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**Subject:** Covid-19 Update from St Chad's #12  
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Dear Chadsians,

Greetings from Durham on a beautiful spring day. I'm just back from my daily walk and Durham is looking its beautiful best. Here's one of the views I enjoyed earlier - one that will be very familiar to you. It's eerily quiet in these old streets and around the colleges and university buildings; we miss you all!



There are still around 23 students living in our Bailey buildings and a further 24 between Trinity House and Hallgarth Street. Many are international students and others who have not been able to return home. It's been possible to keep College partially open for these students because some of our staff are willing to keep coming in to work in reception and to ensure basic health and safety, security and fire alarm cover. With College so empty, this is not an easy job just now and we're very grateful to Steve, Chris, Kevin, Vicki and Darryl for stepping up to enable us to sustain this important provision. We're also grateful to Ian for keeping a careful eye on the buildings.

Elsewhere, we have been busy running virtual Open Days to encourage students who have had an offer from Chad's to convert that into a firm acceptance. Thanks to Eleanor, Ashley and the JCR exec who have been leading on this work. Student support continues to be very important in these stressful times; we know that many of you are under a lot of pressure with assignments to finish and exams to prepare for - in conditions that for some of you are very far from ideal. Jeanna, supported by David, Eleanor, Ashley and Susan, has been focusing on supporting you, and we're grateful for that.

I had a helpful meeting this afternoon with JCR President James Burton (and his beard) and amongst other things, we talked about how together we can ensure that Easter term (which begins next week (!) can be as interesting and engaging as it can possibly be. Exec

and staff will be exploring what we can still do or what we can do differently on-line to sustain the rich Chad's student experience, so watch this space - and if you have ideas to contribute, do get in touch with the exec or with me.

Many of you will be aware of the publicity about the University's Durham Unbound on-line proposals and these are being discussed at a meeting of the University's Senate tomorrow afternoon that both James Burton and I will be attending. Clearly, in these extraordinary times, we have to adjust and adapt as a University and as a College. However, Jeremy Cook, the PVC for Colleges and the Wider Student Experience made it very clear at our Heads of House meeting yesterday that whilst Durham needs to improve its online provision fast and well, the collegiate residential model is still seen as absolutely fundamental to what it means to be a student at Durham, and the University does not intend to diminish this. The kind of learning that happens in the context of a collegiality rooted in physical community is something that we value hugely in St Chad's and we will do all we can to ensure that it continues to flourish here.

This will probably be my last Covid-19 Update. As term begins next week, I will continue to stay in touch weekly, but will revert to my Chad's Weekly Newsletter.

My very best wishes to you all.

Dr Masson

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