

JCR Treasurer Manifesto

Who am I?

I am a responsible, motivated and dependable first year studying Mathematics from Sheffield and I'm running for JCR Treasurer because I have the drive and passion to help make a meaningful difference for everyone at Fitz.

Why me?

Being a Mathmo, I have an aptitude with numbers which will make financing and budgeting easily manageable for me and in addition, I have highly tuned critical analysis and problem-solving skills which would allow me to make well-informed decisions for the best long-term outcomes. Furthermore, I have already demonstrated my interest and dedication to being involved within college whether it's my role on the Fitzwilliam Debating Society Committee, helping organise Winter Wonderland, taking an active role in college divestment or participating in Rowing, Squash and Hockey. Finally, I am very easy to talk to so if anybody ever has any problems or suggestions, I will listen carefully to what you have to say and make sure that your opinions are implemented or conveyed to the wider JCR. I am highly motivated, and this combined with my strong organisational and time-management skills, would make me a dependable and reliable treasurer for the JCR.

Experience

I have experience in large-scale organising having head-organised the Yorkshire and Humberside regional forum of European Youth Parliament UK. I have further experience in leading teams and fiscal responsibility through my role as Director of Finance in my young enterprise team in which we became citywide champions and I am currently on the Finance Committee of a cultural charity gala in Cambridge. I am used to solving logistics problems having run my own society within school which involved regularly attracting professional speakers to give presentations on their subject of expertise. Responsibility and resilience are skills that I developed in my role as a school prefect. Finally, I am also a delegeat and a mentor in the Fitz shadowing scheme which further evidences my dedication to Fitz.

Manifesto

JCR budget

Increasing the JCR Budget

The JCR budget is currently £3,400 per year which goes towards JCR events, welfare and more. This year, the JCR is predicted to make a loss but there are many issues that have not been tackled from food waste bins to underfunded events. The JCR needs more money and I will enthusiastically support this and work to create a logical case to present to college on why the JCR objectively needs more money. I aim to do this through creating good rapport with the bursar and the JMA through transparent and accurate records of the current budget as well as by maintaining pleasant interactions and displaying continued fiscal responsibility.

Giving the JCR access to the surplus budget

As stated above, the JCR budget is £3,400 for the year and if any of this is not spent by the end of the year, it is taken back by college and the JCR loses access to it. This doesn't reward or incentivise

hard work from the JCR. By letting the JCR keep this surplus budget it would allow them to use this money to improve current events and reduce the extra requested funding from college, hence saving money in the long run. I aim to present this case to college in order to allow rollover of the JCR budget which would also increase the working JCR budget.

Making sure that chronically underfunded parts of the JCR receive funding

Some areas of the JCR are not well-funded enough, especially given their importance to members of the student body, such as Welfare and Target & Access. I aim to secure an increase in JCR budget to reduce this underfunding and also to monitor how much is being spent where and hence, which areas need more money. I aim to make sure that no money is being sat unspent within the JCR and that no areas are underfunded.

Rent

Reducing Rent Increases

The rent at Fitz is currently a problem that affects every single student in college. Fitz charges a just over average rent for rooms that are smaller and less nice than most colleges. College intends to increase the rent by 10 % over the next two years and Ellie, our last JCR president, managed to reduce the increase from 5% to 3.5%, but I aim to assist Andrew in reducing the increase in rent even further to make it more representative of the accommodation and more affordable for the student body.

College Bill Breakdown

Currently the college bill is very hard to understand and with the JCR President for this year intending to make some changes to the Kitchen Fixed Charge in particular, a clear breakdown of the college bill provided to all students would be extremely useful. Therefore, I aim to distribute such a breakdown with clear explanations for each charge at the start of every term to make the bill understandable for freshers and other undergraduates alike (especially for the disparity in second years living in houses or in college).

Other costs

Gown Costs

I will aim to not rip off new freshers on gown prices whilst making sure that we do not make a loss on gowns in order to keep Fitz affordable whilst maintaining a solid budget.

