoming
JCR President 2026/27**



This year we have celebrated 25 years of John Snow, and what a year it has been! Every major event, sports team successes, society meet-ups, pub quizzes at the Igloo and everything in between has culminated in a year which has seen the Snow community come together like never before. I could not be prouder of our College and everyone who has played a part in making this year so unforgettable. My time on the JCR this year as Societies Officer has been an absolute joy, and getting to play a part in the giant web of activities around College is something I will always cherish. Now as I look forward to what the future brings for me as JCR President for the 26/27 academic year, I

could not be more assured that the success and community spirit that has been fostered this year will only continue to blossom as we look to the future. I will forever be thankful to the wider Snow membership for entrusting me with the leadership position I have held this year and am stepping into in the coming year. I am greatly anticipating both the absolute highs and the challenges that the role will bring, and I cannot wait to get started. To the wonderful 25/26 Committee and current President Nick, I am confident that Snow's 25th Anniversary will always stand out in the history books for only the best of reasons, and it has been a pleasure to work with you all and both the incoming committee and myself are very excited to continue your great successes into the next year.

I hope everyone at Snow enjoys their well-deserved Summer break and are looking forward to what we have planned for your next year here at John Snow. To those leaving us as students, I want to wish you all the best for what's to come, wherever your journey may take you. John Snow could not thrive without our student body, and wherever the next year may take us all, I am hopeful that we will maintain the exceptional standards we have all set for ourselves and that next year is shaping up to be just as outstanding as this year has been.

COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD

WHAT IS IT?

Our newly-founded College Advisory Board provide insight, advice, support and challenge in relation to the strategic direction of John Snow College, helping to ensure that College plans:

- Maximise benefit to the student community;
- Are future-focused, encouraging innovation and adoption of best practice wherever possible;
- Take into account developments and opportunities in the wider Durham University and Higher Education sector; private, public and third sectors.

Peter Warburton presently holds the voluntary position of Honorary Dean of Wider Student experience at Durham University. He graduated from Durham in 1974, and for much of his adult life has worked for Durham University holding many different roles.

“I, like so many others, have always felt that it is the College System at Durham that sets the University apart from many other Institutions across the Country. It is at its best when it has dynamic and inspirational leadership and I believe that is exactly what we have at John Snow. Their desire to tease out an identity for the College that will set it apart from the other Colleges of Durham is crucial and I greatly look forward to working with the College Advisory Board all to help achieve this aim.”



*Peter Warburton -
College Advisory
Board Chair*



Theo McCarthy joined John Snow College in 2019 as an undergraduate electrical engineer. After completing an MEng degree in June 2023, he began studying for a PhD sponsored by Rolls-Royce in power electronics for aviation. He is a passionate advocate for the friendships and pastoral benefits that a thriving college bring to the student body.



Annette Bannister earned an MSc in Finance and Investment and BA(Hons) in Business Finance from the Durham University as a member of John Snow College. She is currently a Managing Director and Head of Infrastructure Debt in EMEA for MetLife Investment Management's (MIM) Private Capital and has 19 years of experience in project finance and infrastructure debt.

Anton Horne is PA Consulting's global cost optimisation lead and focuses on operations transformation across Education and Local Government. A chartered management consultant, Anton's clients over the past 10 years have primarily been within the public sector. Anton has worked with Russell Group, pre and post 1992 universities, and is passionate about delivering the outcomes clients need.



Durham University MBA graduate, Danielle Phillips, is Founder and Managing Director of Inside Out, an internal communications agency based here in Durham. Taking a significant interest in cyber security, Danielle also runs the North East's cyber security cluster; CyberNorth. Danielle also works closely with local and national governments to level-up opportunities in the region and attract more underrepresented communities to the sector.

OUR 25TH A

This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of John Snow College. As our anniversary events draw to a close, it is a fitting opportunity to reflect on all that we have achieved together and to look ahead to what we can continue to accomplish as a community in the years to come. A key theme of this anniversary year has been celebrating the wider global John Snow community, and our alumni have been at the heart of that celebration. It has been inspiring to see just how engaged and passionate our alumni network remains.



