



Grey JCR

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Dear Grey Freshers,

Congratulations! Following your exam results, you are going to be a student at Durham University. This is an achievement you can be proud of for the rest of your life. Durham is a truly special place, as I hope you will find from speaking to any current students or alumni.

My name is Freddie, and I am writing as Grey Junior Common Room (JCR) President for the upcoming academic year. The JCR is an independent, student-led charity that seeks to provide the best possible student experience at Grey. It organises much of Freshers' Week, all sports and societies at Grey, events throughout the year, and so much more. In practice, it feels like one great community, within which everyone has a part to play; it has over 1,200 student members! There are over 50 different positions, such as Events Manager or Music Chair, over 25 different sports clubs, like netball or squash, and many societies, including the choir or the Star Wars Appreciation Society. Major events on the JCR calendar include the 'Winter Ball', the 'Fashion Show', 'Grey Day', and our summer 'Phoenix Ball', which always prove to be days you never forget. For these reasons and more, I love Grey, which is why I was honoured to be elected as your JCR President this year. I'll be working full-time to represent your voices to College staff, the University, and the wider world.

As President, I have already graduated, having spent three fantastic years at Grey. While I enjoyed my studies (Ancient History!), it was outside the lecture hall, up 'Grey Hill' where I found my university life. You join at a time when Grey's facilities are the best they have ever been. Most recently, we have a new Multi-Use Games Area, where you can play tennis, basketball, and 5-a-side football. Both the dining hall and the bar (the famed Greyhound) have been completely remodelled, offering views of Durham's magnificent cathedral—and what's on draught—respectively. Fountains Hall houses a chapel, music and art rooms, as well as being a space for general sport and recreation. There are many other facilities I cannot mention in more detail, such as the library, pantry, TV room, and gym.

Whether you will be living in college or out, I hope you find your place at Grey. As I'm sure you have been told many times already, this autumn is an opportunity to define yourself in any way you wish. Freshers' Week at Grey aims to be as welcoming, inclusive, and fun as possible. Starting university can be daunting, which is why we run Freshers' Week as we do—everyone involved has been through the same experience of first seeing Grey on a crisp September day. Helping out in the week will be a team of Freshers' Representatives (Freds) in pink polos, who have returned from their summer break early solely to help you settle in. As well as this, the student-led JCR Welfare team will always be around for a chat, as will the Grey College student support team.

One funny feature of Durham student life is Facebook. While not a platform many of us use regularly, I would strongly recommend you make a profile before you arrive. The university-

wide social media pages, as well as the vast majority of Grey sports and societies use both Facebook and the attached Messenger app. In particular, I invite you to join our [Freshers Facebook Group](#). Here you will find lots of key information for Freshers' Week, and can ask Freshers' Representatives (Freps) any questions you might have. The parallel Instagram page for Freshers' Week is @officialgrexfreshers2025. Beyond this, you can follow Grey JCR on Instagram @greycollegejcr, and can find updates from me @grey_sabbs. Do also look around the [JCR website](#), where you can find more information. Most importantly, get access to your Durham University email account as soon as possible, and check it frequently. There will be a great deal of important information there.

I am sure you may have many questions surrounding life at Durham, Grey College, and Grey JCR. Please know you can email me directly at grey.president@durham.ac.uk, for all questions great and small—I am always happy to help.

I, and the wider Grey community, cannot wait for you to all arrive in September: it's going to be fantastic.

Yours faithfully,

Freddie Bloom
JCR President

