KATIE CLARKE

FOR UNDERGRAD ACCESS, EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION OFFICER

Hello! I’m Katie, a third-year geography student at Sidney Sussex and I would love to have the privilege of representing your AEP needs at the SU. I went to one of “England’s worst schools” (The Mirror, 2016) and am a first-generation, state comprehensive and bursary-receiving student, and have spent a significant portion of my time here trying to make Cambridge more accessible and equitable to every student.

MY PROMISES TO YOU

SU PANTRY FOR STUDENTS

• Adequate nutrition is essential for well-being, but students are increasingly going hungry. We should not have to compromise on health to study at Cambridge.
• I would expand the food bank scheme I created at Sidney to be university-wide, so that no student has to worry about where their next meal is coming from.

STANDARDISED PREP WEEK

• I will standardise Prep and Bridging Weeks at the start of the Michaelmas term for freshers at all colleges to ensure everyone has the same head start.
• These will be fully funded to ensure that the extra week does not cause undue financial strain on the students who would benefit from it most.

REDUCING JCR WORKLOAD

• I will reduce the number of access forums per term and instead do one-on-one meetings with officers focused on where I can help them with their projects.
• I will also create resource packs for JCR officers with financial guides, alternative prospectuses and other templates so they can focus more on people than paperwork.

COLLATE A DATABASE OF OPPORTUNITIES

• Most Cambridge target and access opportunities like open lectures, essay competitions and workshops currently rely on word of mouth or proactive searching.
• I will create a new online constantly updated database that collates and explains all opportunities for GCSE and A-level students at each Cambridge college in one place.

A REFORMED SHADOWING SCHEME

• The Shadowing scheme is no longer fit for purpose: it is inefficient and does not give prospective students an enriching experience they can carry on to further education.
• I will devote the start of my tenure to reforming the SU’s yearly outreach programme to be more inclusive and enriching for all involved.

 ACTIONS, NOT JUST WORDS

AS SIDNEY JCR ACCESS OFFICER I...

• Created the ‘Sidney Financial Guide’ to help freshers to develop financial literacy
• Reformed the Hardship fund so students can access help with more dignity
• Created the Class Act fund in collaboration with our Class Act officer
• Created the first college food bank ‘help hub’, offering free groceries to all 350 Sidney undergraduates
• Oversaw the implementation of the first Sidney Prep Week in 2022

AS UNION ACCESS OFFICER I...

• Created the foundation year membership in collaboration with the university Foundation year team to diversify voices
• Created a new set of teaching resources for school visits
• Carried out the Stephen Fry scholarship programmes

@KTIECLARKE

CRS ID: KC622