Earlier this year, we welcomed more than 400 alumni to our largest alumni event to date. Held in London, the evening exceeded all expectations and provided a wonderful opportunity for former students to reconnect, share memories, and forge new connections.



Whether they had graduated recently or many years ago, alumni exchanged their own John Snow stories and experiences. Despite the different eras and journeys represented, there was one thing they all had in common: a genuine affection for the college and the community that helped shape their time at Durham.



ANNIVERSARY



At the time of writing, we still have Mega Snow Day and our inaugural Reunion Weekend to look forward to. It has been fantastic to see members of across our entire community coming together to celebrate Snow Day, and this year's event promises to be truly memorable—one more than worthy of our 25th anniversary celebrations. The Reunion Weekend will provide an even more personal opportunity for alumni to revisit their John Snow experience, with events taking place across both Durham and Stockton, our original home.



As we look to the future, we hope this anniversary year will encourage alumni to become even more involved with the college and our current students. Through initiatives such as the Futures Programme, there are many opportunities for alumni to share their experiences, offer guidance, and help shape the next generation of John Snow students. The strength of our college has always been its people, and we look forward to seeing our alumni community continue to play a vital role in the next chapter of the John Snow story.

Ella Medley- 25th Anniversary Intern



SOCs

2026



ALEX

MCCALMONT

SOCIETIES
PRESIDENT

25/26

As Societies Officer this year, I have had the pleasure of getting to work alongside our over 35 groups to continue to build upon our strong community ties and College spirit. We successfully ratified two new societies this year: a testament to the diverse range of interests that I have had the joy of seeing develop in College. A highlight of my year was getting to be a part of the amazing FREP team this year, and getting to introduce the newest Snow cohort to the community and to our amazing student groups at the Sports and Societies Fair.

Beyond Societies, another favourite event of mine this year was the Spring Solree, and it was a wonderful evening spent celebrating the halfway mark of the year and I am confident that it stood out in the events calendar as a night to remember! Being on the JCR Committee this year has been one of the most rewarding experiences, and I cannot wait to build upon the hard work of everyone this year as JCR President next year. Overall, I could not be prouder of the success of each and every person that has been involved in College life this year and how far our Societies have come over the span of just one year. I am greatly anticipating what the coming year will have to offer!

MEGAN

DEBATE SOC
PRESIDENT

DUNLOP

This year, John Snow Debate has had another excellent year. We hosted several debates which covered a broad range of subjects. Our membership and weekly attendance tripled and it was amazing to watch our members' confidence grow as the year progressed. The executive committee were brilliant at encouraging healthy debate and ensuring debates remained respectful. Our success was recognised at ACD where we were awarded the Society of the Year award, for the second year running.



OLVIA

JSCFS
PRESIDENT

HANNAH

John Snow Charity Fashion Show had the honour of raising money for Harbour Support Services this year with our models and executive committee taking on a range of fundraising activities leading up to the show in June, including the Yorkshire 3 Peaks challenge and half marathons. Everyone's hard work was evident on the day of the show, which welcomed over 300 attendees in support of our fundraising. We are incredibly proud to have raised nearly £7,000 for Harbour, which will help to support victims of domestic abuse across the North East.

MADDY

DANCE SOC
PRESIDENT

WEBSTER

We have had another of bringing together a welcoming community through our regular classes. Highlights included our Boys Do Ballet Movember fundraiser and our annual Charity Showcase, which raised over £300 for Children in the North East. We were also delighted to be awarded Society of the Year at the Sports & Socs Dinner. We look forward to continuing to make dance inclusive, accessible, & fun for everyone.



Sports

"SNOW LANDS ON TOP!"

