



## **Report from the JCR President [on behalf of the Executive Committee] to The JCR on Bonding, 2017.**

The Executive Committee held over 15 hours of meetings this Easter holiday, with everyone working productively and enthusiastically together to ensure we have the best preparation available for the upcoming year serving the JCR. The following information about strategy and ideas for the year ahead are as follows:

The new Executive Committee has had a hugely positive start, agreeing to increase transparency towards the wider JCR. This will be done through further publicity and information relayed to the JCR in a clear and digestible format, such as the report you are reading now. In addition to this, the new publicity officer [Alexander Gottlieb] has set up a “Feedback System” on the JCR website. This should be able to increase feedback, not only for events, but possible feedback to different elected members of the JCR (Tier 1s and Tier 2s.) This will allow those elected in Trevs JCR to be more accountable in Executive Committee and Tier 1 and Tier 2 meetings. Moreover, following on from the success of other college Presidents using this medium, a new Instagram account was set up for the President. This will act as a way for JCR members to understand the work that the President does and ask questions on a day-to-day basis, hopefully improving and furthering the relationship and accessibility with the JCR. In a further push for accessibility, JCR motions will be made easier and more accessible to understand. The Chair [Michael Dermody] will be working on improving the online platform of elections with a new template. There are further plans to expand on this, however, we thought it best some ideas are discussed within a JCR meeting first. The dominance of a general election arising has caused vast excitement from the Chair, and events will be made in this term as well as campaigns accordingly.

The Upper JCR was widely talked through, from what it is used for to how to promote it as a space for all students. Hopefully all students within the JCR at Trevs use the space, as well as keeping the space clean. The livers-out lockers will be moved from the JKH to this space, in the hope that more livers-out use the lockers for the safety of their belongings. The previous space in ETV room will now become a Welfare Fridge. When the upper JCR is open please remember this, as the Welfare Officer may remove anything from ETV which is not part of the welfare supplies – particularly if the space is needed.

The themes and strategic plan for working events this term such as Trevs Day and Summer Ball were also conferred. Any questions about these events, please feel free to ask James Lowery. The social calendar was reviewed – as complaints came forward from students and college that there are too many events in Epiphany, impacting the standard and degree level of students. Certain events were agreed on by the JCR exec to either move to Michaelmas or Easter term [after exams] so that these events could still be enjoyed and allowing students more opportunity to go to events.

Ways to improve discipline within formals were explored. A new Vice-President email has been created to remind people more regularly of the formal rules and to have a point of contact about these issues. Cash handling procedures as well as budgets were presented by the Treasurer [Ben Zealley], along with a plan to try and improve the applications and knowledge of the opportunities of Financial Committee Applications - a plan was made to increase publicity. Furthermore, the role of the treasurer [now is not mandated to live in] was reviewed between all exec members.

From this, a lengthy discussion of the Sabbatical Officer was made. These discussions will be made clearer over the coming year and referred to on a regular basis in JCR Meetings. Any questions or queries about this, feel free to come talk to me [Lydia Edwards] or email. General organisation of trainings and meetings the new committee must attend were discussed. Larger issues, such as the impact of the expansion of the University and its implications of that upon Trevelyan College JCR were debated. Mitigating the factor and worry of a place like Trevs “not becoming just halls” is an important factor that we believe in. Certain suggestions were made such as expansion of committees to get more people involved, as well as ways of keeping the JCR as an inclusive community we believe Trevs is. From this, accessibility of the JCR alongside college facilities for the year ahead was talked over.

**To note, Exec Drop-ins were decided to be restructured for numerous reasons.** Exec Drop ins will now take place Monday – Thursday 4-6pm. A poster will be made to put on the JCR office door to remind everyone. Remember, we bind dissertations for £1 and the whole executive committee is trained – we are available during drop ins to bind dissertations for you.

The Welfare Officer [Grace Harwood] brought forward many important welfare points. Her Stress Less campaign will be taking place over exams and is something that is free and accessible for the whole JCR to get involved in. Various members of Trevs JCR will be running events in these three weeks, so please do make the most of it! As you can appreciate, a lot of the information discussed within the welfare section of bonding is confidential – this, however, was still an important part and a prominent feature of the meetings. Please contact Grace if you do have any specific welfare questions or queries.

The Buttery Chair [Lydia Kember] has been working on various schemes to expand the buttery renting out its facilities (such as the popcorn and candyfloss machine) to other colleges. She is also considering suggestions of expansions that arose from members of JCR committee last year. Any questions of suggestions that you may have for The Buttery in its year ahead please do message Lydia! The new implications of Tier 4 visas were explained to the executive committee, although already previously known by the Buttery Treasurer and Bar Sabb (who was unable to make it as they themselves were on Bar bonding). Advertisement of these changes and the possible impact of the JCR (and how we

can mitigate these issues) was examined – particularly by the International Representative [Mary]. Any questions about this or if you are unsure, please contact Mary.

Expansion of roles was also a key agenda point, with various ideas from the Vice President [Emma Maynard] about possible Trevs Talks coming next year and the International Representative [Mary] wanting to expand the role with more events. Others had more subtle ways to improve their roles to have an Trevs an ever-better JCR!

The NSS Survey as well as various DSU issues were explained by the new Durham Students Union Representative [Darcy Van Eerten] and a decision has been made upon how to go about these campaigns. Please speak to Darcy if you have any concerns about the NUS, DSU or other wider student issues.

Evidently a lot more was talked over at bonding that isn't possible to put into a document of this length. Please feel free to see the minutes on the [trevsjcr.com](http://trevsjcr.com) website. We'd like to thank the JCR for agreeing that these two days away is an important factor in shaping the year ahead – as well as a key way for the Executive Committee to develop ideas and facilitate understanding of the fundamental role the Executive Committee has. Please feel free to speak to anyone of us about current roles, plans, or projects, to make Trevs JCR an incredible place and to facilitate your university experience to be the best it can. Hopefully, this report gives you a small snapshot of the exciting year ahead.