

JCR Elections MT 2022 Minutes

Short hands:

POI – Points of information

Q: Question

A: Answer

Husting started: 20:02, 14th Nov

Structure of hustings:

- Each candidate delivers a speech of 1 minute in length (2 minutes for executive positions)
- Questions may be asked of all candidates. The order in which the candidates answer is rotated for each question
- The JCR chair may reject inappropriate questions. No candidate is obliged to answer any question.

Contested Exec Positions

President

- Brodie Weymouth (B)
- Matilda Piovella (M)

M: Hi, I'm Matilda. I'm a second year English student and I would love to serve as your next JCR president. In the past year or so I've gone from being a tiny, tiny, fresher, who'd been to the UK once for a day on a school trip in like year seven. And now, you know, I walk into the quad and feel at home every single day. And honestly, as JCR pres, what I really want to do is to make everybody else feel the same way for the entire duration of their stay here. First and foremost, I think the key to that is just ensuring that the communication between the President and the committee and the committee and the student body is as clean and crisp as it can be, obviously, you know, keeping up with an email every week can be quite overwhelming. So one thing I want to introduce is termly recaps of the successes and the failures, which sadly, probably will exist, but just to keep everyone in the loop as much as possible, and just ensure that you guys know everything that's going on, and keeping everyone working together. I think that's the main thing, especially in terms of inclusivity, having the welfare reps, cooperate with the BAME and class officers and access reps just to ensure that we diversify our peer supporters, we rotate people that are doing the drop ins to ensure that everyone feels they have a familiar face they can speak to. In terms of diversity, celebration, formals are great, they're amazing. But you know, I feel like we could bring that outside of formal because formals are also kind of expensive, so you know, diversifying JCRT and you know, encouraging people to bake for JCRT and having a diverse kind of input of foods and things and events before formals maybe, where especially the JCR committee can participate as well, so they can get to know the student body as much as they can, which is also I think, really important for us to be as approachable as possible. And you know, it's Teddy hall, the people are the best thing about it. So more events like Bonfire Night, which would

be nice to do and the Christmas Freud ball that we had last year, and working with the arts and culture reps to bring wine and painting nights. And the burlesque class, I couldn't go but it looked like so much fun. So more things like that. That would make this an even more fun place to be. Thank you.

B: Hello people of the hall, my name is Brody and I love the Hall. You may see on the JCR Facebook page trying to encourage people to come to JCR meetings and I swear I don't do it for pizza, mostly, it's nice scam. Or you might see me on sidelines at Cuppers games. People throw about the word like "spirit of the Hall", you know, like it's a buzzword, but I believe that there's more to it than that, you know, whether it's, you know, lib lifestyle in there 24/7 or, you know, ming, everyone loves ming, it's such a social event, or even, you know, just enjoying the views of the Kelly tower. There's something special about the Hall, and I want to be here to represent that. So onto what I can do specifically for the Hall. First thing, more bike racks, like you guys know, anyone who has a bike here knows the absolute hectic nightmare it is trying to find a space for the bike and I think for everyone's welfare, it'd be a really good thing to get more bike racks. Also, more accommodation support. It is really stressful finding accommodation for first years, and for second years, trying to deal with landlords as well. That's really stressful. PSA, any freshers out there that haven't found accommodation yet, talk to your college parents. We've been through it before, so we can help you. Also, more formals that celebrate diversity. It's a diverse world in here and out of here as well. Why not celebrate that more? They're great fun, and they're really interesting. And I'm sure the chef's would love to cook up some more interesting food. But also, I think unifying the Hall is really important. It's no secret that we're a little bit divided here. That's natural, people have different interests, but there are things we can come together for like the open mic night, everyone kind of banded together and it was a really great night. I had so much fun, even if I was only there for about half of it. But the most important thing is listening to you guys. You're the JCR, I need to listen to you and communicate all of your thoughts and feelings to the rest of the student body.

Q: Is there any ways you can think of to deal with the lad culture around Teddy Hall?

B: Teddy has had problems in the past with lad culture and it's something we kind of have to accept and we can't hide that. A big thing is these good lad workshops and we know the sports teams and sports leaders they have to do it but I think introducing them more often as well. We talked about the consent workshops. The freshers know, you had one in Freshers week. But you know, introducing these on a more regular basis, kind of blast the past, retraining, you know, you don't just train for something once. And also a big thing is kind of the responsibility of the older lads. One thing I would look at is definitely during Freshers week, just kind of reconsidering how effective some of these workshops are, because it's been the same workshops again and again every year. They are really boring, and they're really tiring, even though they're important. Sometimes having a third year, you kind of will see every day, say just the same thing can help you so much more. Because then there's someone there, someone with more responsibility, someone who you can relate to telling you kind of, you've got to behave, you know, I think that will kind of really help. And the other thing linked into that is like alcoholic events, you know, sports drinks, it's really important that these sports drinks be inclusive to everyone. So part of that is knowing that you can go to sports drinks, but you don't have to drink. I for one love milk. But it's the kind of ideas that if you've got some people that can support you and having friends and having communication, and that

can really help make sure people have responsibility and keep people accountable for their actions, which is kind of the most important thing with that kind of lad culture.

M: Absolutely, I mean, I think the JCR president and the committee in general, and their relationship with accountability, and ensuring that the JCR body is held accountable for their actions is really crucial. But I think it also requires a fostering of a very different culture within these events. So even a simple thing like ensuring that working with the sports officers and the welfare officers to have a welfare rep who's peer support trained at drinking events, matches or any kind of events where certain things can arise. And in cases where incidents do arise, and there is conflict, just open communication, have members of the JCR get involved and talk to individuals as well as you know, clubs, just ensure that communication remains open. Because at the end of the day, so many issues just become escalated by unclear communication and just unclear procedure of how to deal with issues which can be so much simpler and prevented. But just ensuring that there is someone there who people can turn to if things start to escalate, essentially.

Q: As JCR Pres, there's a lot of things going on behind the scene, what do you think will be the biggest challenge about being JCR Pres?

M: I mean, I procrastinate writing my essays by writing the email I'm gonna send the essay with. So I don't think the emails are gonna be the biggest challenge. Honestly, trying to uphold the college's views in front of college, which can notoriously be not very receptive to our issues. But I think the key to that would be just feeding back directly from the student body and bringing them things the student body has directly said, and direct issues with kind of facts and quotes and numbers to back it up so that they aren't just listening to me, but are listening to the wider student body I think is probably the best thing I could think of.