Will Lonsdale



As another academic year comes to a close, it is a pleasure to reflect on what has been an outstanding year for sport at John Snow College. The dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment shown by our students, clubs, and volunteers have helped make this one of the most successful years in the college's history. One of the standout achievements this year was John Snow securing its highest-ever finish in the College Sport Points Table, placing 4th overall. This success was reflected in many major events, with John Snow crowned Festival of Sport Champions 2025/26 and reclaiming the Snow vs South Varsity title after narrowly missing out last year. Another memorable moment came under the lights as our Women's Football team secured a fantastic 5-2 floodlit victory after a historic win over Collingwood in the semi-final. We also celebrated Phoenix Cheer being crowned Grand Champions at the College Cheer Competition, further highlighting the strength of sport across the college. Beyond competition, sport at John Snow has continued to make a positive impact off the field. John Snow Rugby Football Club and John Snow Hockey Club both undertook impressive fundraising efforts for Movember and Mind respectively, demonstrating the strong community spirit that exists throughout college sport. Our Sports and Societies Awards provided an opportunity to recognise some exceptional achievements. Congratulations to Tilly Förster, who received Honorary Colours for her outstanding contributions to Phoenix Cheer in her back-to-back terms as President. Also, to Jed Lucraft, who was awarded Honorary Colours in recognition of his exceptional contributions to John Snow racket sport throughout his time at Durham University, again in an array of roles from president to treasurer and everything in between. Congratulations also to John Snow Women's Football Club, recipients of Team of the Year, and John Snow Badminton Club, recipients of Club of the Year. Taking a step away from college sport, I would also like to recognise the remarkable sporting and outreach achievements of our Associate Principal, Ruth, who ran, walked, and cycled an incredible 330 miles from Durham to London before completing the London Marathon. This challenge helped raise vital funds for Mind, bringing her total fundraising efforts for the charity to an outstanding £72,000. Finally, I would like to thank every student, committee member, volunteer, and supporter who has contributed to sport at John Snow this year. It has been a privilege to serve as Sports Officer and witness so many successes across our clubs and teams. I am excited to see college sport continue to thrive under Georgie's leadership next year and have no doubt that John Snow will continue to go from strength to strength. Snow always lands on top.

SPORTS OFFICER 2026/27


SPOTLIGHT

John Snow Badminton's growth this year has been incredible, going from struggling to fill 2 courts to having up to 100 people signing up to play each week. This was reflected in our huge achievement of receiving John Snow Club of the year! All 3 of our teams also came in podium positions in the college sports league this year. I could not be more proud of my team and their achievements this year and hope to see just as much growth next year

Matthew Costigan



SNOW ARE YOUR FESTIVAL OF SPORT WINNERS 2025



This year was a big year for Phoenix Cheer! After not having the numbers to compete in the Main Routine category last year, we put forward our first Co-ed Main Routine group who came first in College Inter-Comp. Phoenix Poms also took home the win for the third year running, and achieved Grand Champions with the highest score of the competition. Our annual showcase was a huge success, all thanks to our amazing President Tilly, who was awarded Honourary Colours at the annual Sports and Societies Formal this term.

Emily Jenkins







FORMALS

This year, we celebrated a wide range of events through our formals. We began with three Freshers' Week formals, including the continuation of our much-loved tradition of a post-formal ceilidh. We then saw everyone's creativity on display at the Halloween Formal, even if a few glasses ended up stained green along the way.

The Festive Formal brought plenty of seasonal cheer, with our rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas truly bringing out Snow's competitive spirit. We also celebrated Movember, recognised the achievements of our sports teams and societies, and welcomed back our traditional ceilidhs at Burns Night. Finally, we introduced our first Halfway House and St. Paddy's day formal, giving students another opportunity to come together and celebrate the Snow community.



STUDENT WELFARE

GWEN • RACHEL • CHRIS

Snow Down

Looking back at this academic year we have to much we have celebrated together, crafted together and worked problems out together. There have been lots of changes at Student Support. I joined the college in December and have been made to feel so welcome.

Student support are so proud of the sense of community at John Snow and have seem many examples of you looking out for each other and hope this continues moving forward. If you are ever worried about a friend or team mate we are always here to listen.

