



# NEWSLETTER

## New opportunities

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2014-15 academic year. As we welcome our new intake of undergraduate and postgraduate students, the College is in the throes of growth and change that bring with them many new opportunities for us.

Some staffing changes have allowed us to restructure the way we deliver student support with a dedicated team led by our new Vice Principal, Karen Langdon. Our resident postgraduate community is now based across two sites, with about half at the main South Road site and half at the Ushaw site, just outside Durham city. The access to the Ushaw site will give us a big increase in the facilities and, if used imaginatively, will greatly enhance what we are able to do. We will see new volunteering opportunities through the year, new academic fellows and new opportunities for development.

Our postgraduate community this year is the largest we have ever had: just under 300 students - a third of our total - will be on taught masters programmes, PGCEs and research degrees.

Our undergraduate student body has developed new programmes this year, particularly in relation to careers and to celebrating and learning from the diversity of the College membership. For example, they are developing an international programme to give the different members of community, who come from over 40

different countries, the chance to share something of each others' cultures.

Of course, while this newsletter marks the start of our new academic year, Butler is active all year round. Since July we have been host to the 'English for Academic Purposes' programme which supports many Durham students from overseas in developing their English language skills so they can make the best of their degree courses. A substantial part of the programme is aimed at ensuring they make the most of college opportunities, including seminar programmes, sport, a mentoring scheme and trips around the UK. Over 500 students pass through this scheme and take the opportunities of the collegiate programme to develop both their language skills and their understanding of the benefits of Durham's unique college system.

On a personal note, I had the opportunity of research leave last academic year which enabled me to work with colleagues in Australia, the Czech Republic and the US and to develop links to researchers around the globe. During the year, the College was ably led by the Acting Principal, Jill Tidmarsh who had an acting student support staff and, as ever, had the assistance of our excellent student bodies and staff. Thanks to them all.

Adrian Simpson  
The Principal.





# International Programme

Butler prides itself on the strong support it provides for international students within the college community. One World Week, introduced last year, is just one example of how Butler champions international voices. In the coming year, more events led by our JCR, will colour the College calendar to promote multicultural awareness throughout the entire year. Cultural festivals from all around the world will be celebrated to embrace the diversity that Butler is home to. More large-scale international events will also be introduced to encourage participation in college life by students from all backgrounds, and to further the

integration between international and home students. One example is *The Butler Olympics* which is a new event that will see students representing different countries while competing in a variety of sports and games. Another exciting new event is the International Festival, which will showcase different cultures and cuisines. We hope this Festival will become a well-known annual event that will attract other colleges to attend as well! These plans show Butler continuously striving to strengthen the understanding of different communities and nations represented in Butler's membership.

Sabrina Chong,  
JCR International Officer.



*Butler's "Rainbow Laces" campaign against homophobia in sport*

## Developing Careers

Thinking about your degree, let alone what to do after it, is hard when you're caught up with cheerleading practice, learning to row and planning the Winter Ball. This year, following last year's 'Next Step' campaign, we want to further develop our careers and employability services, preparing students as best we can for the next step after university. This campaign will feature a Careers Week, filled with events, towards the end of Michaelmas. Part of the week will focus on developing skills for succeeding in the job market, through practice interviews, assessment centre sessions and career skills sessions.

However, part of the struggle of graduate employability is not just about

developing the skills to make oneself employable, but figuring out what one wants to do. To assist with this, we will be drawing upon the experiences of our students, past and present, and what they have done or gone on to do. We will repeat the success of our Butler Angels events, but also hold an internship seminar, where students can share their experiences of internships, volunteering and summer placements – everything from interning for the Bank of England to being an official chocolate tester – because it's this variety of experience and interests that makes Butlerites not only so unique, but so employable.

Siri Minsaas,  
JCR President.

## College Staff

### College Officers

#### **Adrian Simpson. The Principal.**

Adrian has overall responsibility for the College and its strategy. In addition to leading the College he is Reader in Mathematics Education and teaches in both the Education and Mathematics Departments.

#### **Karen Langdon. Vice Principal.**

As Vice Principal, Karen leads the student support team, helps to develop the distinctive educational and social experience which Butler offers and supports the common room communities. She also works with the Business School with a particular interest in developing entrepreneurship.

**Des O'Neill. Bursar.** Des manages the operations, financial and logistical side of the College. He ensures that the facilities are in place to support all of the activity of the College. With a background in quantity surveying, he also works more widely for Durham's colleges in supporting their operations.

#### **Pam Burdis. College Secretary.**

Pam provides support for The Principal and College Officers and heads the College's administrative staff.

## Student Support

The student support team provides members of the College with advice and guidance at all points in their time with us - from admissions to graduation. They can provide support for wellbeing, liaise with specialist support units and academic departments.

**Andrew Tinkler. Chaplain.** Andrew provides support for students of any faith (or none), signposting to different faith groups and also works with our student groups to develop charitable and volunteering opportunities.

**Sarah Townley. Postgraduate and Pre-sessional.** Sarah provides support for our students on postgraduate programmes and for those on the English for Academic Purposes course in the summer. She also helps to develop the wider scholarly programme.

## Student Support

### **Deborah Norman. Secretary.**

Deborah delivers the administration for the student team and is often the first port of call for students with queries.

**TBA. Undergraduate.** We are in the process of appointing a permanent undergraduate student support officer, but we are luckily able to call on the extensive experience of Jill Tidmarsh, our previous Vice Principal in the interim.