B: So kind of similar to what Matilda said I think is kind of being able to push the beliefs of the JCR through to the rest of the college body because of course, we as the JCR, we're at the forefront of change here with the youthful spirits that want to make action. Whereas some of these guys all the way at the top might not be so happy with that action. I've worked on the committee for a OUPLC which is a club kind of having to liaise with bigger kind of outside organisations, you know, for stuff like Varsity. I know how difficult it can be sometimes, because these guys just don't want to listen, but sometimes especially with JCR, you know, you might have the moral upper ground, something like the the BAME form, I know we've had problems with that. But you can push that very hard, because in reality, they're in the wrong there, we're in the right. So you can push that as hard as you like, I'm not afraid of kind of repercussions there. But in some cases, you do kind of have to, you know, balance it a little bit, they're individuals, and sometimes if you upset their feelings, they might strike back at you. So you kind of have to find that balance. And I think that will be a challenge definitely.

Q: How will you address racism in college, both from within the student body and from college itself?

B: I'm gonna cover this in with kind of a lot of harassment, of course, you know, they're all very individual. But harassment does occur at this college, it's kind of a very sad truth. So I think what we need to have in place is lots of options. Because it's so individual and can

happen on many levels. So some sort of system that can allow you to choose whether you want to submit a complaint anonymously or in person, because I know it can be very stressful for some people. Who you want to send it to, if it's against someone in college, you might not feel comfortable sending it to somewhere where it might get sent through college. And having it available to onlookers as well, because it's kind of a collective responsibility to solve these problems. So if you notice something, you want to be able to submit a complaint or submit an issue as well, not just the person feeling harassed. And then kind of in addition to that, we can't forget these people once the harassment has happened. And having these victims have access to welfare, such as a therapist afterwards is really important. Because they can be like serious mental health issues. We want Teddy to be fun, happy, inclusive. We just can't have that if people aren't feeling accepted, and people are kind of feeling damaged and not good because of issues that are happening.

M: Absolutely, building on what Brodie said, I think the diversification of peer supporters is something which really needs attention, and working with the BAME rep to ensure that there are people of various races that people can turn to both directly but also through like anonymous Google Forms or ways of that which are directly addressed to said, BAME rep or peer supporter or again, as Brodie said, a range of options, because there is no kind of one size solution to any of these issues. And especially kind of ensuring and preventing these things by making sure that at the basis, people feel supported and feel like there is somewhere to go at the very beginning. And as Brodie said, kind of throughout and afterwards as well.

Q: Imagine you're elected president, if there's one thing you want to accomplish by the end of the year, what would it be? It should be as tangible as possible.

M: So I think my main goal is to just ensure that more people feel comfortable and more people feel at home, I suppose the most tangible way I could summarise that is have, you know, double might be strong, but almost double the number of peer supporters and a more diverse group of them. And, you know, have enjoying diversity not be a luxury, because things like formals are expensive, and they are kind of made into these specific events, which almost separate them from current Teddy Hall life, which I think is a shame. Having that become a feature of Teddy Hall as a whole is something I'd love to see.

B: I really want to unite the Hall and I want the Hall to be ambitious. So if I was to give a metric to that, JCR packed, always. And I think a method to do that is doing these events. You know, maybe like sports day. I know, that was a big success last year. Like I said, more open mic nights, because everyone comes out. Stuff like arts and music. So many people are talented here, and there are so many hidden talents, and kind of having people bring them up. It can be a scary environment, but like the open mic night was really, really kind of encouraging for everyone. So having events like that will really help unify people, because people will find common ground.

Q: Where are you on the ballot?

Matilda: 103

Brodie: He chose his room at 11:20, he doesn't know the exact number.

Q: As JCR pres, sometime you have to be the bearer of bad news, how would you go about communicating that with the JCR?

B: So I think in those instances, depth is needed. It will actually come out in a Facebook post or an email, which is, is difficult, to be honest, to get across motions. You know, we've talked a lot about how when you're texting, people don't understand kind of how emotions are dealt with. So I think kind of communicating that with people in person can always be good, you know, the next JCR meeting sometimes is a lot better to do that, be able to kind of develop that depth. If not, then, you know, being a face around college, you can just like, talk to maybe the proposer of that motion, and then, you know, tell that to other people as well. I love ming, I spent an hour and a half at ming sometimes. So I see a lot of people. And because of that, you know, I can go up to people and tell them in person, what's happened. And I think that's kind of very important. Because through an email or Facebook posts, that message just doesn't get across as clearly sometimes.

M: I mean, absolutely. Where it can be done in person, then absolutely, is obviously better. But sadly, that isn't really an option. But definitely, as Brodie says, kind of looking at the specific motion that hasn't passed or hasn't been successful, and going to those people first to people that are most affected first. When it is just all of college, I think, sadly, the only thing that we can do is be honest. With college, there are some things that won't work. And I think being honest and upfront as to why and how is the only thing we really can do and then coming back to the student body and asking, "Okay, this hasn't worked. What's something that you'd like us to try instead?" And kind of building on failure as opposed to have things end there. Because I do think there will always be space to push within obviously reason and adjusting and accommodating and compromising with college, there will surely somehow be a way.

Q: In terms of racism, do you think there's anything we can do, maybe more of a cultural change, to prevent these harassment incidents from happening in the first place?

M: The thing with prevention, specifically, having diversity be a feature of the college and not have the kind of division that can sometimes happen, and people feel constricted to different social groups and social circles that are sometimes based on their ethnicity. I love catching up with my Italian friends and there is nothing quite like it and I think, you know that will obviously still remain, but have like we said events so Diwali formal, have Diwali JCR drinks, or like a social beforehand that kind of makes it a thing which you don't have to pay for to be at, something that is shared and celebrated. Get people to bake for JCRT and bring things they made at home and just kind of make it as much as possible. Something which is just constantly there in people's minds because realistically, as the JCR committee, we're not going to change mindsets people coming into Teddy hall with, we can try our absolute best to kind of show them with our community and have our community be an example of what inclusion looks like, constantly as a kind of basis.