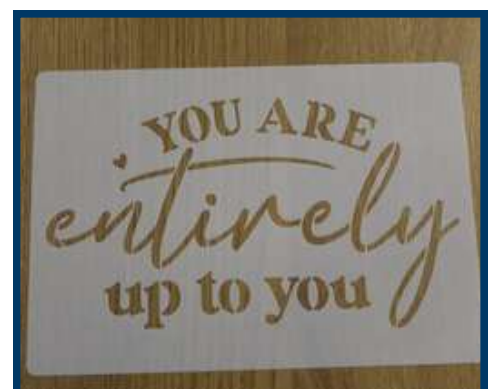
Our Welfare Wednesdays have given us many highlights and it has been wonderful to see so many of you there. We started with a great collaboration with Art Soc and Plant Soc planting herbs and painting plant pots. Our pumpkin carving session was well attended and everyone had fantastic creative ideas. It was lovely to see everyone chatting and carving together. Our Holi celebrations were joyful and colourful. Charlie the therapy dog came to visit and showered our students with his furry hugs.

Our thanks go out to all the societies and students that have worked alongside us to bring our Welfare Wednesday activities to life. If there is anything you would like to see at Welfare Wednesday please get your suggestions to us!

We responded to concerns around finding housemates for next year and brought the John Snow community together with our Find your Snowmate sessions. We hope you have lots of fun living together next year.

We are always looking to improve our support to you and want to make sure we are as accessible as possible. This year we have introduced our electronic booking system so you can easily access appointments with QR codes.

We are looking forward to next year. We are here for you. Snow problem too big Snow problem too small. If we can help let us know.



OUTREACH



This year has been another fantastic year for Outreach at John Snow! We have continued our intergenerational partnership with Sherburn House, including visits to the neighbouring care home. One of the highlights of the year was singing Christmas carols with the residents, bringing some festive cheer during the holiday season. We were also excited to launch a new partnership with Durham Dogs and Cats Home, giving students the opportunity to volunteer by spending time with and caring for the animals. We have also had beach cleans, Welfare Wednesday events, and collaborations with other societies such as Art and Baking soc. Fundraising has been another major focus this year, supporting both Movember and Mind through a variety of events, including bake sales and karaoke nights. A huge thank you goes to all the sports teams and societies that got involved, particularly Hockey Club, who raised an incredible £1,000 for Mind through their bingo night! A big thank you to everyone who has participated in outreach, volunteering, and fundraising this year. The enthusiasm and generosity of Snow students have made a real difference to both our local community and the charities we have supported, and it has been a pleasure to see the impact we can make together!

Phoebe Goodrich

Outreach Officer 2025/26

INTERNATIONAL AGENT UPDATE

This year has been a really busy and memorable one for the John Snow International Association. We organised a range of cultural celebrations and social events which brought students together to help create a welcoming community. We started the year with International Week, which included a movie and pizza night, afternoon tea, a trip to Gillesgate Retail Park, and a guided tour of Durham. These activities helped new international students settle into college life, explore the city, and meet new people. Later in the year, we worked with international societies from other colleges to celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights. It was lovely to see students from across the Hill Colleges come together and enjoy the traditional festivities. We finished the Michaelmas term with a Karaoke Night and an International Bingo Bar Crawl, both fun ways for students to



meet and spend time together. During the Epiphany term, we continued working with other college international societies for Spring Festival Night. Holi on the Hill was another highlight, with students from different colleges coming together to celebrate the Festival of Colours. Overall, the International Association worked throughout the year to welcome and engage students while sharing and celebrating the diverse cultures within John Snow. Our events aimed for students to learn about different traditions, experience new cultures, and form new friendships. A huge thank you to everyone who attended, supported, and helped organise each event.

Keya Shetty

STUDENT INTERN

I've had the privilege of working as the Student Intern over the past few months, and it's an experience I've greatly appreciated. Having done a small amount of communications work for Durham BioSoc and been responsible for events during my time as Entertainment Officer, I discovered that I really enjoy having a creative outlet. Creativity was something I loved when I was younger, before starting my Biology degree, so having the opportunity to create content and contribute to events has been incredibly rewarding.



