



Grey JCR

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Dear Grey Freshers,

Congratulations! If you are reading this you have some exciting years ahead of you, as a student at Durham University. This is an incredible achievement, and you should all be really proud of yourselves. Over the next few years, you will learn that Durham truly is a special place, that you will hold in your hearts for the rest of your life.

A unique feature of Durham University is the collegiate structure and Junior Common Rooms (JCRs) are central to that. My name is Ishwari, writing to you as the Grey College JCR President for the upcoming academic year. I graduated with a law degree this summer and will now be working full-time over the next year to make the student experience the best it can be. The JCR is an independent, student-led charity centred around improving the student experience. With the help of student volunteers, we host a range of events such as Freshers' Week, as well as the big calendar events of Winter Ball, Phoenix Ball (the annual 12-hour summer ball!), Grey Day and Grey College Charity Fashion Show. Alongside this we run the sports and societies here at Grey, with so many to choose from such as mixed lacrosse, dodgeball, Star Wars Appreciation Society, the list goes on. A great part about college sport is you can get involved no matter your experience level and it is a great way to meet new people. The JCR also offers a wide range of positions (over 100!), such as Publicity Officer and Music Chair- getting involved has never been easier.

One of my favourite parts of Grey and the JCR is its community, we pride ourselves on this. During my time here I have found myself and many others wandering back up 'Grey Hill' countless times- Grey truly is a place that you will never want to leave. We are also fortunate enough to have some amazing facilities right on our doorstep. The Multi-Use Games Area is a place to play a range of sports, such as tennis, 5-a-side football and basketball. We also have The Greyhound, arguably the best college bar in Durham, and the dining hall where catered students will have all their meals, accompanied by the stunning view of the cathedral, the dining hall is also the place that formals will be held. Fountains Hall consists of a hall for sporting and recreational activity, as well as having a chapel, music rooms, an art room and a space for the new JCR DJ decks. Some of the other facilities include, the gym, Grey Pantry, the TV room and the library.

We understand that coming to a new place and starting university can be a daunting experience, that's why Durham does Freshers' Week slightly differently. Upon arrival at Grey, you will be greeted by a team of Freshers' Representatives, also known as Freps (you can't miss them, they will be wearing bright pink polos). The Freps will be around to make the settling in process as easy as possible, as well as helping out with a range of activities and events planned throughout the week. We want everyone to feel included, accepted and welcome, whilst ensuring your first experiences in Durham are as fun and memorable as possible. Additionally, you will also be greeted by members of the JCR Welfare Team, in the

blue polos, should you need someone to chat to, additionally the Grey College Student Support Team are available too. Starting university can be a challenging time, however I hope you all feel accepted into the Grey community and make the most of all the incredible opportunities put before you- trust me your time at Durham will go by really fast, so make the most of everything that you can!

Something that may strike you by surprise is that in Durham, Facebook is one of the primary forms of communication, alongside the attached Messenger app, particularly for communications from many Grey sports and societies. I would encourage you all to set up a Facebook profile ahead of arriving in Durham. I also invite you all to join the [Official Grey Freshers 2026/27 Facebook Group](#), all the key information regarding Freshers' Week will be posted here, you can also utilise it to ask any questions. Additionally, the relevant Instagram account is @officialgrexfreshers2026, which will also supply the relevant information. To stay updated throughout the year you can also follow Grey JCR on Instagram @greycollegejcr, and for updates from myself follow @grey_sabbs. More key information can be found on the [Grey JCR Website](#). I would also advise you all to access your Durham email accounts as early as possible, to ensure you do not miss out on any key correspondence.

I understand that you will be receiving a lot of information during this period, however it will all become a lot easier once you arrive and begin to settle in. If you have any questions regarding the JCR, Grey College or life in Durham feel free to get in touch by emailing grey.president@durham.ac.uk, I am more than happy to help.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer, and we all look forward to seeing you in September and welcoming you into the Grey community. You have a fantastic few years ahead of you!

Yours faithfully,

Ishwari Ramsaha
JCR President