B: Yeah, so I kind of mentioned a little bit earlier but on the line to the good lad workshop, reinforcing those preventative measures, such as education, which is a massive one. And looking at how effective are those freshers things, can we make them more interesting,

maybe more engaging? Some of them are great. I remember from last year, I believe the one about equity, really engaging, good fun, but some of them you'd kind of sit there for an hour, fall asleep, but you don't want to fall asleep because they're important. And we kind of need to reengage people throughout the year with that as well. So that it is a present thing. And the other thing is working with the access officers, the BAME officers to kind of spread that diversity before people even get into college, encouraging people from minority backgrounds, whether that be ethnicity, class, gender, to apply to Teddy because the more of them, the more they can feel their voice heard. And the more they can kind of band together as a community to protect each other. But like kind of Mathilda said, we don't want kind of communities splitting across from each other, which is where these kind of Hall entirety events come in. Because when people start to chat to each other, communicate to each other, there's 120 of us in a year, a lot of people, you might have a chat to someone once, but turns out you might end up being really good friends with them, if you kind of get the opportunity to see them, which is where these kinds of events come in and you can realise you guys aren't all that different.

Q: What have you done in the past that shows that you love the hall?

B: Freshers rep, I want to say I moved in about half of Kelly 4 to be honest. I did the whole shift. And by that I mean six hours of moving people in, but I had fun. So that was good fun. Cuppers, if there is a Cupper's event, I'd either be cheering or in it. So some wild ones, water polo, almost drowned in that one. But it was good fun. You know, it's just kind of getting involved as well. I like to be kind of a face available for anyone. And yeah, I did last year, put a JCR motion to get some chairs in the in the the graveyard garden. That didn't work at all. So let's start on my failures.

M: I contribute to the whole by not participating in all the sporting events as to not embarrass Teddy Hall, the sporty college. But I have performed at Carols in the quad. I famously disappear on Sunday afternoons into choir-land, the mysterious chapel. I have participated in the Teddy Hall cuppers winning spirit of cubs for drama, which was really fun. Obviously showing up at war, which is amazing and all the great events which are set up by the incredible committee. And yeah, like Brodie said, just being around and freaking out about my essay in the library as opposed to in my house is also one of them.

Q: How would you change the attitude towards arts in Teddy? Especially with funding.

M: Honestly, I think the open mic night is a great opportunity, this can hopefully, kind of help us push for a bigger budget. So I mentioned earlier, like wine and painting night, or a pottery class, like really silly things, which can just help to join everyone in something they haven't learned before, and realistically, aren't ever really going to get a chance to learn again, as they go on. I think college is a great place to kind of workshop that. And I think, you know, bouncing off successes that we've had, such as the open mic night is a great starting point. And largely just getting people saying that they want it if we go to college, with people, keeping a record of all the requests we've had and just kind of publicising that more on the JCR Facebook, in committee meetings, and just making that also a feature of the college would help.

B: So I think kind of a big thing is kind of people feeling comfortable knowing that the JCR has got the money, we're going to support you. I know, Will had a recent very successful play that happened. So I can kind of just emphasise the point, I've sat on so many of these meetings, not just for the pizza, I'll reiterate. But you know, the money is there. So just ask for it and thou shall receive. But yeah, as well, there is kind of the idea that we kind of we've had these successful events. Supporting societies as well, such as the Creative Writing society, and more of that. One thing I want to kind of explore the options of because sometimes the JCR is busy, is opening up the bar on Sundays. Maybe not necessarily having the actual bar open, but even just the space open, because, like we said, you kind of have to have that dialogue with college. Even if the the physical selling of drinks don't occur, that's another space for social events to occur, and art events to occur?

Q: When it comes to college meetings, you may have to represent the entire JCR by yourself, how will you best represent the JCR and better improve conversation between college and students?

B: An important thing really using the different officers because the officers can delegate more. We've got Facebook group chats, for WOTH, gender minorities, MOTH, class, BAME, international, etc. So those Facebook pages, kind of help the officers emphasise that if you've got a problem, use that Facebook page or message the officer. Then that kind of act as like a tree with roots. And then the officers can message to me. But also being the friendly face. Anyone can come up to me at any time. It's alright, I don't have that much work. I do Geography. So I'm free for a chat anytime if you want to, you know, and I can hopefully represent you. Also, I'm thinking about pushing for other officers to be in these meetings, if needs be. Of course, that depends entirely on like, how much time these officers have. If you've got two people on the meeting, that gives you so much more ability and power even if it's just like bouncing ideas off each other. It's like tutes, who's been in a one on one tute? I haven't. I'd be terrified if I went in one to be honest, but two on one tute is a lot better. So yeah, that's kind of the idea of increasing that communication in increasing the availability of communication. I think it's kind of a really fundamental part of being President.

M: I mean, if we're gonna use the tute parallel, I have been in one on one tutpr, and it's a lot better if you talk to everyone else beforehand, which is kind of the plan that I'm gonna go with here. So honestly, just regular JCR committee meetings, making sure everyone, especially with execs, making sure everyone knows what everyone else is doing, kind of fostering a culture of cooperation. And especially as the president kind of knowing what specific officers need us to push in said meeting? Making sure that we are regularly and constantly in touch with them, I know exactly what it is they want, because you know, that can change from day to day. So I'm not proposing a JCR committee meeting every day. But, you know, every few weeks or every other week, whatever suits the committee, but just to ensure that there is that regular flow of information. And it isn't just pres to college, and then pres to committee at some point. And it's more of like a continuous cycle. And the student body as well. I feel really strongly about that, so just making sure that the body knows exactly what's happened in this meeting. Obviously, like, I'm not going to bore you with budget issues every day. But just having everyone in the loop so that everyone feels informed enough to chime in, because a lot of the time it is a case of "oh, I kind of want to suggest this but has it been already suggested? I don't know if I can suggest that. I don't know if that's feasible." So

hopefully if the workings of the JCR are a lot more open and available to everyone, then that can become less of a kind of divide there.

Q: If we're to get your friend and someone who you don't get along with in the same room, what will they each say about you?

M: My friend will say that I'm generous with my time, reliable, and funny to laugh at? For people who dislike me... I've been told I'm "Too much"? Bossy? Which you know, if I was a man it'd be "assertive".