Ella Medley

Whether it was battling with Sway to put together the weekly Snow News or heading down to London on the party bus to help host the Alumni Drinks, every part of the role has been enjoyable and valuable. It has benefited me in countless ways. Most importantly, it finally answered the question, "What do you want to do after university?"—which was just in time as a finalist. It has also given me a wealth of experiences to draw upon in interviews and plenty to add to my CV. Who says graduate CVs have to be only one page?

Beyond the practical benefits, the role has given me so many laughs in the office and provided my first real experience of working in a professional environment. It has built my confidence enormously. I went from sitting in the interview with a serious case of imposter syndrome, wondering how someone with a Biology degree could possibly do this job, to applying for full-time positions in similar roles with the confidence that my experience more than makes up for any perceived gaps elsewhere.

I would encourage anyone to apply for this role. It is an incredible opportunity, both for the individual and for the wider college community. Throughout my time in the position, I've been able to use my lived experience as a student to help inform decisions and ensure that the student perspective remains at the heart of what we do.

Thank you to everyone who made the experience so enjoyable—I'll certainly miss being part of the team.

SNOW GLOBE THEATRE



In Easter term this year, the Snow-Globe presented an entirely student-run production of Agatha Christie's 'Murder on the Nile'. The show took place on the 8th and 9th of May in the Hub after several intensive weeks of rehearsals, and had a successful 3 show run, even selling out on our final performance! Many Snow students were involved in the production, including Laura Turnbull (Director), Gabriella Whitley (Set & Costume Designer) and Ruby Perry (Cast). The show met with wonderful

reviews from both DST First Night and Palatinat, receiving four stars from the latter, a testament to the hard work and commitment of the cast and crew. Thanks must also go to the Hub staff, as well as Nathan and Ruth, for all their help. It has been such a joy running the Snow-Globe for two years and I am so proud of everything the society has achieved. I can't wait to see what next year's exec team will get up to!

Alexandra Wishart

President of The Snow-Globe Theatre Company

CHARITY SHOWCASE

On Saturday 14th February 2026, John Snow's annual Charity Showcase took place for the fourth year in a row. This year, the showcase raised funds for Children North East, a local charity which works with babies, children and young people in their families, schools and communities to ensure they grow up to be healthy and happy. The show was organised by John Snow Dance Society and featured a variety of performances by many of Snow's talented students, with the participation of The Snow-Globe theatre company, John Snow Music Society, and Phoenix Cheer. It was truly an evening filled with love and joy, and such a great opportunity for everyone to take the stage within a supportive atmosphere, knowing that it was all for a good cause. We raised over £300 for charity through the ticket sales, and it was lovely to see lots of familiar faces in the audience. The success of the event was a testament to the hard work of those involved, especially Maddy Webster and Tara King, the fabulous President and VP of John Snow Dance. In addition, the choreography of Ella Reeder, Tallula Strachan and Cadance Whawell (as well as Maddy and Tara!) absolutely lit up the stage and made the show what it was. Next year's organisers will definitely have big boots to fill!

Alexandra Wishart



Sophie Auburn Photography



What John Snow's Stockton Library has been up to! As we are a new library for this year, our focus has been to turn what was very much an office space into a working library! We have created a multipurpose space including a 'cosy corner', which has bean bags and sofas with cushions and blankets, designed to be a relaxing destress space. We also have a range of different desks, with flexibility for students to move tables around to best suit their needs, and different types of lighting with lamps and other decorative lighting to try to create a warmer space. With a deliberate spotlight on the future and developing the student outside of academics, we have introduced specific book themes. Some examples include life skills such as public speaking tips and how to live in a world of

AI; personal support such as mental health, neurodiversity and LGBTQ+ topics; and societal issues such as feminism, racism and books debating philosophical ideas. We have also introduced a book swap using donated books that were hidden away in storage. It has been quite popular so far and has been a good way to introduce fiction books in the library. As Librarian, I've had such a wonderful time this year, and I'm super excited to see what we get up to in the future.