### **Judith Vincent. Administrative Assistant.**

**Resident Tutors:** Ruth Houghton, Anit Kumar, Kaja Marczevska (South Road) and Denise McBride (Ushaw).

### **Matt Armitage. Alumni Assistant**

## Operations

### **Vivian Flowerday. Operations Manager.**

Vivian leads the operations team on a day to day basis, ensuring the safety and smooth running of the buildings and facilities.

### **Pete Carson and Charlie Parkin. Assistant Operations Managers.**

### **Mandy Herron. Bar and Catering Services Manager.**

### **Emma Allison. Finance Assistant**

### **Steph Rutter. Receptionist**

**Porters (South Road):** Dave Aylesbury; Bob Ball; Les Cooper; Fred Douthwaite; Jim Kimmins; Brian Sugden;

**Porters (Ushaw):** Stephen Armstrong; David Beverley; Robert Brown; Richard Etherington; Gary Grayson; Malcolm West

**Housekeeping:** Jean Farrell (Supervisor), Julie Curry and Claire Milburn (Team Leaders). Claire Barker, Maureen Bell, Catriona Dudding, Linda Elliott, Valarie Forster, Anne Fix, Rita Higham, Karen Hockaday, Agnieszka Kordulewska, Sarah Lonsdale, Kathleen Quinn, Lesley Race, Jackie Ross, Audrone Simkiene, Olwyn Sothern, Katarzyna Brzostowska, Wendy Dowdle, Natalie Punshon.

## Our Common Rooms

Members of College belong to one of our "Common Rooms". The largest is the Junior Common Room, for undergraduates, led by Siri Minsaas, the JCR President and her executive committee. In addition to representing the undergraduates in College, among the many things they do, the JCR plan events and organise sports clubs and societies on behalf of the College. The Middle Common Room, for postgraduate, fourth year and mature students, is led by Tim Charlton and have events such as scholars' suppers where students and staff can present their research work for a lay audience. The Senior Common Room is led by Lyndsey Stephenson, and includes staff members, academics from the university and members of the local community. In addition to mentoring students, they organise talks, run a regular book club and support the wider activities of the College.



## Trust Board

### Raising funds to help our students

Josephine Butler College Trust Fund exists to raise money for the College for those important 'extras' which our core funding does not cover. A Trust Board, with members of the College community as well as external, independent members, oversees our fundraising and expenditure strategies. Compared to older, more established colleges, Butler has a much smaller resource to draw upon, but the extra funding we receive from donors is very welcome and can make all the difference to the student experience.

In 2013/4 our income from donations was £9175.00, coming from a mixture of one off donations and parental contributions. Individual donations ranged from £1000 to £5 and the Board ensures that we get maximum value for the money we are given and that any requests from donors are honoured. One particularly generous donation of £2000 from the senior common room allowed our boat club to complete the purchase of a new boat (pictured above), as well as supported the development of the gym. In addition, these generous donations have enabled the Board to support the photography society, the tennis club, the volleyball club, the technical committee (those essential students who volunteer to run audio visual equipment for plays and music events) among others. The Board spent a total of £4510, with a commitment of a further £1000 for the gym and will be seeking suggestions from college members early in the new academic year for other areas they can support.

If you wish to give to the Josephine Butler College Trust Fund, you can do so online at:

<https://www.dunelm.org.uk/sslpage.aspx?pid=356>



## Volunteering Making a difference at JB

In the last 12 months, our volunteering effort has expanded considerably. Butler has always had a reputation for supporting the local community and we continue with our long standing links to St Joseph's Primary school and the amount of money raised over the last five years for Grace House Children's Hospice. Working together, our JCR and Andrew Tinkler, our chaplain, have plans to develop a number of new opportunities to volunteer across a range of activities.

While we often see volunteering as a way of giving back, it is also an excellent way in which students can develop skills to enhance their CV, learn about different aspects of society and even explore ideas for careers after College - many of our alumni now work in the voluntary and charitable sectors having become involved at Butler.

Some of the new ideas for involvement include the "Way Out Project" which works to bring hope and support

to at-risk women and young people with a key area - which would be dear to Josephine Butler's heart - in supporting young women trapped in prostitution to find "a way out".

In addition, the College has had an allotment since it opened which has had varied support over the years. Working with the Hagrid Project supporting young people excluded from school and potentially at risk of offending, we aim to use the allotment and the gardens at the Ushaw site

to engage these young people in clearance and development projects.

The College's commitment to equality is reflected in our role on the ITV Tyne Tees News Diversity panel. Student attend quarterly meetings of the group with a remit to examine locally produced news content and focus on equality strands.

In the past 12 months we have even

developed Geordie Soc! Many of our students come from outside the region and, indeed, from outside the UK and the group was established to improve inter-cultural understanding and dialogue with a sense of wanting to celebrate and share North Eastern culture.



## Sports Selected Final League Positions 2013/14

Sport	Division	Place
Badminton (Men's - A team)	Premiership	2
Badminton (Men's - B team)	1	7
Badminton (Women's - A team)	Premiership	7
Badminton (Women's - B team)	1	6
Basketball (Men's)	1	10
Basketball (Women's)	1	2
Football (Men's - A team)	1	3
Football (Men's - B team)	2	2
Football (Men's - C team)	3	2
Football (Women's)	1	1
Hockey (Men's)	1	8
Hockey (Women's)	Premiership	5
Indoor Cricket (A)	Prem Pool B	2
Netball (Women's - A team)	Premiership	5
Netball (Women's - B team)	1	9
Squash (Men's)	Premiership	10
Table Tennis (Mixed - A team)	Premiership	3
Table Tennis (Mixed - B team)	Premiership	5
Ultimate Frisbee (Mixed)	Premiership	4
Volleyball (A)	Prem Pool A	4