B: So weakness number one, really uncoordinated. Weakness number two, loves powerlifting a little bit too much, because I'm really uncoordinated. And reason three, I think like I do procrastinate a little bit. So sorry Geography degree. But you know, spin that into a positive, that gives me more time to work on JCR pres stuff. I love reacting to Facebook posts. And number six, I can count. Thank you.

Q: Say one of your friends have sexually or racially harassed another member of the JCR, how will you react and are you ready to separate your professional role as JCR Pres with your personal life?

B: The kind of fundamental thing is being able to take that serious tone and stepping away. And that's the kind of experience I've had in the committee of OUPLC, we've kind of had some issues with some rogue individuals, nothing kind of along the lines of what we've been discussing earlier. But the idea is that from there, we have to take a very stern approach. And just having that experience of knowing how to separate that from being that individual that's just kind of hanging about is, it's just like, kind of knowing when to switch, and I feel that I can achieve that well, through my experiences.

M: During my head student period during COVID, which was really horrible. We had so much harassment of teachers, and I was kind of blamed for it. And a lot of my friends were doing it. And you know, I think, at this stage, we're at university, and I feel like, if any of my friends were involved in something that needed consequences, I feel like they'd be mature enough to understand that in that moment, I am no longer their friend, but rather, everyone's friend, the JCR body's friend, and therefore kind of representing what is good for the JCR body as a whole, and not them specifically.

Q: We've seen a lot of success for increasing QUOTH, WOTH, MOTH budgets temporarily, what's your opinion of increasing this budget permanently?

B: I think the JCR finances are pretty good. So it's kind of a case of "what's stopping us". Of course, just the thing to remember, I know this is kind of more WOTH related, but you know, it's kind of a welfare event to get the women together, but you know, welfare stretches past week five. But the idea is that we can expand it because why not, but we don't want to spend too much resources on just one event, because the term is eight weeks long. And so kind of having focus on smaller events throughout the rest of the term is also really important. But in the case of purely budget, you know, why not?

M: I think definitely if attendance stays high, and it remains as ingrained into the whole culture as I know WOTH for one is, it's something really valuable. And you know, people really look forward to it and it's really lovely. I mean, my first WOTH was probably one of the best nights of my life, I can't even lie. And just having that as something which is looked forward to every term, I think is great for WOTH, MOTH, and QUOTH, absolutely. However, I don't think that's necessarily budget related. I mean, like, budget is great. But if it does come to a point where that budget has to be used for, for example, a bike helmet fund, you know, I think, that wouldn't necessarily compromise the success of WOTH. I think just keeping them regular, keeping them well attended and well publicised and inclusive, is what makes this event so special, not necessarily the budget.

Q: It's quite unfortunate, but as it stands, Teddy Hall does not have the best reputations in colleges. What steps would you take to address this?

M: Take them to Teddy Hall and show them Teddy Hall? I mean, it's a college-wide culture thing that we've been talking about throughout. At the end of the day, Teddy, whose reputation is forged by the people within Teddy Hall and the things they say about Teddy Hall when they're outside Teddy Hall. So I think by making everyone feel welcome, then they'll tell everyone else they feel welcome. So I think the two go together, you know, making sure everyone's welcome. And therefore, that message when people say to someone, "oh, you're from Teddy Hall?" And they say, "Yes, I love it. It's great. I feel at home." That's the goal, I think.

B: Teddy Hall's legacy has kind of been damaged by this. And it is this massive legacy issue. And hopefully, in the coming years, we can change that legacy permanently, to something a lot better. So as we discussed throughout this Hustings, these are the stuff that I've suggested, to kind of change the current culture. But also it's kind of getting out there and showing that we've changed. So we interact with colleges, in Cuppers games, through different societies, you know, that individuals might go to, and kind of ensuring that as a college, we represent ourselves to the best of the ability in the outside world. And hopefully, we'll have some, some cool oxfesses like, "oxlove to Teddy Hall, best ming, best food", not, which was the most recent one, "Colleges I wouldn't want to go to formals at: Teddy Hall? Why? sh*t college". It is just kind of changing that permanently within college. Through the means suggested. And then in the spaces where you interact with other colleges, kind of emphasising that.

Q: How will you ensure the welfare and cohesion of your committee throughout the year?

B: An important thing is to get to know everyone on your committee really well, kind of through whatever means that may be. Once you understand your committee then you'll be able to communicate with them more effectively, you'll be able to understand them, you might even be able to spot the signs when they're kind of feeling a bit down. Especially with stressful jobs, like being on the JCR committee, people might be stressed, but people might not want to show it, especially, for example, maybe the welfare reps, they may feel that it's kind of, it's wrong for them to be stressful, but communicating with them as president, you know, even if it's just a DM, it's alright to be stressed, you know, it's okay to kind of struggle with things. Making sure all of the committee knows each other very well. So it's like a little circle, they say, you know, cylinders are like the strongest shape to build on or whatever. So

kind of having a very nice cylindrical committee means if everyone can know each other, and can communicate well with each other, then everyone will have better cohesion. And like I said, you have to spot the signs of other people, because it's far better if three or four people are looking out for one person than just kind of one person looking out for lots of people.

M: That all goes without saying, I think, obviously, the committee getting to know each other well, through like an occasional committee social, and just kind of having those group chats active as much as possible. But I feel like that really needs to rest on like, a structured system of meetings, and not deadlines, but awareness of what everybody else is doing, and when everybody has things they want to be done by and kind of helping each other out. Because at the end of the day, as a group, we are here in service of the student body, so helping each other out. And knowing what everybody else has to be doing and helping out with that, I think is one of the key ways in which that can be done. And yeah, just having fun, because I really do think this can be fun.