Improving the JCR

Improving the JCR is something that everyone in college feels strongly about so I aim to source the funds that would allow us to do that. I aim to raise enough money on top of the basic rejuvenation to get a permanent pool table and a working table football. I aim to do this through requesting one-off funding for the JCR rejuvenation on the basis that it will increase the popularity of Fitz in terms of applications and will last for a long time. I would do research into the effect improving the JCR would have and pitch this to college as an opportunity for college to attract more students and paint it as in their best interests.

Laundry Tokens and Fitz pints

In recent years, the cost of laundry tokens and Fitz pints has increased and I aim to get college to give me a reasonable justification for these price changes or to revert the prices to what they were before as I don't believe students should pay more for no change in service.

Greater transparency and accessible records

Strict Record-Keeping

I will keep strict and up to date records of the JCR budget that will make securing an increased budget from college more viable and increase the JCR's ability to request extra funding. Furthermore, I will compare the JCR budget to the previous year's JCR budget to give extra information about where more spending may be needed or where it may be unnecessary. I will maintain regular backups of these records in order to make sure the finances of the JCR are secure.

Uploading the budget to the Fitz JCR page (or somewhere else accessible)

I will make the JCR budget available to view by members of the JCR and all members of college in order to increase accountability and to make sure that the money is being put to good use.

Publishing Meeting Key Points

In order to increase transparency, I will aim to record the key points of all my meetings and put these in an accessible place for all member of college so you as a student body can confirm that I am representing your interests in my positions on committees.

Streamlining JCR Finances

Switching to a digital bank account for JCR payments

I aim to convince college to allow the JCR to manage its expenses through an online banking account run by the treasurer which would allow greater control and fluidity on JCR expenses. This would be done by the bursar transferring increments of the JCR budget over the course of the year. I aim to convince them to allow this by proving trustworthiness in record-keeping and fiscal responsibility as well as explaining what the benefits of this would be as opposed to the current reimbursement program. I accept that college is unlikely to accept this switch to a digital account in order for them to maintain a greater degree of control over the JCR spending, however, I will push for this to the best of my abilities and try and change college's view.

Maintaining Co-operation with the MCR Treasurer

I intend to establish early a strong working relationship with the MCR treasurer in order to make organising and budgeting for joint events as easy as possible. This would allow events to be organised more easily.

Financial Advice for Students

Clear guide to the scholarships and bursaries available made for freshers

As a fresher coming to Cambridge, it can be very confusing what opportunities for scholarships are available at Fitz, whether you are eligible for them, and how to apply for them (when, where and how) as well as how bursaries work and other available financial support. I aim to create an information pack that directly tackles this by collating information from college on scholarships,

prizes and bursaries in an accessible way and distributing this online and to freshers on arrival so that they can clearly understand the opportunities they have available to them whether it be sports, academic, musical or something else.

A guide for freshers without bikes

Living at Fitz without a bike is a struggle most of us can't be bothered to go through so advising incoming freshers of the importance of bringing a bike is important. I aim to create a document for incoming students on the cheapest and most reliable options to buy bikes, locks, lights mudguards and more for students who do not own a bike or are unable to bring it over long distances.

The Wider JCR

Staying involved with Divestment

I aim to stay involved with the Divestment working group in order to make sure that college maintains an ethical view of divestment and assist in doing the vast amount of research that is required to keep the JCR informed on divestment. I also aim to further efforts by the current JCR to continue the move to more ethical thematic and impact investing and to reduce the amount of unscreened investment.

Representing the views of the JCR on committees

I will commit to supporting the view of the JCR, and hence the student body, on any committees I am on irrespective of my own views or opinions.

Assist the Vice President in Organising the Housing Ballot

I will assist the vice president in streamlining the organisation of the housing ballot by exploring options for an electronic system to carry out the shadow ballot and the final ballot.

Helping organise ents events

I will continue to help organise and in particular, budget, for ents events such as Billy Day and Winter Wonderland.

Hedgehogs!!!

I will still happily and enthusiastically support all plans to increase the number of hedgehogs at Fitz!
Dedicated Fitz Charity

I propose that Fitzwilliam JCR supports a specific charity each year so that we can make a meaningful difference to a deserving charity via fundraising events. I would speak to the bursar and discuss whether we could support a single charity throughout the year which could be chosen by a student vote of the JCR and the MCR. This would allow us to make a sizable donation to a charity of our choice and see our progress throughout the year.