Eleanor Thornton

John Snow Librarian

How to ADHD
Jessica McCabe

Life 3.0
Max Tegmark

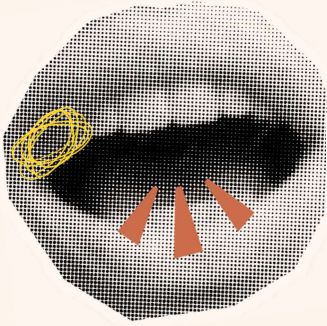
The Next Conversation
Jefferson Fisher

The Diary of a CEO
Steven Bartlett

Just One Thing
Dr Michael Mosley

Loveless
Alice Oseman

The Snow Speak Easy Project:



CONFIDENCE MASTERCLASS WORKSHOP



In May this year, the College hosted a Confidence Masterclass Workshop—a full-day intensive course focused on public speaking and building self-confidence. Part of the Snow Speak Easy Project, the initiative was led by Anna Casson and student co-lead Kerrie Warner, and made possible through funding from the Durham Students' Union Belonging Fund. The idea for the workshop emerged from conversations with students who shared experiences of imposter syndrome, anxiety, and a lack of confidence when speaking in seminars, presentations, or even in their own accent.



Students applied for a limited number of places and took part in an engaging session delivered by professional public speaking coach Jo Darby, founder of Voice in the Room. The Confidence Masterclass was carefully tailored to the nine participants, ensuring a personalised and supportive experience.

Delivered over an intensive single day, the workshop equipped students with practical techniques to manage nerves, communicate effectively, and present with confidence in a supportive environment. All participants actively took part in practical speaking exercises—daunting at first, but approached with enthusiasm and courage. It was remarkable to see the transformation in confidence and delivery from the beginning to the end of the workshop.

In addition, plans are underway to “pay it forward”, exploring how participants can support the wider John Snow community—through leading their own workshops, creating public speaking tip keyrings, and even contributing to podcasts—ensuring the benefits of the initiative continue to reach others.

“I enjoyed the speech activities. It was helpful to hear feedback on my own public speaking as well as that given to others. Jo was very inclusive and welcoming – it felt like a safe space after a very short amount of time. I liked meeting people who are older than me at uni and have a longer experience of life at Durham.”

“I enjoyed the interactivity, lots of doing stuff, testing out what we’ve just learnt. I felt like it made it stick more.”



INSIGHT INTO DURHAM DAY...

THE LINACRE INSTITUTE VISIT JOHN SNOW COLLEGE



In June 2026, we were delighted to welcome students from the Linacre Institute to John Snow College for an “Insight into Durham” Taster Day. The Linacre Institute is an educational charity dedicated to supporting high-achieving sixth form students from Northern state schools. Founded in 2014, it has since supported over 300 students in securing places at leading universities.



The visit was designed to give students an engaging introduction to life at Durham University and what it means to be part of John Snow College. After arriving by coach, the group was welcomed by Snow student ambassadors and taken on a guided campus tour, offering a first-hand experience of the University’s facilities and collegiate system.



The day continued with academic taster sessions, where students chose between Mathematics, Engineering, or Artificial Intelligence. Led by current undergraduates and university staff, these sessions provided a snapshot of Durham’s dynamic and intellectually stimulating environment.



At lunchtime, students visited the Hub and had the opportunity to try on traditional academic gowns, experiencing one of Durham’s unique traditions. In the afternoon, John Snow students, alongside the JCR President, delivered a presentation on college life and the role of the Junior Common Room in fostering a supportive and inclusive community.

The visit concluded with everyone’s favourite - our sports and societies taster sessions, highlighting the wide range of extracurricular opportunities available here at John Snow. Sessions included Darts, Pool, Volleyball, Art and Board Games.

MEGA SNOW DAY 2026!