Un-contested Exec positions

Secretary

- Catherine Gower

Hi guys, I'm Catherine, a second year earth scientist, and I'm running for JCR Secretary which combines two of my favourite things, spreadsheets and the hall. And anyone that knows me can seem a bit obsessed with spreadsheets, whether it's like the accommodation ballot, earth scientists even a who's who guide of my friends for my mom because she gets confused. So please let me use these skills for good. I've had roles like this in the past, I was head girl at my previous school where I had to do the yearbook, which is one of the big responsibilities of sec here. I really enjoyed doing this, lots of like emails, organising submissions, and even like how to send like individual usernames and passwords in one go, which I thought was pretty cool. And there's so much scope in yearbooks to make it more interesting have more character than just like the one quote format we usually get. I got to have a lot of fun with that last time. And that's something I'd want to do again here with lots of student input from you guys to shape how you want it. Probably the biggest part of sec is doing all the minutes for the meetings and the hustings, and I'm a bit notorious for typos. I'm actually really good touch typer, I'm in the top 10% according to fastfingers.com so I can get them back to you super, super fast. And then yeah, the last thing to mention is college parents because it'd be my role to like match all the kids up over summer. And obviously like being BAME, international, state school, all these things can make the Oxford transition that bit harder so I'd really focus on that. So kids have someone they can go to for advice and can relate to. So thanks for listening, please vote for me not RON.

Q: Do you have any ideas for your sign-offs for emails?

A: I have, I really liked the one that's like "(H)all the love", that's quite cute. But like I'm a typical "thanks" person in emails so I want to do more like creativity with this one.

Q: What would your yearbook quote be?

A: See, that's the thing, I didn't do proper yearbook quotes. We did like slightly different prompts.

Q: What's your favourite inspirational quote?

A: Live, laugh, love.

Q: In yearbooks, you always get the "most likely to", what "most likely to" will you be?

A: Most likely to make a spreadsheet.

Q: How will you get more people to read the minutes?

A: I think like making them pretty and stuff helps but also like advertising them more, because people check Instagram and Facebook a lot. So I'll probably do like a little summary or notification that you can go read it. Because I know they're quite hefty. So maybe just like the highlights of like what's changed and what's not.

Q: Do you have a favourite font and why?

A: Gill Sans MT, my Geography department used to use it and it was really pretty.

Entz Reps

- Michael Atife and Maria Nozdrina

I'm Michael and I'm Maria and we want to be your entz reps this year. Sophie and Emily's work was what made our time at Teddy Hall so enjoyable so far. So we're gonna go over a few reasons why we're going to be the best candidates for entz reps apart from the fact that we're the only people running. So firstly, we make a pretty great team. We spend a lot of time together, we're kind of forced to be friends, we can turn every lecture into an entz meeting which is pretty efficient. Yeah, and it's not only important to talk amongst ourselves, but I believe we'll be really good at communicating with everyone that we need to. So whether that will be with other people in the JCR committee like BAME reps planning specific BAME events, or maybe like Welfare to do some non-drinking events, as well as communicating with like club reps or other entz reps, as well as kind of getting the message out to the rest of the JCR. So I think we're quite approachable and fun to do that. And obviously we don't just talk the talk, we can also walk the walk. We've got lots of experience organising events, like bar crawls outside of college, a lot of crew dates and dinners, etc etc. And obviously non-drinking events as well. So some things that we're thinking is of course bops, different bops in college and outside of college, different bop themes. We want to continue the kind of costume competition ideas as well as getting people to DJ, also we want to create a bop playlist where people can add a song so that even if you're not DJ-ing you can have a song that you like come on and play. Non-drinking events we're talking open mic night which is really popular at Teddy, carry on that goin, different board games, movie nights. And of course diversity, so that's something we really really want to focus on. Obviously let's take inspiration from other

colleges, for example so there had been a cultural appreciation formal, anybody could show up, it's just the food was inspired by multiple cultures, so we could work in collaboration with a BAME rep, for example to get something like that at Teddy.

Q: What are some of your BOP ideas?

A: Oh, we were thinking like "abopalypse"? So like apocalypse-themed. We also had another one that was like take advantage of Hall spirits and have like a pep rally, everybody wears Teddy stash, paints their face, stuff like that.

Q: This has happened in the last two years. Social sec candidates must do impressions of the previous social secs. Can you give us your best impression of Emily and Sophie?

A: Guys fill up the Google form!

A: Pidge at your own risk, pidge at your own risk!

A: They're just really lovely people.

Q: What's your go to club song?

A: Any Cardi B.

Q: How do you plan to continue the work of making entz more inclusive?

A: So I think a pretty good point that we want to continue on is making sure that the non drinking events stay as interesting as drinking events. So maybe incorporate like slightly outdoorsy sports that kind of show off Teddy spirit like Rounders or like capture the flag and stuff like that. It's not too serious but still like quite active.

Q: You mentioned you wish to continue to open mic nights, what would be your act?

A: Probably Backstreet Boys? Yeah, a duet.

Michael and Maria bursts into a duet of I Want it that Way

Q: Best club in Oxford?

A: Easy, Bridge.

Q: A motion was passed the other week introducing a freshers rep, how will you work with them?

A: I definitely see us running alongside each other and collaborating, don't want to step on their toes too much but we'll be able to provide club tickets if necessary. We can also give some advice or input, I'm sure a lot of people will be able to collaborate on something like that. Just help out as much as they want us to.

Q: You spoke about drinking and non-drinking events, what drink are you?

Michael: I'm a double rum and coke because like Captain Morgan I'm a bit pirate-y.

Maria: I believe I would be straight vodka not just because I'm Russian but because I also really liked straight vodka.

Q: PLUSH has some new poles at the front, have you tried out the poles?

A: Not yet.

POI: The focus is on "yet".

Q: How will you plan to increase BOP attendances?

A: We've got a few ideas actually. So obviously we want to make it a bit more inclusive to everybody, so maybe like incentives for suggesting BOP ideas maybe like a bit of a prize if your idea gets chosen. Further to that maybe like costume competitions will incentivize people to like dressing up quite a lot. I think if everybody gets involved with every aspect of the BOP, then they're more likely to show up for it obviously. With the Wolfson BOP we want to try and make sure we actually fill the hall because if everybody remembers a good Wolfson BOP they're gonna come to the next one.

