



## St Chad's College University of Durham



### SENIOR COMMON ROOM

#### Information for Members

**The Senior Common Room of St Chad's College, Durham** exists to further the aims and objectives of the College, the College's aims and objectives being:

- (i) To advance education, learning, religion and research within the College in accordance with the principles of the Church of England;
- (ii) To provide a College for persons who shall be members of the University of Durham wherein they may work for degrees and other qualifications of the University of Durham (including advancing the education, spiritual and moral welfare of students enrolled at the College).

General Enquiries (College Office): 0191 334 3358  
College email: [chads@dur.ac.uk](mailto:chads@dur.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.stchads.ac.uk](http://www.stchads.ac.uk)

#### Membership of the Senior Common Room

The following are *ex officio* members of the Senior Common Room: the Chair of the Governing Body of the College, the Principal and other College Officers, College Fellows, College Tutors, College staff of graduate status, members of the academic and academic-related staff of the University resident in the college. Members of the Governing Body of the College are also *ex officio* honorary members of the Senior Common Room. Members of university staff (both academics and senior members of central departments) are appointed to the SCR by the Principal, either by applying to the SCR committee or College Officers to join, or being recommended by existing SCR members. All nominees other than *ex officio* members and appointees must be elected at the termly meeting. Alumni do not have automatic SCR membership. There is a presumption that MCR and JCR members cannot join the SCR before they graduate.

Others may from time to time be elected to membership or to honorary membership by the Senior Common Room or appointed by the Principal.

An annual subscription is levied on members other than *ex officio* members which currently stands at £15.00 per member. The subscription for the academic year must be paid by 31st October and names will be removed from the membership list for non-payment if payment is not received by the end of the following March. Each member's first academic year of membership (including those who move from *ex officio* to normal membership) will be free;

membership thereafter would continue at the normal rate. For those joining in the Easter term, the free period includes the subsequent academic year. The free period allows members to judge if Chad's is 'right' for them, and vice versa; for similar reasons, we encourage all potential members to dine as a guest first, or meet senior staff by (for example) dining at lunch or attending a suitable event.

### **The Senior Common Room**

Members are welcome to make use of the Common Room (situated off the main entrance foyer) unless it has been booked for a college event or by an external user. You can check availability with the College Office and, when it is not open, a key can be obtained from the College Secretary or a porter. SCR members can normally obtain their own keys by applying to reception for a new key to be cut. These keys must be relinquished when they leave the SCR.

SCR members are welcome to borrow books from the College Library in accordance with the standard rules of the Library.

SCR members are able to purchase wine from the JCR Cellar which is open before Formal dinners. Note that the college's alcohol licence does *not* allow consumption of alcoholic drinks *purchased off the premises*, in public areas (i.e. the entire ground floor).

The College Bar is situated below the Junior Common Room, with the quad bar also open on some occasions. They are administered by the JCR during term time and, by permission of the Principal, SCR members may patronise them.

### **Social Events**

The College dines in formal style on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7.30 p.m. during term time. Members of the Senior Common Room may dine on High Table and are advised to wear smart dress (ties preferred for men) and academic gowns (not compulsory for guests). Members may invite a maximum of two guests to accompany them. Members (and their guests) meet in the Senior Common Room from 7.00 p.m. onwards for drinks.

Formal meals are good opportunities for members to meet together. "SCR Conversations" are arranged before formal dinner on an occasional basis and are open to members of all common rooms, as are other events, such as the postgraduate research forums. After dinner, members adjourn to the Senior Common Room where port and cheese and coffee are served and the evening adopts a more informal style. Each term one of the formal meals is designated a "special SCR formal" (at an additional charge) and members are particularly encouraged to attend on these evenings. This would usually take place after the SCR meeting, with two tables in the main hall seating (usually) 36 members and serving superior food and wine. There is also one termly 'combination formal', where up to 30 SCR members mix with students before, during and after dinner. There is no High Table, and guests are not encouraged to attend. There is one termly megaformal, seating 36 on two High Tables across Mouldsdale Hall and the Cassidy Quad, with a dress code of black tie and gown.

The Officers of the Senior Common Room are always keen to hear members' ideas for other activities which may be of interest to the Common Room. The secretary will send out a weekly bulletin of forthcoming events, both in the college and beyond which members may be interested in attending. Again, the Officers would be keen to hear of and publicise any events which members are involved in.

Currently, there are approximately 300 members of the Senior Common Room of St Chad's College (including all Fellows, Governors and Tutors) and it is hoped that all members will actively participate in the Common Room as a mark of their support of, and enthusiasm for, the ethos of this unique academic institution.

