Iona MacPherson, BME Officer

Manifesto

Discussion groups

- I'd like to carry on the discussion groups that Ramnik started last year! Discussions on BME issues can be beneficial for all of us, giving us the chance to learn about each other's viewpoints and experiences. They can also help me see if there's anything we can do in college to help ease issues you may experience here

Intersectional focus

- As well as general BME experiences, I want to highlight and attend to issues that affect minorities within the BME community. The unique experiences of BME women, LGBT+, disabled, and working-class folk are often overlooked and I want to make sure that they aren't forgotten or ignored within Fitz. I'd also work with the other welfare officers to ensure that their work is inclusive of issues that BME people face.

BME links

- We're all well acquainted with the family system but our families don't always match us culturally. I'll propose that next year's first years be given a second or third year 'BME link' so that we can create more of a community within college, as well as allowing BME freshers to feel less isolated

Hill college community

- As well as creating a more solid BME community within Fitz, I would work with the BME officers from the other hill colleges to put together socials, and maybe a hill college BME family scheme (much like the LGBT+ one) in order to give BME freshers links with other students from outside of college.

Chill chats

- I'd like to host chill sessions where BME students can come to me (either one-on-one or in groups) to talk about anything bothering them - or anything in general. It could be anything from overt racism or micro-aggressions, to general frustrations, to just wanting to find some yam or plantain in Cambridge.

Mental health

- Mental health is an important issue and one that tends to be incredibly overlooked within BME communities. I'd like to work with BME students and - if they're in need - point them in the direction of services that they're comfortable with and that are accessible to them.