Women*'s Welfare Officer

- Lalou Laredo

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Lalou and I'm going to try convince you that I'm the best qualified person to be your women's and minority genders welfare officer. Aside from RON, obviously. First thing first, I'm a peer supporter. I've undergone training just to make sure that if you guys ever have an issue, you can come talk to me, and we can have a conversation that is obviously confidential, and I can try my best to listen and help you out. Some of my ideas for a Welfare Officer, obviously continuing the great work of Verity and Jake, but making sure that we have our traditions like fifth week blues, JCRT kind of continued and kind of having input from the Hall, seeing what people like and what they don't like. I also would like to collaborate with other JCR officers, because welfare isn't just about having your favourite food on a Friday afternoon, but it's always about your physical welfare, and your mental welfare, so things like mindfulness and physical education. And I would also like to propose like a college fund for things like bike helmets and bike lights to make sure that everyone outside of college can ride their bike safely. It's obviously something that a lot of us do, but also this fund can encompass other aspects of welfare, such as, like mindfulness courses, or I don't know, like dance classes if that's something that people are into. And also just ensure that everyone knows and feels comfortable coming to talk to peer supporters and getting the help that they need if they need it. Oxford's is obviously quite a stressful place to be. And so having access to those resources can be really helpful, especially if you're having a bit of a tough week.

Q: Somerville have welfare baking on Sundays, is that something you are interested in doing?

A: That sounds like a really lovely idea. Actually, one thing I didn't put on my manifesto is also talking to different welfare officers from other college seeing what works in their college. I would love to have baking classes if you could provide a kitchen where this is possible. And having been in Whitehall myself last year and sharing a kitchen with about 20 people, I don't know how many people can use that oven. But I mean, we could definitely do some events for second years who have their own kitchens and everything. But yeah, I think that would be a really lovely idea.

Q: What's your favourite JCRT snack?

A: Obviously the innocent smoothies.

Q: Animals are very important to welfare, what's your favourite animal and why?

A: I really like fish. There's like an aquarium or like a little fish shop on Magdlen road. That's really lovely. My favourite fish is a Golden Damsel. So yeah.

Q: Sometimes college can be less receptive than we want, do you have any previous experiences or skills that will help you get the JCR's views across better?

A: Definitely talking to the Junior Deans as well as the deans and maybe escalating that to college is something that we need to do. I have had experience like in my previous school kind of dealing with teachers, but I would say that I'm quite like diplomatic and like fairly approachable so I would be able to debate with college and kind of present the reasons why we should do something and then tell them that we should do it this way.

Q: Do you have any ideas on how to improve access to the welfare resources in college?

A: I'm a peer supporter, I got an email and it said like, "if you know any peer supporters refer them here." But that didn't really get shared out to the JCR and I don't think most people knew about it. So that's definitely something that can be shared on to like the Facebook group and like everyone can find out about it. In terms of access to welfare, I think it's definitely something that can tend to be underused. But if people know know, then I'm guessing if they ever need it, they can have access to it. As well as like, people knowing that we work quite closely with with Mansfield, and if they want to talk to a peer supporter that isn't in college, they can always talk to the lovely people at Mansfield.

Q: What are your views on Monty the tortoise?

A: Monty the tortoise is a lovely addition to the hall. He can walk really fast and he likes chasing your shoes. I would prefer a cat but college doesn't allow it. I wouldn't take care of him as a welfare officer.

Q: Would you push for a cat or dog for the JCR?

A: Well, I personally like cats, but I think it would be up to the JCR so we could do a poll. If people like a dog more than obviously the JCR has spoken, but I don't think college would allow it.

Men*'s Welfare Officer

- Joss Carr

Hello, everyone. I'm Joss, I'm a second year geographer. I think a lot of what I'm going to say is probably gonna be reiterating what Lalou has already said, because a lot of like her manifesto is very similar to mine. But I'll try and make some some additional points as well. As a Welfare Officer, you've got sort of three main jobs, most of it is going to be just continuing the really amazing work that Jake and Verity did before us. Like, I think we do Welfare here pretty well. So I think a lot of my job is just gonna be continuing that. That's mainly continuing JCRT, we all love it. There are things we can do to make JCRT even better. I had some specific ideas, which would be doing stuff like introducing maybe a single special food item every week. Like maybe one weel we could get a bulk order of cookies, or doughnuts or something else just like keep it spicy. Other things we'd be continuing is fifth week welfare, we put a load of events last week, they're really good. I had some new ideas for some other stuff. I know Michael and Maria werre talking about it already, but some sort of big sports games, things like Rounders, things like capture the flag, they'd be quite fun to get a lot of people involved. And it's like a sport, but it's not got the intensity of some of the other more traditional sports, and it's got less of a stigma around it. And then the other big responsibility of Welfare Officers is to become a peer supporter. Unlike Lalou, I've not yet been trained to become a peer supporter, so I'll be doing that over Hillary, but I can promise it's something I'm really gonna commit myself to. It's something I'm passionate about, like, I care a lot about mental health and welfare and all that sort of thing. So I can really commit to it. And just finally, another thing that's worth saying is the sort of collaboration with other officers welfare worked very closely with entz, we're going to work closely with with BAME and with charities, international, all that sort of thing so we have cohesion as a JCR, which is very important.

Q: Do you think Teddy has a issue with "lad" culture? What can you do to help men* who don't identify themselves as such to feel included?

A: So this is a thing which there's a lot of discussion about especially at the moment. I would make the point that welfare is for everyone. So my job is to not really to get embroiled in the politics of that and just provide these welfare events, peer support, that's indiscriminate of anything. So whilst there are issues with lad culture, I'd like to think we need resolution as a whole in the JCR, it doesn't really affect my job as a welfare officer because I'm going to be providing the same services to everyone.

Q: It's well known that yoga is good for the mind, can you demonstrate this?

A: I have the most shocking of flexibility of anyone you will ever meet.

Joss attempts to perform a downward dog and fails miserably.

Uncontested Non-exec positions

LGBT Officers

- Harry McWilliam and Amy Shaw

Hi, I'm Harry (they/them), and I'm a second year chemist. I'm Amy (she/her), I'm also a second year chemist. I guess you can say we have great chemistry, which is why we're running for queer reps. We've got lots of great ideas for events, including bigger and better QUOTHs, joint pres, and even crew dates with other colleges. And we're also going to be hosting all sorts of non-drinking events as well. We'll also be making a brand new Instagram account to show off the best parts of queer life at Teddy. And with this Instagram account, we'll also be able to push queer access showing prospective students that Oxford and in particular, Teddy is a safe space for them. Lastly, we'll be hosting plenty of welfare events, especially in blues week, and increasing the visibility of the queer peer supporters. Me and Amy do come from quite different queer backgrounds. So I've (Harry) been out since I was like 11. And I've been openly non-binary for about two years now. And I only discovered my sexuality last year in Oxford. So I'm very ready to support people in very different stages. We're very committed to making Teddy gay again. And if anyone has any questions, we will be happy to answer them. Thank you.