### **Charitable donations**

The SCR currently does not use any money collected from the subscriptions to support charitable causes. Instead, the SCR invites contributions for specific causes (including personal development awards and travel grants for students, and donations to a variety of other charities).

## SCR Profiles

The SCR section of the website includes a password-protected area, accessible only to Chad's students (and the SCR) collating profiles of members who wish to make their knowledge and experience available to students. The password is available on request to the Secretary.

## Formal procedures

The current prices for formal meals are:

### *Regular formals (including 'megaformals')*

- Meal price: £10.00 (includes meal and gin/port in the SCR)
- Meal with no pre- or post-drinks: £7.50
- Optional table wine £5
- With all drinks included, the price for members would be £15; a further option of having wine at table but no gin/port would be £12.50

### *Special formals*

- Meal price £17.50: (includes meal and gin/port in the SCR)
- Meal with no pre- or post-drinks: £15.00
- Optional table wine: £7.50
- With all drinks included, the price for members would be £25; a further option of having wine at table but no gin/port would be £22.50

Note that drink options should be specified at the time of booking, and there are discounts for serving tutors (no charge for food at regular formals up a limit of three per term, and a discount of 50% on food at specials), and no charges for Fellows. At combination formals, members provide their own wine, although the SCR provides pre-dinner drinks to all common rooms free of charge. All SCR members (other than Fellows) will therefore be charged £7.50 for dining at combination formals.

Members can sign up to three regular formals per term; this quota includes the termly megaformal, and members can freely attend the special and combination formals, which are exempt from quota restrictions. Places can be booked in advance online (the URL is given in the termly letter) notifying any specific dietary requirements, drinks required and the names of any guests at the same time. Cancellations should be notified by 11.00 a.m. on the day of the formal, or you may be charged. Members are advised to book early for the termly Special Formal and mega-formal (which uses both the main dining hall and the quad), as well as other 'special' formals – such as Burns Night - in order to avoid disappointment. Queries should be directed to [chads.formals@durham.ac.uk](mailto:chads.formals@durham.ac.uk). Payment is in the form of 'battels' - bills which are sent out at the start of the subsequent term.. This covers both members and their guests. The only payment which we would ask members to make on the night itself would be for purchases from the Wine Cellar,

At each formal, three places are reserved in case they are required for college guests. If the 'early release' slots become full, members can join a waiting list, and will be moved to the main list if there are no guests. In the case of any places being free at the end of the week before a given formal, either because of low number signing up, or no guests attending that formal, members will be notified each Friday about the number of places free for the subsequent week's formals. Signing up after this notification is sent means that formal does not count towards the termly quota for that member.

## Other meals in college

SCR members may also dine in College on any other occasion during term time. Lunch is served every day at 12pm and supper is served at 6.00pm from Monday to Friday and at 5.30p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. These are payable in the form of meal tickets purchased from the College Office, where members can also obtain current prices.

## **College Guest Rooms**

There are two guest rooms and SCR members may book one or other of them for the use of guests, on a bed and breakfast basis. Please enquire at the College Office for prices and availability. Outside term time, full commercial rates apply, and more rooms are available. We would note that the current guest rooms are located up a fairly steep staircase, and some members may have difficulties in accessing them. Please contact the office about the suitability of using the guest rooms *before booking*, if you have any concerns.

## **College Chapel**

On Sundays, the principal act of worship is the Eucharist at 11 am, currently held every other Sunday. It is celebrated in the modern Catholic manner and the College Choir sings.

Choral Evensong is also sung in the Chapel as advertised on the Chapel Card. SCR members who are dining on these evenings are encouraged to attend the service before moving to the SCR for drinks at 7pm before dinner.

Full details of all services and times can be found in the Chapel Card and the termly diary.

## **Senior Common Room Meetings**

The Senior Common Room meets once a term at which business is discussed and social arrangements are made. The meeting which falls in the Easter Term is also the Annual General Meeting. There is provision for Extraordinary General Meetings.

## **Officers of the Senior Common Room**

President	Dr William Apedaile
Secretary	Mr Paul Braidford
Treasurer	Mr Mark Roberts

Elections for Officers are held at the AGM: each year, an election is held for one of the officers, on a rotating three-year cycle. Each officer can serve for up to two three-year terms in the same post.

Subject to the approval of the membership, SCR members can be co-opted onto a committee to support the Executive Officers. Current co-opted members are:

Ms Sue Shaw (also Tutors' Rep on the Governing Body)  
Mr Sean Kelly  
Dr Matt Smith