

President

Stuart Flegg

Hello! My name is Stuart and I am going for the position of President.

Those of you I have had the fortune to meet will know, I can be a confident and outgoing person. As the role involved representing the postgraduate perspective to a number of different individuals in the College and University, I feel that this is a valuable attribute to have. As some of you may also know, I have previously held a similar position here at Durham in one of the other colleges. I have a strong operational understanding of the institution and of the procedures behind successful events in a successful Common Room. I have not a series of manifesto promises or pledges for you; the MCR is what you want it to be and I would love to help make that happen.

Vice President

Sarah Gray

Hi everybody, I'm Sarah, a second year PhD student in chemistry.

Having done my undergraduate degree also here at Grey, I have a fairly good understanding of how the college runs and the services it offers to its members - I think this sort of knowledge would be a great asset to have on our exec. so we can make the most of our relationship with the JCR, and also make sure there is provision for our postgraduate students so we don't get lost in the crowd!

I had a great time being part of the MCR last year, so I want to do my bit to make sure the MCR continues to be a great place for our postgrad community to socialise and relax. I'm an organised, friendly, and reliable person, and think I could make a good job of supporting the exec. in their roles as vice president. Thanks for reading!

Treasurer

Vincent Chan

About me

Hello, my name is Vincent Chan, I am a Management and Finance postgraduate student and I am running for treasurer/ financial secretary. I am applying because even though I have only been at Grey College for 3 weeks, I have enjoyed a lot. Everyone are nice and accept each other in Phoenix Room like a family. I feel it's a need for contribution and help run our MCR

room voluntarily. Having said that, I sincerely hope to use my skills and knowledge to serve the best interest for everybody, so that Grey MCR can become the best place for every members.

Any previous experience

I worked as a volunteer finance assistant to aid Oxfam in their national finance head office, I was responsible to record and process the accounting submissions from over 700 shops across the UK. I think this has equipped me well to be a treasurer in MCR because it has developed my team working as well as communication skills. I am also an organized person with good attention to detail, so I can promise to make sure MCR has sufficient fund for upcoming activities and no money is wasted.

Thank you for reading my manifesto. Give me your support by voting and I will support you throughout this year.

Secretary

Hannah Piercy

I would like to apply for the position of MCR secretary because I have been very impressed by how welcoming the MCR has been since my arrival in Durham. I would love to make an active contribution to ensure our community continues to function effectively in this way. I believe I would be well-suited to the role of secretary: one of the most important jobs of the secretary is to take minutes, and I am well-known for being an obsessive note-taker, even at optional talks and events! As an English Literature student, I am capable of recording and documenting meetings in a clear written style of a high standard, which will be communicable to the MCR executive, college staff and JCR members. Having edited and written for newspapers at Cambridge, I am well-used to turning over information to tight deadlines. In particular, I have written many theatre reviews that needed to be ready for 9am the day after the performance, so providing a report of meetings within 72 hours of their conclusion will not be a problem for me. I am highly organised and will never miss a meeting once it is in my diary (my most important possession and best friend). One of the things that appeals to me most about the role of secretary is the chance to be involved with circulating a newsletter. As part of a work experience placement at Theatre by the Lake, Keswick, I wrote a newsletter to be circulated to under 26s in the local area; I believe I will be able to prepare and format content in a manner that is interesting and appropriate for the MCR. I would love to be able to get more involved with the MCR by becoming the secretary, and I believe I am capable of fulfilling this role to a high standard.

Social Secretary

Katie Bennett

My name is Katie Bennett, I'm a PGCE Secondary History student and I am standing to be one of the Social Secretaries for Grey MCR. I believe that I would make a fantastic Social Sec for the MCR for the following reasons:

Firstly, I am an incredibly social, interactive and approachable person. Although I have only been a student at Durham for just over a month now, I can already see how important a socially well run MCR is to the postgraduate community. Reflecting from the experiences I have had since arriving at Grey, it gives students an opportunity to make friends, and almost feel part of family, with other students cross-curricular and at all levels of education. I believe that this social interaction is crucial in maintaining a healthy lifestyle while studying, as students can easily be swamped in the workload postgraduate courses produce. Thus, the social side of the MCR helps students relieve work related pressure by being giving the opportunities to enjoy themselves.

Secondly, I feel that I am well suited to the role of Social Sec because before returning to university, I worked as a Sales and Events Coordinator for a well know bar chain across the UK. I can draw on my experiences that I learnt in my previous role to organise; alongside the second Social Sec, MCR exec members and the JCR; events across the year that will appeal to all types of students. This can range from a small gathering in the MCR itself to daytrips and larger social events outside of Durham.

I also intend on contacting Social Secs from other college MCRs and hold joint events with them, to ensure that all postgraduates at Grey have opportunities to meet other postgraduates in the university. I am welcome to take on board any ones ideas of what events they would like to see the MCR or help other students organise their own events if desired.