Q: So you're saying bigger and better QUOTHs, so what does that entail? What are your QUOTH ideas?

A: We've got many QUOTH ideas, but they are secrets, I'm afraid. Essentially, sometimes when there's QUOTH, we just sit in the JCR for a bit and then go somewhere else. It's a little bit loose. But we've actually already planned the route for the next QUOTH, as well as the theme and everything else. So we're going to try and make it better while still keeping it in the budget of course.

Q: What are some none-drinking events you are thinking about?

A: So the welfare events would be included in that. We also kind of want to run some more low key events, so things like film nights, and we've done a couple of them before but we want to make them an actual part. And we also want to do like a Just Dance kind of thing, which I think is kind of fun. You know, like fun, just small events that we can put together quite easily in the JCR with out budget.

Q: I know that we talked about an Instagram account, and the major concern that kept coming up was privacy of students who may not be out. Students may come from countries where that's a real serious criminal offence, how are we going to navigate privacy concerns?

A: I think the best way we can really do that is just simply by asking students if they're comfortable, and if not, we just won't put them on there. A lot of it is going to be kind of what we use Facebook for at the minute, so advertising events, but also showing off what these events look like and showing that you know, we do have fun while being queer at Teddy.

Q: Do you have a favourite queer icon, if so, who?

Harry: I mean, the one and only, Miss Charli XCX.

Access Officers

- Mya Hesketh-Bream and Ellis Hall

Hi, my name is Mya. I'm a second year biomed. And this is Ellis, a second year medic. And we would love to be your access ambassadors this year. We both benefited from the resources that are available during our application process and both actively do access work at the minute. So for example, we're both zero gravity mentors. So we support disadvantaged students, going through the application process for Russell Group unis. So yeah, I think we're pretty qualified for the role and can appreciate how daunting that application process could be. So yeah, we would love to be your access officers. Yeah. And as access officers, we thought about three things that we could do to make Teddy better at access. The first one, we would maintain the current Instagram make more takeovers, collaborate with LGBTQ+, Bame, and all that. We also wanted to update the website with more updated video. So I remember watching Alex the medic, but she's going to leave soon. So like the next generation of medics will not get to see her. The second thing we'd like to do would be to collaborate with the East Midlands colleges. So I know the access officer who is running for Magdalen, and I know the actual access officer at Lincoln. So it will be great to get a broader range of subjects. So like, obviously Teddy doesn't offer like biology. I mean, we don't want to step on the toes of the class officer, but we wanted to, especially for first years, there's a big disparity between information to do with careers and internships, so maybe a talk or just even an email with a lot of information that people can access.

Q: At the minute the access instagram spotlight is very work focused, and it doesn't really show the social aspects of college. So would you look into changing that?

A: Yeah, for sure. I mean, I think that was a question last year as well. So I think yeah, doing more sports things. Other than takeover stuff, you could do more specific stuff with sports on the stories and also different societies within college. Even the Cuppers events could be kind of a story highlight or something.

Q: Do you have any idea about how to make the access ambassadors more of a community?

A: Yeah, we talked about this actually. We were wondering whether we could ask college to do ambassadors drinks things maybe in the Old dining hall. This might also make being an ambassador more appealing and get more people involved.

Q: Obviously you're both biomedic/medics, but how are you planning on incorporating more subjects?

A: I mean we will be speaking to a lot of people from different subjects. We wanted to update the website with interview specific information as well. So if we update not just the videos, but if there's information on how many interviews you get for specific subjects, so more of a breakdown. And that would come from speaking with a lot of other people from different subjects.

Academic Affairs and Careers Officer

- Weijia Gao

Hey guys, I'm Weijia. I'm a second year biochemist and I'm running for the academic officer. I feel like nobody really understands what the academic officer actually does. So they sit in meetings with the tutors to try to get feedback from students and implement that. People aren't actually sure how that translates to us students. So we don't really know the effect of what the academic officer does. And I think that's going to be my main goal if I become academic officer. So basically, I think a really easy way we can do that is by increasing the transparency. So sending out Google Forms, stuff like that, which is pretty basic. I'm surprised it hasn't been implemented yet. Trying to get feedback, like anonymous feedback from different people. Also, after the meetings everyone can look at the minutes, and then everyone can find out what all that stuff is. And I'm actually also the biochem year rep. So got loads of experience kind of dealing with tutors, fighting them. So yeah, please let me not RON.

Q: Sometimes people can see academics as being somewhat dry and not fun. speaking of fun, do you have any fun talents?

A: I actually am great at doing Fortnite dances, and I will show you now.

Q: Some members of the hall have learning disabilities that some tutors are not well acquainted with, how can you work with tutors to bring more awareness to this and to make learning more accessible to those students?

A: Currently university wide, we do have resources. And I think it's really important that we actually make people aware of that through the college. So obviously, through the communications that we have every week, we can also publicise that, but as well as that, I think it is important to bring awareness to it. We need to really make sure that the tutors are passing that on to the people within the college as well. So making sure that basically the head tutor, pass that on to the tutors underneath them, who are college wide, and ensuring that everyone gets the support they need. And of course, it's also possible we can maybe liaise with other officers, and then see if we can get some kind of collaboration with, for example, disabilities officers, see if there's anything we can do that regard.

Charities

- Sophia Sukanuma

Due to some health reasons Sophia could not make it to Hustings, the speech was delivered by the JCR Chair:

Hello, I'm Sophia and I am running to be your Charity officer for the upcoming 2023 year. Just a little bit about myself, I am a first-year PPEist and I am originally from the US. I have always been passionate about charity and fundraising. I've been apart of the Girl Up movement since I was 11 and have hosted a bunch of charity fundraising events including a 5K walk/run, a charity gala, and silent bid dinners. In terms of Oxford, I am apart of Raise Oxford and have been assisting in hosting rep recruitment events, fundraising campaigns, and sponsorship campaigns. As your charity officer I hope to use my past experiences and new ideas to Teddy.

