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**Subject:** Covid-19 Update from Chad's #9  
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Dear Chadsians,

By now you will all be settled into wherever you have to be for the foreseeable future - some of you at home, some of you with friends, some of you still here in Durham. We are all learning how to work remotely and how to be a virtual community. I'm loving some of the first indications of the creativity that is to come, from Virtual Chad's Open Days to Facebook workouts to open mic sessions and even the chaplain's occasional walks and reflections with Eddie (on the St Chad's College Chaplaincy and Outreach Facebook page)! Who knows what talents will blossom in this unexpected space...

Durham, like most other places, is eerily quiet now and Chad's is mostly empty. We are still retaining a 24/7 porter and reception cover (thank you, James, Steve, Chris, Kevin, Vicki and Darryl) but nearly all other staff who are able to do so are working from home. Some of our staff came in last week to clean as many rooms as possible in those of our houses which are mostly empty. This is so that we can be in a position to offer some buildings to key workers in central Durham if needed. The University has promised a good number of rooms to the County for this purpose, and Chad's is volunteering to be part of that offer.

There have been some questions about accommodation fees for next term. As we now know that students will not be able to return to be physically present in Durham next term, we will not hold College residents to their licence agreement. We know that plans have been uncertain and in many cases had to change unexpectedly and from the start of the vacation period, we will simply be asking that each of you pays for the time that you were actually living in College accommodation. Obviously there will be lots of different situations, so this could be complex for us to work out and I would simply ask you to be patient as we work to make sure that everyone is treated fairly. A few principles:

- Students who have already left Durham, but have not cleared their rooms, will not be charged for Easter term accommodation.
- Where students still have belongings in their rooms here, we will, in due course, be making contact via email to establish the best way to deal with these.
- Where students had paid to remain in their room over the Easter vacation and have subsequently returned home, we will arrange a refund for the time not in residence.
- Please be assured that provisions are in place for students who cannot return home safely at the present time. No student will be without accommodation.

This is obviously a difficult time for all concerned, and with many students having already paid for next term with others still to do so, it may take some time to process refunds and sort through queries. Please bear with us. We will be doing our best to ensure that every student's case is looked at and nobody is left out of pocket.

The University will be keeping in touch with everyone about on-line assessments and plans for

congregation. We will certainly be keen to see all our finalists back when possible so that we can celebrate your achievement and your time here in true Chad's style.

Meantime, the academic year is far from over. We have a whole term to go with work, assessments, and then those wonderful weeks after exams when I hope that we can continue with lots of our plans on-line and see what might be possible to manage even when we are not all in one place behind that familiar green door. The Chad's Covid Facebook community is a wonderful start. We'll also be thinking about how we can facilitate things like Perspectives, career talks and a whole range of other interesting possibilities to recreate some of that Chad's buzz.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask - ideally via the [chads.support@durham.ac.uk](mailto:chads.support@durham.ac.uk) e-mail (although other college staff will do their best to respond if you e-mail them directly)

Best wishes to you all.

Dr Masson

### **Student Support**

- Staff are working from home so please continue to access Chad's student support online: [chads.support@durham.ac.uk](mailto:chads.support@durham.ac.uk). Our chaplain, David Rushton [chads.chaplain@durham.ac.uk](mailto:chads.chaplain@durham.ac.uk) and your college tutor will also be happy to offer on-line/distance support. Support from the University Counselling Service is still available on-line. Please check here: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/counselling.service/>
- Please let [chads.support@durham.ac.uk](mailto:chads.support@durham.ac.uk) know immediately if you are doing the following (even if you have already left Durham):
  - self-isolating (not tested);
  - self-isolating (tested awaiting results);
  - Confirmed case of Covid-19.

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