

## Ayan Addow- Target and Access Officer

Fitzwilliam College has been labelled as a 'diverse' college, and that was the main reason why I applied. It is great to see the amount of effort that Fitz put into outreach and access work, and I would like to contribute to future efforts. Coming from a diverse and disadvantaged area, Cambridge seemed like an unattainable goal to me, and access did help lessen these fears, but such fears still do remain. Therefore, I would like to become a part of the subcommittee for Target and Access, to help widen Fitz's doors to people of all backgrounds and show them that they do, like me, belong.

### **Manifesto:**

**Increasing Contact with Access Target Areas:** I want to orchestrate more school visit/workshop days from Fitzwilliam's target areas(Cumbria, Cheshire and Hammersmith and Fulham), so future applicants can get a warm introduction to Fitzwilliam, which they may not necessarily receive from their college. Additionally, I aim to work closely with the BME exec/subcommittee/class act, to demonstrate that post university opportunities will only widen for those from low income/ethnic minority backgrounds, by inviting BME/ class act postgraduates to speak.

**Introducing halal meal options:** After arriving to Fitz, I was shocked to discover that there are no halal meat options for the buttery and also formals, this could subsequently affect access because this would deter prospective students from applying. Also, it would make prospective students perhaps feel alienated from others, especially if they do not even prefer the vegetarian options provided. Thus, I would want to work closely with the Food and Beverage exec to increase halal food options.

**Introducing Imposter Syndrome Mandatory Talks:** I believe that help regarding imposter syndrome should not be placed upon BME buddies/college families, and so I believe the college should run mandatory talks on imposter syndrome, as students may feel uncomfortable seeking help regarding their feelings.

**Care leavers events and a personal tutor:** Continuing Finn's work with care leavers, I would want to provide a personal tutor for all care leavers, and to also help run access events in order to provide a sense of community that goes beyond Fitz.

### **Experience:**

- Whilst in sixth form, I was a part of the student committee, particularly in charge of the buddy scheme, which meant I helped organised mentoring buddies for students of all ages, in order for them to feel included in Compton Sixth Form.
- I also volunteered every sixth form opening, which entailed me being a tour guide and discussing the desires of future students, whilst also voicing the constructive criticisms of these future students, to allow my sixth form to improve.
- I am extremely hard working, and this is evident in the fact , that I was the only student from my sixth form to gain an offer from Cambridge. This hard work ethic will be reflected in my Target and Access role.
- I myself was from a 'low applicant area', and experienced the Project Access Mentorship programme. I believe it could have been more beneficial, if my mentor could have been more similar to me, and so, I would want to help make sure that this programme can provide the most benefit for everyone.

## **Tami Briggs – Target and Access Officer**

### ***Why do I want to be part of the Target and Access Sub Committee?***

My experiences attending both a state comprehensive school and state grammar school, has shown me how Cambridge is often seen as an impossible option for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. I want to show students from 'Access' backgrounds that there is no 'typical' image of a Cambridge student, a Cambridge student can be from any background. In this role, I want to demystify Cambridge, showing students that Fitzwilliam college is an environment in which they can excel irrespective of their circumstances. I hope to achieve these aims through the continuation of the work of the previous committee. I also hope to implement new ideas and increase the interaction between students from 'Access' backgrounds and Fitz.

### **Experience**

- I am a First Year, and thus, I have recently been through the application process. Therefore I can provide a fresh perspective on the work that needs to be done to appeal to more students.
- Previous roles held – In my sixth form, I coordinated subject specific workshops for students in younger years.
- Involved in my sixth form mentoring scheme - I have experience supporting students who are considering applying for Cambridge.
- I am a Dele goat – I look forward to travelling to Fitz's target area of Cumbria, Cheshire, and Hammersmith and Fulham.
- As someone who had a Fitzwilliam College mentor during my application process, I understand how much more confident it made me as an applicant. I want to ensure that this service can be provided to as many students from 'Access' backgrounds as possible.
- I attended a state comprehensive school for 5 years and a state grammar school for 2 years - I understand the need for students from 'Access' backgrounds to experience Cambridge through workshops, mentoring schemes and experience days. From personal experience, I believe that the best way to demystify Cambridge to students of 'Access' backgrounds, is to show them that they can belong here.

### **Manifesto**

- **Social Media** – I understand that currently there is an ongoing project to increase the college's presence on social media. I hope to partake in this process as it is important for students from 'Access' backgrounds to see the supportive and friendly atmosphere of our college.
- **Increase the amount of workshops** – I believe that at Fitz we could organise more workshops and events for students to visit the college. In my opinion, I believe the college's friendly atmosphere is its biggest attraction. Specifically, we can organise current undergraduate and postgraduate speakers with 'Access' backgrounds.

- **A video of current Fitz students talking about their experiences of the application process** – Before my interview I was fortunate enough to find the InsideUni page, and I believe that this will go well in conjunction to an informal video made by current students.
- **Anonymous Question platform/Website** – I propose that there should be a platform in which ‘Access’ students can ask questions about the application/Interview process or general enquiries about Fitz.
- A continuation of InsideUni/ Project Access/ Fitz Delegates.
- **Student-led Subject Workshops** - In order to ease the transition of students from ‘Access’ backgrounds into Cambridge, I would like to run a student-led subject workshop. This would help mitigate feelings of ‘imposter syndrome’, and aid the transition into university.
- **A Student Guide made by students** – I think that there should be ‘A Student’s Guide to the application process from the perspective of a Cambridge student’ – I think that this is the way in which we can directly interact with students from ‘Access’ backgrounds, and demystify Cambridge. This guide will allow current students to talk through their experiences of the application process and provide tips for prospective students.