



Newsire March 2025

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Our Chancellor launches new scholarship to widen access to a Durham education

Acclaimed foreign affairs specialist, Dr Fiona Hill, launches a scheme to support those from lower income households. Applications will open on Tuesday 25 March.

[Read more](#)



Our ambitious plan for a more inclusive Durham

We're introducing a new Access and Participation Plan to improve equality of opportunity in higher education and make Durham more diverse and inclusive than ever before.

[Read more](#)





A spotlight on our innovative Transformative Humanities programme

This year's meeting of Convocation featured a thought-provoking discussion on our fresh approach to humanities thinking. Transformative Humanities crosses boundaries and brings new dimensions to thought, research, and interdisciplinarity.

[Read more](#)

Research to empower and inspire

We conduct innovative and impactful research to transform lives and make a difference globally and locally.



We're a significant academic collaborator in India with over 20 institutional partnerships from engineering to heritage. International collaboration is key to our excellence in teaching and research.

[Read our latest research](#)

Our Community



'An enormous pleasure': alumnus gives Annual Hatfield Lecture

Lord James Timpson OBE (Geography, Hatfield College, 1991-94) returned to Durham to speak about 'Prison, Punishment and Hope' and his love of Durham to a full Hatfield College Chapel.

[Read more](#)



Alumni offer transformational donation to our Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Alumni Joanna Barker MBE (French, Collingwood College, 1977-81) and Graham Barker (Law, Van Mildert College, 1977-80) have donated £1.3m towards the institute's new Inventing Futures research programme.

[Read more](#)

Royal Navy Vice Admiral and alumnus visits Durham

Vice Admiral Andrew Burns CB OBE (Geography, Hatfield College, 1989-92) met with our researchers and students, and gave a talk at the School of Government and International Affairs.

[Read more](#)

Class Notes

We're proud to celebrate your successes and achievements.



Sophie Harper (Anthropology & Psychology, St John's College, 1982-85), pictured third from left, unexpectedly found herself reconnecting with Durham alumni on an adventure ship around Cape Horn. "An adventurous spirit had drawn us all there and we shared memories of Durham, [...] and experienced the privilege of standing at the end of the world."

James Davis (MBA, 2004-07)

Daniel Fitzpatrick (BA in Theology & Ministry, 2005-09; MA in Theology & Ministry, 2010-12, Ushaw College)

Dr Michele Fontefrancesco (PhD in Anthropology, Ustinov College, 2008-12)

Ben Robbins (English Literature, Hatfield College, 2002-05)

Awais Khan (Management Studies, 2010-13)

Dr Victoria Walsh née Battell (BA in Sociology, St Aidan's College, 1997-2000;
MA in Criminal Justice Studies, Graduate Society, 2000-01)

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 and programmes for working professionals.

You can also benefit from a discount through our alumni fee scholarship.

[Read more](#)

Get Involved



The Durham difference; from educational excellence to employability

Our Careers and Enterprise team has been shortlisted for an Educate North award through their work to offer direction, empower students and boost self-confidence.

[Read more](#)



Durham University Rugby Club turns 150

To commemorate their 150th anniversary, our men's and women's rugby clubs invite you to a day of rugby at Durham City Rugby Club, including a match with the world-famous Barbarians on Saturday 3 May.

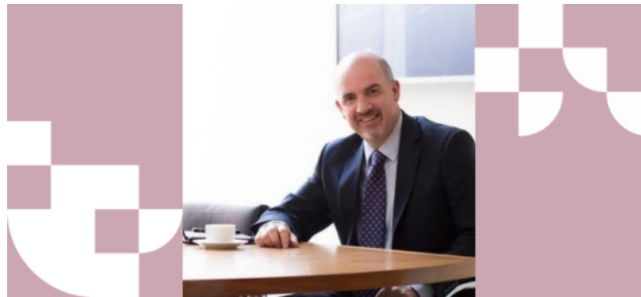
[Get your ticket now](#)

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



New Principal appointed for Collingwood College

Professor Thom Brooks from our Law School assumes the role in September 2025. He commented: "I look forward to continuing Collingwood's success and supporting our colleges and wider student experience."

[Read more](#)

Hatfield College alumnus appointed to prestigious Church of England position

Sir Robert Buckland KBE KC (Law, Hatfield College, 1987-90) has been appointed to the role of Third Church Estates Commissioner this month.

[Read more](#)

Grey College receives alumni support for new rowing boat

Grey College alumni contributed towards the purchase of a new men's 8+ rowing boat, named after rowing enthusiast and previous College Master, Eric Halladay.

[Read more](#)

ST MARY'S COLLEGE 125th Anniversary Play

St Mary's College celebrates 125th anniversary at the Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms Theatre

St Mary's resident theatre company, Foot of the Hill Theatre Company, will explore the College's inspiring stories and history in a special student-written production.

[Read more](#)

Read more from our Colleges

Explore our College pages to discover the latest news.

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Retail



A gift for Mothering Sunday

With Mothering Sunday approaching on Sunday 30 March, why not pick up one of our best-selling super soft and incredibly cute toffee bears?

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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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