



Newsire February 2025

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Convocation: Panel Discussion and Annual Review of 2024

Monday 24 February 2025, 6-8.30pm (GMT)

Our Vice-Chancellor and Warden, Professor Karen O'Brien invites you to join her on campus for this year's meeting of Convocation, which features a panel discussion on the transformational effect of Humanities.

[Read more and book your place](#)

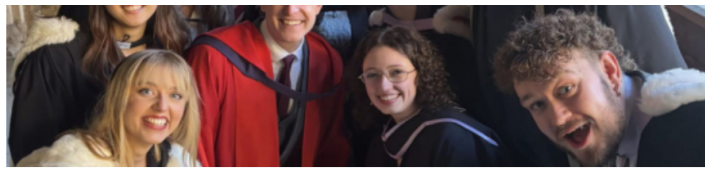


His Majesty The King's New Year Honours 2025

With the announcement of the King's New Year Honours List 2025, we extend our congratulations to our alumni and friends who have been recognised and celebrate their outstanding achievements.

[Read more](#)





Our students celebrated with our honorary graduates at Congregation 2025

Our honorary graduates, government lawyer Sir Jonathan Jones, astrophysicist Professor George Efstathiou, and television presenter Matt Baker share their personal journeys and experiences of Durham. Former FE Principal, Suzanne Duncan, received her award posthumously.

[Watch interviews with our honorary graduates](#)



New Business School Executive Dean appointed

Congratulations to Professor Kieran Fernandes, who will take up the role of Executive Dean in April 2025. Kieran will be responsible for strategic development and financial performance at the Business School.

[Read more](#)

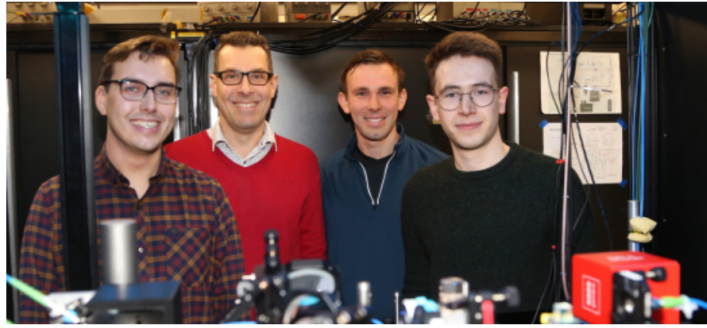


Alumni superteam triumph in University Challenge

Carla Denyer, Liz James, Tracey MacLeod, Sophia Smith Galer and reserve Derek Ward-Thompson triumphed in the festive series of the BBC game show. The final was closely fought against Queens' College, Cambridge 125 to 120.

[Read more](#)

Our Community



Leading the world in Physics research

From quantum science to galactic discoveries, our Department of Physics is at the forefront of breakthroughs in the field. Over the past few months, our scientists have made incredible findings.

Pictured (L-R): Daniel Ruttley, Professor Simon Cornish, Dr Alexander Guttridge, and Tom Hepworth who have achieved world-leading quantum entanglement of molecules.

[Read more](#)

Alumni startup takes on Dragons' Den

Two Computer Science alumni and their Venture School startup, Choppity, gained endorsement from the investors in the BBC series Dragons' Den.

[Read more](#)

Inspiring students: alumni shares

Inspiring students. alumnus shares passion for Geography

Richard Walker OBE (Geography, St Aidan's College, 1998-2001), Executive Chairman of UK retail chain Iceland, visited Durham recently to talk to students about how his studies and university experiences have helped shape his career.

[Read more](#)



To America and Back: Actor James Corden tells his story

British writer, actor and comedian James Corden has shared valuable advice to young people wanting to work in the creative sector, in a high-profile event supported by the University.

Pictured (L-R): David Miliband and James Corden

[Read more](#)

Class Notes

We're proud to celebrate the successes of the following alumni. Discover their achievements by using the 'Read more' button below.

