

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all well, safe, and are still feeling connected to the John's community despite us all being apart. We wanted to keep you up to date with how we are going to operate as a student body this term. Many meetings and hours of work have gone into planning for Michaelmas by both College and the SJCR. There is a likelihood that things could change, so this document outlines the situation as it stands at the moment. Further guidance will be forthcoming, and College will be updating their regulations and details of operations here: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/st-johns.college/covid19/>. The SJCR will continue to update you as operational plans are updated.

Open Forum

We realise that there is a lot of information contained in this email, and we advise you to read it carefully. We're also hosting an open forum/Q&A session with College Officers to answer any further questions that you may have about College life this coming year. This will be held on the 16th of September between 11am and 1pm on Zoom:

<https://durhamuniversity.zoom.us/j/4249154982?pwd=bUNGRzF0SW5GTs96QVJUeTMyVytXUT09>

Meeting ID: 424 915 4982

Passcode: 275160

If you have any questions concerning your accommodation, please email johns.secretary@durham.ac.uk (but note that the Senior Tutor's Office team is managing a very large volume of queries at the moment, so please bear with them). If you have any other questions or thoughts, please email me at johns.president@durham.ac.uk.

Returns

Changes for the St John's Community are going to be most noticeable for our returning students this year. We ask that you follow all guidance that the SJCR and College put in place, to set a good example for our new incoming freshers. Your actions will help to protect those potentially vulnerable in the John's community – the amazing staff on site that we know and love (including catering, housekeeping, maintenance and more), as well as all of our residents. The primary social spaces for those living in are the bar, the marquee on Library Lawn, and the Old Library, with other spaces being bookable dependent on risk assessments. All rooms will have a maximum capacity which must be adhered to. Indoors, people from no more than 2 households may meet with a distance of 2m. Outdoors, people from no more than 6 households may meet with a distance of 1m+.

Households

For those resident in College, a household will be a collection of students living together who have sole use of the facilities in their household. These facilities (bathrooms and utility rooms/kitchens) cannot be shared with another household. Social distancing is not required between members of the same household. Households are limited to a maximum number of fifteen, so within St John's they will mostly be arranged around corridors. When term begins, you will be told which household you are in, and you must not use facilities assigned to a household other than your own. If an individual within a household is required to self-isolate due to symptoms of Covid-19, their whole household is also required to self-isolate until a test result is known. In this situation, meals will be delivered to the relevant area of College and the SJCR will aid those isolating the best we can. If an individual is required to self-isolate through track and trace (due to possible exposure to a confirmed case) but is not themselves showing symptoms of Covid-19, the other members of their household do not also need to self-isolate.

Areas of College

One of the biggest changes in College is that some entrances and areas will need to be assigned for use by specific groups in order to keep everyone safe. The following is subject to change, but should give an impression of how College will operate:

Entrances

Linton House Door (1 South Bailey) – Staff Only
Maintenance Office Door (2 South Bailey) – Staff Only
Reception Door (3 South Bailey) – Staff and Enquiries Only
4 South Bailey Door – Staff Only

River Gate – Livers out preferred daytime access to avoid indoors
Crossroads Door – All students, acts as the new main entrance
28 North Bailey Door – Residents
Cranmer Door – Residents and Cranmer Students

Staff Only Areas

Main Corridor from the Maintenance Office to Leech Hall
Vasey Room, Tristram Room and Senior Common Room
Cranmer Offices Corridor; except the Wallis Room as a carrel
Etchell's House and Garden

Cranmer Only Areas

Leech Hall
Crossroads Hub
Bowes Dining Room
Wallis Room

Access to Haughton Dining Room and the Linton Bar will be from the rear of College, as much of the main corridor is designated Staff Only. The Peer Support Hub will now be in the Linton Carrel, operating as a pre-booked Welfare space for residents only; this will be reviewed as alert levels change. There will be no drop-in sessions with support staff at Alert Level 3, only pre-booked appointments. Students living out will be asked to book online support appointments, with exceptions in serious cases agreed by staff in advance.

Health and Safety Reviews and Risk Assessments

As we approach the start of a new academic year, we will be arranging a health and safety meeting with all SJCR sports teams and societies to ensure their activities have a Covid-19 risk assessment. If you have not been contacted by the 4th of September and feel you need a Health and Safety meeting, please do email johns.president@durham.ac.uk.

If you are neither a captain of a sports team nor a society president but are wishing to put on an event, all events and booking within College require a risk assessment. Events must have a student leader who is responsible for ensuring: booking and people are managed, contact details for attendees are recorded, capacities are not breached, social distancing is maintained, and cleaning takes place. Events plans and individual risk assessments for use of College spaces will be looked at on a case by case basis; all planning must conform with the latest government guidance for each specific activity.

St John's Bar

St John's Bar will be open to all St John's students (including livers out) at Alert Level 3 and below. During this time, the bar will be a central social place to maintain the John's community. Therefore, it is essential that everyone adheres to the rules in place within the bar so that we can continue to have it as a socialising space.

The Cellar Bar will not be available for use and the upstairs Linton Bar will instead be open with table-service and prepaid orders. The indoor area will have a capacity of 30 and other individual room capacities must be observed. The outdoor Garden Bar (capacity of 30) is open to livers out, accessed by the river path or Crossroads door.

Inter Common Room Relations

As you may be aware (if not see the documents linked to below), John's Hall and Cranmer Hall are currently operating completely separately for everyone's safety. This means various plans to integrate our communities this year have temporarily been put on pause. To keep conversations going between us all, we have set up a new weekly Zoom meeting for anyone to attend. This has been advertised and we have our first virtual meetup today at 4pm. If you have any further thoughts on how to keep all the common rooms connected during this time, please do let us know.

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Livers Out

It is vital to the SJCR that our livers out can continue to be a part of our community. At the time of term beginning (if we remain at Alert Level 3), they will have access to the Outdoor Bar area, the Marquee and the LRC. Livers out will be able to book study space at the top floor of the LRC via the Library Team. To access College, livers out may only use the river path (during daylight hours, not after dark) and the Crossroads door from the Bailey. The only toilets available for use by livers out are the Linton Bar toilets and the LRC toilets. College will not be receiving parcels or post for students living out.

Face Covering

The University, College and the SJCR are all due to release a face-covering policy ahead of term. Unless you have a medical exemption, face coverings are required at all times when circulating round College buildings; two reusable face coverings have been promised to all members of the Durham University community.

College Actions Against Safety Breaches

College Officers take the health and safety of staff and students seriously, and breaches of the College Regulations and Health and Safety Policy will result in sanctions. This will start with a formal warning for first time breaches, with repeated breaches resulting in fines and/or bans from College facilities for individual students.

College Officers are in the process of updating College Regulation with further Covid-specific information and guidance for communal living, and will share these with all Johnians before the start of term.

St John's College Covid-19 information and planning: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/st-johns.college/covid19/>

St John's College Operational Model vs. Covid-19 Alert Levels (Live Document: last updated 30.07.2020): <https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/st-johns.college/STUDENTOPERATIONALPLANVSALERTLEVELS31.07.2020.pdf>

- ✓ Social distancing and safety measures
- ✓ Covid-specific risk assessment completed
- ✓ Following industry and government guidelines
- ✓ Signed up to the AA Covid Confident Charter



#AACovidConfident

College is AA Covid Confident and will be fully open from the 12th of September.