This year, we went MEGA for Snow Day! On 13th June 2026, more than 800 students joined us for one of the biggest and best Snow Days the College has ever seen. The day was packed with excitement, entertainment and plenty of fun. From the Ferris wheel and fairground rides to inflatables and face painting, we had it all! Having spent the past year organising Snow Day, it was amazing to see everything come to life and to watch so many of you enjoying the day. Seeing hundreds of students making memories with friends made all the hard work worthwhile. We finished the day with not one, but THREE tribute acts for the first time ever! Katy Perry, Pitbull and ABBA brought incredible energy to the stage and helped create an atmosphere that was unforgettable from start to finish. Events like Snow Day are a fantastic opportunity to bring our College community together, celebrate the end of another successful year, and create lasting memories. It has been an absolute privilege to serve as your Ents Officer this year. From Freshers' Week to the Spring Soirée, and finally Snow Day, it has been a year full of incredible experiences and achievements. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this year - and especially Snow Day - such a success. As I graduate, I now pass the role on to Celia, who I know is going to do a fantastic job. Although my time as Ents Officer is coming to an end, I already can't wait to come back and visit Snow Day again next year to see what new memories are made. Thank you for an unforgettable year, Snow Love, Beth!

Beth Hayes

Entertainment's Officer



ANNUAL COLLEGE AWARDS 2026

COLLEGE AWARDS

Sports Leadership Award

Niamh Tyreman
Grace Beardsley

Team of the Year

Women's Football

Sports Spirit Award

Seren Anderson

Sports Personality

Will Bourn

Society of the Year

Debate Society

Society Leader of the Year

Kerrie Warner

Outreach Leader of the Year

Phoebe Goodrich

College Unsung Hero

Connor Lappage

Dr John Snow Award

Sia Riley

Abigail Eggleston Memorial Award (Kindness)

Madalene Howard

George Bowron Memorial Award (Strength of Character)

Lucy Gallagher

JCR Awards



HLMs

Nick Evans
Beth Hayes
Caitlin Smith
Ella Medley

College Fellow

Will Lonsdale
Maisie Donohue



SPORTS & SOCIETIES

COLOUR RECIPIENTS

HONOURARY COLOURS

Team of the Year - John Snow Women's Football
Club of the Year - John Snow Badminton
Honorary Colours - Tilly Forster
Honorary Colours - Jed Lucraft
Society of the Year - Dance Soc
Event of the Year - Fem Soc
President of the Year - Hayden Smith
Honorary Colours - Megan Dunlop
Honorary Colours - Bethany Gresty
Honorary Colours - Tom Horton

FULL COLOURS

Futsal - Yahya Aiouaz
Men's Rugby - Edward Jackson & Jacob Taylor-Burks
Women's Rugby - Bianca Barbour & Poppy Thorpe
Volleyball - Sully Shazad & Lorcan Byrne
Boat Club - Olivia Black & Tessa Dowding
Phoenix Cheer - Chloe Base & Niamh Wheatley
Men's Football - Ashton Robson & Jake Wright
Women's Football - Myra Malinga & Phoebe Firth
Netball - Lauren Cummings & Eve Pryde
Tennis - Marie Sanseau
Badminton - Tilly Marsden
Cricket - Archie Atkins-Sloan
Squash - Joseph Phillipson
Pool - Jonny Knight
Ultimate Frisbee - Ben Smith
Darts - Jack Roberts & Jack Bullock
Hockey - Tom Bavin & Rachael Nash
Debate - Eve Pryde
Art - Isabel Rose Kershaw
Running Club - Samuel Woollon
Snow Scope - Thomas Bull
JSCFS - Vinnie Cheung
Cooking & Baking - Sia Riley
Pizza - Kira Ramnarain
Taylor Swift - Sia Riley
ChocSoc - Harry Williams
Board Games - Matthew Mellody
Snow Globe - Laura Turnball
F1 - Nico Lever
FemSoc - Nieve Pay
Plant - Synnove Dallas
Dance - Matt Jupe
Boxing - Gabriella Whittley
Roast Dinner - Caitlin Smith
Book Club - Umaimah Hussain