I want to host monthly charity related events, consolidate and post volunteering and charity opportunities open to students every two weeks, and increase awareness about fundraising. Thank you so much for listening and I am excited to hopefully be y'all's charity officer!

The JCR Chair did not take any questions as Sophia.

International and VS

- Eden Long

Hi, I'm Eden. I'm a first year material scientists and I'm from Beijing, China. So as an international student myself, I know and have personally felt how daunting it can be to travel to a different country or start a new life there. Therefore, we need to make Teddy Hall a home for everyone, especially us international and visiting students. So as the International and Visiting Students Officer, I will do so by continuing for example with the food socials, and I'm planning on a few events like a pop quiz about culture, or a concert for music around the globe to promote awareness and culture diversity. I'm always ready to answer questions that international students or applicants may have or even just to chat about homesickness. Thank you very much.

Q: You spoke about music, do you have a favourite song, and if so can you sing it?

A: I'll do like a Cantonese song. That's one of the languages I speak.

Q: How many languages do you speak?

So three: Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese and English. I'm planning on taking on others.

Q: What kind of international events are you thinking about doing?

So I'm thinking about for international students like food socials, which is something I suppose Jazzy has organised before but if not, it's basically sort of gathering people from all over the world to do their own kind of signature dish from their home country and maybe share with each other. I'm also thinking about a concert for music around the globe so everyone can kind of do a bit of their kind of music from where they came from and as well as just like a pop quiz thing about culture. As well as for like international applicants I'm planning on kind of working with access officers to hold webinars for people from different time zones around the world .

Q: Adding on to the events question, what are your plans for Chinese New Year?

I mean, definitely food, and we'll do a bit of decoration as well, because apparently Chinese New Year is quite different from Christmas. And yeah, maybe we can do a show in which people just wear their kind of traditional Chinese costumes and stuff that should be fun.

Sports

- Alexander Burson and Dan Cryer

Hi, my name is Alex. I'm Dan. So we've got a few aims for sports in Teddy Hall. So we aim to promote the involvement and inclusivity of everyone that wants to contribute to sport in any way at any level. This is important as the benefits of sports are both physical, mental health, numerous and also for like socialising, get to know more people from more years. Another thing we're involved in will be the stash and we aim to organise in a way that's gonna allow people to order clothes quickly and easily so you can get lots of Teddy merch. We're also in charge of the sports cupboards and clearly want to keep that as organised as possible. In addition, we aim to help continue on the sporting success of the college by establishing large participation in as many sports as physically possible. So even the ones that currently now aren't that important we aim to drive those as well. For example, everyone comes to gymnastic cuppers on Saturday because we're going to win that as a result.

Q: Alex I heard you can do a roundoff flip, can you do one now?

Alex: *does a roundoff flip*

Q: What are some examples of sports that don't matter?

A: That comes from you guys so like what sports do you want to play that aren't having participation or funding or anything? So for example someone said frisbee, so that's one example of a sport we could invest into.

Q: What's your best stash idea?

A: Branded headbands.

Q: What sport are you the worst at?

Alex: Darts

Dan: Ice-skating maybe?

Q: Do you have any ideas to make sports less intimidating for complete beginners to start sports?

A: Yeah, so I think we can introduce taster sessions for all the sports rather than for people to be chucked into like first team training or going into college training straightaway. And also like, you don't have to play matches, like competitively. If you don't want to you can just train and we can organize friendly matches within college to make a more like inclusive atmosphere. And as well the good thing about college is you have league and cuppers and for a lot of things league isn't like it's not as serious. So if you would like to play some more against other colleges in a less serious manner than league it's a great way to do that.

E&E

- Lenny Bailleux

Hi, guys. I'm Lenny. I'm a first year geographer, and I've always studied geography. So I understand environmental issues fairly well, I would say. But yeah, basically, what I would do here at college is that I've had a look at the college sustainability strategy and it looks really good. So I feel like for me a lot of the my role would be to just make sure that college is meeting the criteria, and that we're reaching the targets that we were promised to, but especially for me, I'd like to see some parts of that strategy implemented in my time here at college because why not, which is particularly the greening of the college campus, especially of Kelly and Emden, where it's very just concrete and rather ugly at times. And then also just better, more efficient heating. For me I'm in Kelly and like, my room is just constantly a sauna so we could easily save energy there. And then also just to look to improve the bike situation at college and also a better bike sharing scheme, or a bike sharing scheme for people who don't have access to bikes because this can really alter your experience in university.

Q: Is your spider plant still alive?

A: Yes

Q: What's your favourite plant?

A: I do like an aloe vera because of their healing properties.

Q: What's your favourite shade of green?

A: Teal if you count that as green.

Q: One thing that came up a lot last hustings was meat-free Mondays, what's your opinion on this?

A: I think objectively it is good for the environment, but it is the decision of the JCR so it's not up to me.

Q: Is it true you will be shaving your head if you get the role of E&E rep?

A: I can confirm that the rumours are true.

Q: How would you look to improve communication with students about sustainability initiatives going round in college?

A: I think a lot of would be just being active in the Facebook page and being at the JCR meetings and stuff.

Q: What are your dietary requirements?

A: Flexitarian.

Accommodation

- Fizza Zaidi

Hi, everyone, I'm Fizza. I'm a first year English student. And I'd like to be accommodation officer because I think I'm quite, you know, friendly and approachable. And you could come to me with issues, queries, whatever. And I like problem solving. So I would really try and get them fixed. I hope it never gets to that point. But I'm good with conflict resolution because I'm a middle child. So it's kind of just in my blood at this point. And liaising as well with our girl Belinda. I'm very happy to do that. I was a head girl before and there were so many complaints. So I really experienced with liaising. And there are definitely some things that I'd like to improve for example, the Whitehall kitchens I don't know if this a problem everywhere, but the lights turn off that has to be a fire hazard guys. And just generally I really like to help you guys and I think the JCR committee seems like fun. So get me on it, please. But other than that, yeah, I just love to help you guys. So even if I can't, you know, fix the Kelly stairs and make them less of them. I will help you in any other way that I can.

Q: You said you wanted less stairs in Kelly, how many steps there right now?

A: A lot, too many, I'm an English student, I don't do numbers.

Q: What's your favourite first year flat?

A: Well, I'm biased because I live there, but I will say staircase 8.