Stacye Domzalski (Education, University College, 2017-18)

Dr Ian Robert Gomersall (Physics, Van Mildert College, 1969-72)

Peter Hornsby (BA in Combined Social Sciences, 2013-16; MSc in Management Studies, 2016-18, St Cuthbert's Society)

The Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP (History, University College, 1972-83)

Patricia McGarrahan (MA in Archaeology, Ustinov College, 2013-15)

Antonios Tsalikis (MA in International Relations (Middle East), Ustinov College, 2019-20)

Dr Anthony Wells (BA in Modern European History, 1962-65; MA in History, 1965-69, St Cuthbert's Society)

Dr Nussaibah Younis (MSc in Arab World Studies, 2008-11; PhD in Government & International Affairs, 2011-14, Ustinov College)

Why not share your own news with us?

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Lifelong learning

We have a wide range of postgraduate study options for you to continue your education, including a scholarship just for alumni, and programmes for working professionals.

[Read more](#)

Get Involved



Is there a Durham Days event near you?

Durham Days (formerly Dunelm Days) is a week-long celebration of your connection to Durham. Events are hosted by alumni, for alumni all over the world from Saturday 1 - Sunday 9 March as part of Durham Global Week celebrations.

[Find an event near you](#)

Discover Postgraduate Durham at our online Open Days

Our online sessions on Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 February will give you the opportunity to learn more about postgraduate study and life at Durham.

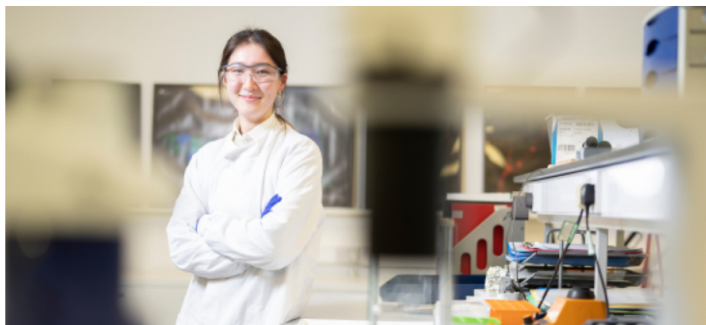
[Book your place](#)

View all upcoming events

Check our events pages regularly for all the upcoming alumni events across the world, and how you can join in.

[Events calendar](#)

Colleges



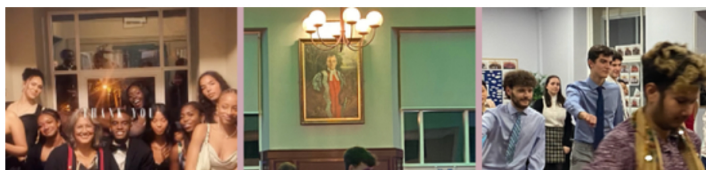
Hatfield College: new scholarship funded by alumnus

Thanks to generous support from Hatfield alumnus Guy Beresford (History, 1982-85), we proudly unveil the Guy Beresford Scholarship for taught postgraduate STEM students from the North East of England.

[Read more](#)

St John's College: could you be our next trustee?

St John's Common Room (SJCR) is looking to appoint up to two new external trustees. The trustees oversee SJCR's governance, discussing finances, welfare, representation and more.

[Read more and register your interest](#)



Grey College: a lively, intercultural Michaelmas

We've enjoyed celebrating at our Gaudy, Black History Month, Diwali, and Christmas formals, and hosted Professor Stanley Hui, Principal of Henry Fok Pearl Jubilee College, University of Macau.

[Read more](#)



Celebrating 125 years

St Mary's College: continuing anniversary celebrations in 2025

St Mary's College will continue its 125th Anniversary celebration this academic year with three alumni reunion dinners in March, April and June.

[Read more](#)



Van Mildert College: Join our 60th anniversary celebrations

Van Mildert's 60th Anniversary celebrations have officially begun, with the first event on 30 January. It was a magnificent occasion and we're already looking forward to the next gathering.

[Read more](#)

Explore our College pages to discover the latest news.

[Read more](#)

Retail



With love from Durham

Pick up a special keepsake gift for yourself or a loved one following this year's Winter Congregation. Our graduation collection features a wide range of items, from teddy bears to commemorative glassware.

[Shop now](#)

Want to read more?

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Newswire is curated by Editorial Group members Lucian Hudson (Chair), Glen Whitehead, Claire Whitelaw, Tristan Alltimes, Vicky Fisher and Debbie Mayne, and assembled by Hamish Lehan and Jo Coombs.

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