

Target and Access Officer Manifesto

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Why Us?

Hey! I'm Sakhina, a first year studying HSPS, I applied to Fitzwilliam College for several reasons, one of the most influential being its diversity, a factor I knew would help me to settle in and not feel out of place, something I hope our college can reassure all prospective students. I have had a longstanding involvement in access work and during my time at Fitzwilliam, I would love to continue to be involved in this. I believe I can bring a fresh perspective and implement new ideas to the role to support as many students from 'Access' backgrounds as possible.

Hi, I'm Temi, I am a first year Geographer from East London. I have attended state comprehensive schools my whole life and I was once in the position where I believed getting into Cambridge was unattainable. Although, I was encouraged to apply by teachers at my sixth form, I realise that this level of support is not always available to all students that come from a similar background to me. I believe more should be done by the college to encourage students from various socioeconomic backgrounds to apply. I want to show students that background is not a barrier to enter this institution and with Fitzwilliam being one of the most diverse colleges, it is able to set this precedent.

Fitzwilliam is notoriously recognised for its inclusive and friendly environment, however there is still a lot to be addressed when it comes to the approach of the college with regards to Access and Outreach. As Target and Access Officers, we will ensure students from 'Access' areas are reached, encouraged and assisted in their applications to Fitzwilliam College. Having been in contact with last year's officers, we have a strong understanding of the role's demand and the importance of working with the Target & Access Executive and the rest of the JCR, such as BME officers, and Women's and Non- Binary Officer to ensure all prospective students are reached, regardless of their background. Overall, we believe that this is a rewarding and practical role to widen participation in Cambridge and the college.

Manifesto

Initiate and Increase Outreach Work with Schools (virtually)

- *As a result of Covid-19, it is likely that we may not be able to visit schools, we propose that we record content to be distributed to schools in our link areas to show in assemblies. This content will be students speaking about their application journey to Cambridge and their experiences so far.*
- *We propose that the College hold virtual talks with students from at least two schools from each link area (Cumbria, Cheshire, Fulham & Hammersmith).*
- *To organise virtual open days for all students from 'Access' backgrounds to partake in. (Target & Access will work with the BME, LGBT, Disability closely to ensure these outreach events are representative of all students).*

- *To increase the number of courses covered on the Fitzwilliam Taster Days, to allow more students gain insight into their prospective degree, Fitz and the university.*

Continuation of Access projects

- *The 'Challenging Stereotypes' section of outreach work is incredible and is something we hope to increase Fitz student participation in. Furthermore, we would promote this on social media, to raise the awareness of prospective students.*
- *Run the 'Imposter Syndrome Talks' again, after their great success this year.*
- *We will support the Target and Access Executive's plan to move the College Shadowing Scheme online this year.*
- *Organise the Access & Widening Participation Conference this year virtually, to celebrate achievement, engage with issues regarding the widening participation agenda and gain more ideas of how to resolve the barriers to widening participation.*
- *Continue to be involved in Project Access.*

New Access Opportunities

- *As we are aware, the university is highly selective and there appears a great disparity between those who meet their offers from Access and non-Access backgrounds. We propose that Fitzwilliam like other Cambridge Colleges provide offer holders from 'Access' backgrounds with free fortnightly virtual tuition between receiving their offer and their exams.*
- *To implement a 20% discount on College Formals and other college events for students who have been on free school meals, however, we will give all students from low-income backgrounds the opportunity to apply.*
- *£30 buttry allowance per week for students in isolation.*

Social Media

- *The Fitzwilliam Outreach Instagram presence grew massively this year, we hope to continue this and provide fresh ideas of student-led content that can be published such as, videos of what to bring to University and student experiences of the application process.*
- *We want to record a mock interview and upload this on social media to help prospective students who have not received this support.*

College Website

- *Having discussed with last year's officers, a crucial goal for Target and Access is to re-vamp the Fitzwilliam Outreach section of the website. In particular, we would like to create an interactive platform where prospective students can contact current Fitzwilliam undergraduates and postgraduates with their questions.*
- *We want to create a subject-specific section for admissions tips .*
- *We also want to make the 'virtual tour' section of the college easily accessible.*

Care Leaver Support

- *We hope to further push for a tutor for all care leavers.*
- *We will also provide all care leavers with the opportunity to be put into contact with one another to increase how supported they feel upon arriving to Cambridge.*

Experience – Sakhina

President of my Sixth Form's African-Caribbean Society.

- *Managed the society's social media to promote events*
- *Communicated with external speakers and senior management to coordinate events*
- *Organised an academic mentoring scheme between year 12 and year 13 students*

Sixth Form Outreach Representative

- *I was selected to do outreach work within my Sixth Form and at partner schools involving workshops and delivering talks to prospective students.*

Fitzwilliam Outreach Delegation

- *Upon arriving at Fitzwilliam, I immediately contacted Schools Liaisons to be involved with outreach work, I look forward to being a helper for open days, residents, tours and school visits.*

Mentoring Experience

- *Sixth Form & BEN Mentor: I have had two mentees for the last year and a half, supporting them with A level revision, personal life, careers and their applications to Cambridge. Both of my mentees are students from 'low applicant areas' and are first-generation applicants to University.*

Personal Experience as an Applicant to Cambridge

- *I am from a 'low applicant area' and experienced the impact of having several mentors from Project Access, Target Oxbridge & ACS first-hand, and would love to be a part of similar work. Furthermore, having been a part of Project Access, there are certain improvements I would like to implement if elected.*
- *I have only attended State Schools and have first-hand experienced and witnessed the knock this can have on confidence. Therefore, I hope that as an officer, students will be able to relate to me and I can help 'de-mystify' Cambridge.*

Experience - Temi

Sixth Form Representative

- *I volunteered for open evenings, which involved discussing my experiences with students, building a rapport with students and parents, leading tours of the sixth form, and encouraging students that this was an environment that they would belong in.*

Mentoring Experience

- *Whilst in Year 13, I volunteered as an academic mentor for Year 12 students where I gave 1:1 revision support.*
- *I have partaken in my Sixth Form mentoring scheme where I assist Year 13 students in their UCAS process. This has ranged from helping with personal statements and holding mock interviews.*

Fitzwilliam Outreach Delegation

- *I am a member of the College Outreach and Access Helper. I am excited to be involved in this work including helping with open days, residentials, tours and school visits.*

Personal Experience as an Applicant to Cambridge

- *As a first year, I have recently applied to Cambridge and under extremely peculiar circumstances, I believe therefore I can bring reassurance and a unique perspective to the access committee. Further, having recently undergone the application process, I will be able to relate to current sixth form students.*
- *I have always attended State Comprehensive Schools and therefore understand the need for these programmes and events. I have also been participated in some outreach programmes and therefore understand how helpful they can be.*