



August 2018

Dear Student,

Welcome to St Chad's College!

In a few weeks, you will become a member of one of the oldest, most popular and most successful colleges in Durham. For over a century, we have developed a strong sense of community and a spirit of quiet confidence; St Chad's is a college which will support you to achieve your full potential academically – and in so many other ways too!

When you arrive, you will find yourselves amongst students from a wide range of socio-economic, ethnic, religious, national and school backgrounds studying the whole range of academic disciplines on offer at Durham. St Chad's is keen to be as diverse a community as possible – we believe that an important part of a college education is making friends with people who see the world differently from you. So may I reassure you that all of you belong here and I hope that before too long, each of you will come to see St Chad's as your home from home. For the next three or four years, you will be at *your* college, not at *our* college. Do claim your right to belong here. Involvement and engagement are Chadsian hallmarks.

My job as Principal requires my spending a lot of time poring over papers, writing reports, looking at figures, attending meetings. You may think that I'm too busy to be interrupted; but if my door is ajar and my light is on, please feel free to knock on my door on the first floor. You're not an interruption; you're the reason we're all here. And we all need a bit of friendly distraction from time to time...

A final word: I strongly encourage you to arrive in a studying frame of mind. It's all too easy to have too much fun in your first year and to wake up in May to discover that partying took precedence over studying. We pride ourselves on being a very friendly college, and we are excellent at socialising, but please try to achieve a balance right from the start. You can fully expect to have a great time here; but you *can* have a wonderful time and work hard at the same time.

On behalf of all the Fellows and staff of the College, I really look forward to meeting you, and I wish you all the very best in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Margaret Masson
Principal