4th Year Representative

Henry Sawczyc

Hey Grey MCR, my name is Henry Sawczyc, I'm a 4th year MBiol student and I'd love to be your 4th year representative for this academic year. I've been an active member of the JCR for coming on 3 years now, being on various committees and the exec and I'd love to delve into the MCR exec also. I'd like to think of myself as a friendly, approachable person and my previous experience as JCR LGBTA representative and Representative Officer gives me the skills I think are needed for this role also. I'm also living in college this year, which enables me to be easily found by other 4th years if they have any issues and want to meet in person to discuss issues.

Cheers,
Henry Sawczyc

Welfare Officer

Ana-Maria Costea

Hey! ^_^ My name is Ana and I am running for the MCR Welfare Officer position.

Why do I want to do this? I wish I could have been more connected with college life during my undergraduate studies (as I have never lived in college, not even as a Fresher) and I consider this to be a fresh opportunity to engage and make a difference in my new college postgraduate community.

Do I have what it takes? As a Durham Psychology graduate, I am very familiar with Durham life experience and I am also considering looking into psychotherapy as a potential career, which means I am interested in overall human well-being. I am approachable and open-minded, I don't like labels, assumptions or judgmental attitudes and I've noticed that most people tend to share their thoughts/concerns with me on *any* topic (even though we barely know each other). This could indicate that I am trustworthy.

So what? I know how hard it is to go through difficult moments - that is why I believe it is great to have someone to talk to, no matter how small or insignificant the issue might be. I plan to attend the welfare training sessions to make sure I will provide the most suitable welfare support. Also, I want to find ways of keeping good vibes around, so your feedback will always be appreciated. My suggestion would be a termly MCR Pancake get-together (which may definitely contain traces of Nutella!) – I'll be the chef.

Why might this interest you? I have realised that the only true barrier we have to face is within ourselves: we cultivate wings in our mind 'garden', so we are the only ones

responsible for proper watering and harvesting. It is great to open that 'garden' window once in a while and share the view with someone else to keep those wing seeds growing! ☐

Abigail Finch

I really love people so welfare is something I'm very passionate about! I was the female welfare rep for my JCR in my 2nd year at undergrad. During that time I gained a lot of experience of running welfare events and distributing welfare supplies. The male welfare rep and I also came up with and implemented some new welfare schemes, which have been continued by our successors. I have also been peer support trained with the Oxford University counselling service and was a peer supporter in both my 2nd and 3rd year as an undergrad. I have a lot of experience of confidentiality and I am very careful not to share anything that anyone has told me in confidence.

Thanks very much!

Jay Wright

Introduction

As outlined in the MCR constitution, the welfare officers shall be responsible for the provision of welfare to MCR members, including postgraduates and fourth year undergraduates. Welfare issues and events applicable to all college members shall be discussed and organised during meetings held by JCR and MCR officers. Finally, one male and one female officer (where possible) shall stand.

Manifesto

Upon arrival to Grey, new students are provided with welcoming, friendly college environment through a variety of events organised by the common rooms. Students from a variety of backgrounds can comfortably adjust to university life with many opportunities to make friends and let off steam.

Whilst efforts are in place to ensure that the social atmosphere of the college is maintained throughout, it is clear from past events that some students can become emotionally isolated to varying degrees during their time at Durham. Those whom are perhaps living outside of college, more introverted or struggling with personal issues may find it difficult to confide in their peers.

As welfare officer, I shall endeavour to address and solve issues of Grey students experiencing emotional, physical or psychological hardship (where training is applicable)

during their time at Durham. Using my diplomacy skills, I shall liaise with relevant officers to ensure that a concerted effort is given toward improving the wellbeing of students.

Qualities I have developed as a research student shall assist me in carrying out this role effectively. My organisation and time-management skills will guarantee that I am able to be flexible toward students seeking out advice in a one-to-one setting. My conscientiousness will aid in understanding the individual needs of students and recognising the severity of different issues.

To summarise, I would like to be an officer whom students undergoing hardship feel that they may communicate their issues. To achieve this, I will offer my time, dedication and empathy so that students enjoy their time at Grey and Durham.

Web Designer

Matthew Kirk

Hello, I'm Matthew and I'm a 2nd year doing a PhD in Physics.

I've been the MCR web editor for the last year, and I'm standing to continue in that role.

As web editor last year, I was responsible for bringing the website back up to date after it had been neglected for a few years. As part of that task, I implemented a new online voting system for the MCR to replace our old system of voting by email.

I also had discussions with the JCR web editor last year on merging our website with the JCRs, and hope to see this through this year.

As part of the Exec last year, I also provided technical advice and suggestions for the Phoenix Room (e.g. getting us a Wii U and sorting out the connections to the projector), and I have more ideas I'd like implement (e.g. a surround sound system to replace our current broken one) if I was re-elected.