

Kirstie Goodchild – Class Act Officer Manifesto

- **About Me:**
- My name is Kirstie Goodchild and I am currently a second year Psychological and Behavioural Sciences student. I went to a non-fee paying selective grammar secondary school, and am from Bradford in West Yorkshire. I am a first-generation student as neither of my parents, or anyone else along their lineages, went to university before me. As a Class Act student, I am therefore very enthusiastic about being able to make a difference to other Class Act students at Fitz. I hope my personality of being open, approachable and empathetic, and the experiences and passions I outline below, will demonstrate why I believe I would be a successful Class Act officer.
- **Experience:**
- **Class Act member:** Due to being a member of Class Act, I therefore understand the difficulties of coming from a Class Act background. This gives me both empathy and experience that enables me to relate to other Class Act members in college and motivates me to want to make a difference.
- **NCS Mentor in Bradford:** I have worked with the National Citizenship Service (NCS) as a team mentor for the past two years. Within this role, I mentor groups of mostly 16-year olds from my home town of Bradford. I help them to fulfil their potential and form friendships with each other regardless of any cultural and socioeconomic differences they may have. The success of my mentoring is shown by my outstanding staff review feedback from management, and the fact that my team's project this year was so successful it made the local press! I believe I can apply my talent for this role to help Class Act students at Fitz to have the best university experience possible.
- **First Generation Society Committee:** My commitment to Class Act is shown by the fact I am currently on the First Generation Society committee, and will be involved in running focus group sessions as the society becomes more established throughout the year.
- **CATS rep:** I am Fitz's rep for Cambridge's Cancer Awareness In Teenagers And Young People Society (CATS), so have experience in helping prepare for events that raise awareness about minorities, in this case teenagers with cancer.
- **Scouting:** I have been a member of the Scouting Association since I was seven years old and have recently started volunteering at 11th/9th Cambridge beaver scout group. As part of being in Scouts, I am used to working with people from a variety of different backgrounds. I therefore have experience in coming up with and leading events that are adapted to ensure all Scouts are able to participate.
- **Head Girl Team:** I was on the Head Girl team at school where my specific role was to lead the Student Council. Within my role, I managed to implement better school bonding as requested by the students on the team by organising the school's first House Competition

bake off. This shows my ability to plan events based on decisions of a committee, so I believe I would be capable at collaborating with other members within Target and Access on the JCR to improve welfare and opportunities for Class Act Students.

- **NHS Committee:** I am a member of Yorkshire's NHS young people's mental health research advisory group (Young Dynamos). Within this role, I have interviewed staff applying for Children and Adolescents' Mental Health Service (CAMHS) roles, and advised on how research projects with young people as their participants could be tailored to improve engagement. I therefore have experience working on a committee and making decisions that will impact on a large scale and will promote engagement.

- **Delegoat:** I am Delegoat trained and am really enthusiastic about helping with access events in college, such as open days and the shadowing scheme. I therefore have a good idea about what the college does to promote access generally and therefore know who I could work with to implement my ideas to target Class Act students specifically.

- **Ideas:**

- **Welfare:** I agree with the JCR decision that Class Act Officer should be a welfare-based role. I found Michaelmas last year really difficult as I had little understanding about what university life would be like due to my background. For example, I did not know how to make notes properly from lectures or how uni exams worked. Moreover, since my parents had no experience of university, my family did not understand how busy I was or what sort of work I would be set, so they could not give me much support in academic terms. As Class Act Officer, I would therefore endeavour to fill the support void some Class Act students may experience due to their familial or economic circumstances by focussing on promoting welfare throughout the year. My ideas for how I would do this are documented below.

- **Buddy Scheme:** To help promote welfare for Class Act students, I would first like to create a more established group chat for current members of the college, and freshers in Michaelmas 2020. They could use this to communicate with other Class Act students. If they so wish, they could also use the Messenger nickname function to declare their subject or what Class Act background they are from to help them identify people with similar backgrounds to them. A mailing list could also be created for people who do not use Facebook. A group chat or mailing list like this could help with fostering friendships between students who then realise they have a similar background to each other, helping to start an informal buddy scheme. If such a group chat proves popular, I would consider making a more formal Buddy Scheme for incoming freshers, for example, by starting a separate college family scheme just for Class Act students.

- **Cooking and University Life Tips:** I would like to host some drop-in sessions or events that promote development of skills that may help everyone with managing university life. These would be therefore be open to all students in college, but are tailored to specifically be of use to Class Act students. Money saving tips are one thing I would like to focus on. I particularly found money management hard when I started at Cambridge, which became difficult when most of my friends were always going to brunch or the buttery or buying lunch

out every day in town and I could not afford that. I therefore thought about hosting a college cooking scheme where students could be put into teams. Within their teams, they could visit each other's kitchens once a week/fortnight and cook quick and affordable meals for each other, whilst teaching each other how to cook the recipe. This would be a good money-saving scheme, as cooking group meals is cheaper than cooking for one. It would also add variety to your meal recipe repertoire and cooking skills, and so makes missing out on the buttery less of a disadvantage. Finally, such a scheme would also help students make friends with people who may be of similar backgrounds to them, fostering peer support as part of my aim to promote welfare. Events I would organise could also extend to drop-in tip sessions, where older Class Act students could share advice with freshers about managing uni life when from a Class Act background.

- **Socials:** I would like to organise more socials for Class Act students, which might be easier by establishing a more active Fitz Class Act group chat. I would try to make these socials as affordable and welfare-based as possible, for example, by doing welfare walks or arts and crafts events. This would be in addition to the mentioned events above.
- **School Visits:** I would like to promote going back to your school to give Oxbridge talks to all Fitzwilliam students, but specifically to Class Act students who may come from schools where Oxbridge applications are uncommon or not encouraged. One way I thought to promote this was to have a map up in college where schools and locations that had been visited throughout the year could be pinned by the students who visited them. A pin map display like this would make visiting schools a more visible way of promoting access to Oxbridge, and may therefore help encourage more Fitz students to visit their schools in order to get their school on our map! Students are already rewarded by visiting their former schools in other ways (chocolate in your pidge), although these rewards are not widely known about. I would therefore advertise them better, for example, by an advert next to the pinboard. I think it is particularly important that schools where many students meet Class Act criteria are visited, specifically by Class Act Fitz students that went to those schools. Seeing someone from your background promote Cambridge can be really inspiring as it gives Class Act sixth formers role models which may encourage them to apply.
- **Advertisement:** I would like to promote awareness of what Class Act is. From my experience, when I mention Class Act many people have not heard of it and do not know about the six domains it includes. I would try to improve this by sharing advertisements about Class Act on social media, and working with the Target and Access executive and sub-committee to ensure wider Access events in college have a specific Class Act component and engage members of Class Act.
- **Summary:**
My experiences and ideas show I am passionate about and will be talented at helping people achieve their goals at university in spite of any Class Act criteria they may meet. My enthusiasm for the welfare of people from Class Act backgrounds has therefore encouraged me to apply for Class Act officer on Fitzwilliam JCR. I endeavour to apply all my experiences to promote access and welfare for Class Act students within college.

I hope my ideas and experiences have demonstrated why I would like to be Class Act Officer, and why I think I would be well suited to the role. If you have any questions about my manifesto, please feel free to contact me. I am more than happy answer any emails (kg449@cam.ac.uk) or Facebook direct messages. Thank you for taking the time to read my ideas, and thank you for getting to the end!

Billy Love,
Kirstie 😊