We are delighted to welcome you back to the University.

Living out this year means you are going to be part of a diverse community beyond the University and our Colleges, of people of different backgrounds, experiences and ages. These are extraordinary times, in which we all have an increased moral and civic responsibility to protect those around us. The global coronavirus pandemic means that now, more than ever, we all need to work to support each other, to behave appropriately and with consideration, and to uphold the values of our institution – to be inspiring, challenging, innovative, responsible and enabling.

By reading this letter, reminding yourself of your commitments in the Student Pledge and being aware of our Code of Conduct for Students Living Out of College we hope you can see that the steps to having a positive impact where you are now living, are simple and clear.

There will be many challenges ahead for you and for those living around you, but we hope you will love living out in Durham, with all that your local community, the City, University and Students’ Union have to offer. By working together, we can maintain a healthy community.

May we wish you every success for the year ahead.

Jeremy Cook OBE
Pro-Vice Chancellor
(Colleges & Student Experience)

Seun Twins
President
Durham Students’ Union

Living well

• The University offers a wide range of services to support your wellbeing.

• Your Students’ Union also offers an Advice Service that can help with a number of different concerns or issues that you may experience and runs Durham Nightline, every night of term between 9:00pm and 7:00am (contact details on your campus card).

Living together

• Everyone needs sleep. Keeping the noise down both in and out of your home, especially between the hours of 11pm and 7am, is the best way to live out well together with people whose lives may be different to your own.

• Introduce yourself to your neighbours, get involved in your local residents group, do what you can to be a good neighbour and please always let your neighbours know if you are having a house party.

Living collegiate

• You are always a member of your College community, will be most welcome at College and Common Room activities (subject to restrictions at the time), and can still access the wide range of support available through your College Student Support Office.

• Colleges are a critically important point of contact with the University on official academic matters, student support issues and a medium for emergency messages. Make sure your term-time address and contact details are up to date.

Living local

• Durham is a small but vibrant city and with so much on your doorstep or within a short walking distance we urge you to support its many smaller, independent businesses by shopping local.

• Get inspired and get out and about to make the most of our amazing county with its history and heritage, beautiful coastline and breathtaking landscapes.

Living safe

• Plan how you will get home after a night out, stay together and take a safe route home, avoiding the river.

• Keep your belongings safe at home and out and about. For crime prevention and safety advice call 101 or contact Police University Liaison.

• Stay informed about the latest legislation and Government guidelines on preventing the spread of Covid-19, by checking the Government website and taking note of University communications regarding the pandemic – including via the coronavirus web pages.

Living green

• Bin collection schedules for Apple, Android and Windows devices are available on the Durham County Council Student Life app.

• Find out all you need to know about living green while living out, especially our Green Move Out scheme for when you come to leave your accommodation.