HALF COLOURS

Futsal - Ellis Challinor
Men's Rugby - Cameron Sampson & Adam Kelly
Women's Rugby - Shannon Radu & Laura Dolhe
Volleyball - Rosheen Bapat & Jack Taylor
Boat Club - Scarlett Smith & Sofia Adamson
Phoenix Cheer - Ava Grainger-Williams & Grace Marshall
Men's Football - Ewan Dixon & Oliver Griffiths
Women's Football - Tess May & Annemieke Karssens
Netball - Tia Guy & Isobel Keetley
Tennis - Libby Haley & Jamie Sidney-Woollett
Badminton - Ted Chu & Arjun Punia
Cricket - Aarav Khanna & Amelia Chapman
Squash - Jake Black & Paolo Gray
Pool - Matty Wild & Ben Knighton
Ultimate Frisbee - Emma McBretney & Brooke Bramford
Darts - Ben Burke & Thea Woodhouse
Hockey - Adam Spoor & Georgie Sanders
Debate - Asher Hill & Sofia Lander
YAPS - Caitlin Smith
Crochet - Phoebe Goodrich
SWD Association - Tara Phull
Running Club - Oliver Edwards & Izzy Keetley
Snow Scope - Veronica Pombo Hollman
Social Mobility Association - Hayden Smith
JSCFS - Sia Riley & Poppy Thorpe
Cooking & Baking - Matthew Costigan & Sophie Smith
Pizza - Alex McCalmont
Taylor Swift - Matthew Costigan
Choc Soc - Mia Burdof
International Association - Abdul Muhmeen Leasu & Jane Zhu
Board Games - Andrea Sande & Jack Taylor
Snow Globe - Gabriella Whittley
F1 Soc - Kate O'Connor
Spikeball - Dan Tomlinson & Joe Palmer
Fem Soc - Emily Foster & Callum Howarth
Plant - Amelia Wall
Dance - Lacey MacKenzie & Ella Reeder
Boxing - Emily Beasley & Sam Reed
Stargazing - Olivia Hannah
Roast Dinner - Lucy Gallagher
Book Club - Ellie Thornwaite & Alex Daniel

OUR JOHN SNOW COLLEGE SENIOR COMMON ROOM

WHAT IS THE SCR?

At Durham, the SCR is a long-standing tradition — a space for students, alumni, and staff to connect and contribute to College life. At John Snow, we're proud to honour that tradition, but we're not here to simply preserve the past. We're building an SCR that looks forward. Future-focused, inclusive, and open to all, our SCR is a living network — one that stretches across the country and the globe, across industries and generations.

Whether you graduated this year or twenty-five years ago, whether you were a JCR President or quietly made Snow your home — this is your community.

WHY JOIN?

Everyone's connection to John Snow looks a little different, and that's exactly what makes our SCR special. Whether your College days were packed with activity or passed in quieter ways, you're still part of a community that values where you've been and what you've gone on to do.

You don't need to be highly involved to take part. The SCR is designed to be flexible — a community you can stay connected to in a way that works for you. Whether you're ready to offer support or just want to keep in touch, there's a place for you here.

Here's what you might gain from being involved:

- Offer advice or insight to current students — small actions can make a big impact.
- Share your story — your path might be just what someone else needs to hear.
- Reconnect and grow your network with fellow alumni, staff, and friends of the College.
- Spot new talent and consider hiring from a trusted, growing network of Snow graduates.
- Stay in the loop, from College developments to occasional events and opportunities to contribute.
- Rediscover the Snow community — because a sense of belonging shouldn't have a time limit.

It's easy to join, and even easier to find value in being part of something that's growing, evolving, and grounded in shared purpose.

HOW?

If you are graduating this summer or are an alumnus of some years' standing, we warmly encourage you to join the John Snow College SCR via our LinkedIn page.

We do not want cost to be a barrier to entry, so a range of membership contributions is available. We simply ask that you consider supporting the development of the SCR and its future events, both virtual and in-person. All income and expenditure will be overseen by our independent College Advisory Board.



OUR SCR LINKEDIN