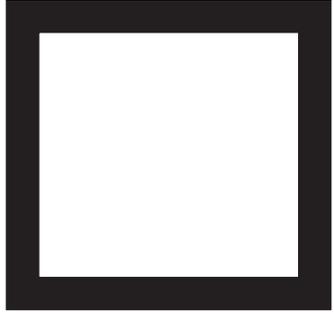
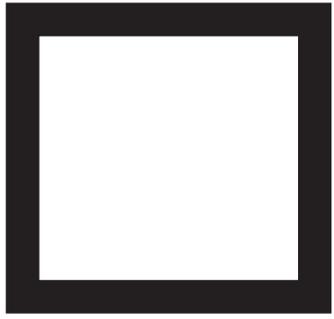


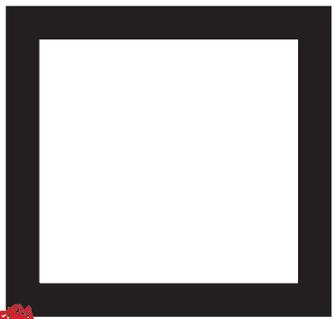
WHICH



SIDE



ARE



YOU



ON?



**2019
YUSU
ELECTIONS**

CONTENTS

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A NOTE ON YUSU ELECTIONS

We live in a period in which politicians are not very popular. Populism on both the left and right and hostility towards agents of the Establishment, real or imaginary, dominate our public discourse. This upheaval has stripped politics to the core and fundamental questions about who governs, how, why, and for whom, have come to the fore. This is even visibly reflected in our own microcosmic campus politics in windswept York.

These YUSU elections come in the shadow of a referendum met with cynicism by some, enthusiasm by others, and apathy from most. Nonetheless it raised similar fundamental questions about the purpose of a students' union in 2019. Some argued that it is the mission of an active union to exercise a voice on prominent national campaigns, while opposing voices condemned such notions as a fanciful distraction from other important issues.

What this shows is that our own debates are going back to basics, and this

is no surprise. University life is changing dramatically. More students are coming to university than ever before and students have become consumers with different expectations than the students of previous generations. Many believe the value of degrees has been diluted and look to their students' union for opportunities to enhance their CV, while others see a vehicle for lacrosse on Wednesdays.

As debt mounts and students inevitably demand more, students' unions will have to change with the times, and naturally, tensions arise over what that entails. Unfortunately, this debate, much like our national politics, can be clouded by a Trumpian nightmare of misinformation propagated beyond the realms of containment by sensibility. As we must decide what YUSU is going forward, learn the facts and judge accordingly.

The level of engagement for the top jobs this year proves that there is a diverse debate to be had. Whether you are some-

body who believes that YUSU should be fighting with or against the government on national issues, somebody who believes its role should be about buses and societies, or both, use this opportunity to argue for that. A candidate might align with your aspirations for our union, or nobody might, but vote regardless.

Turnout for students' union elections often isn't what some might hope for. Low turnouts then lead to allegations of weak mandates. If you don't vote, however, whining afterward just makes you look like a wet blanket. Elections are decided by those who show up. As university life changes, and students' unions are forced to confront existential decisions going forward, you might as well vote so you can moan with pride knowing you've performed your democratic duty.

Joseph Silke



Disclaimers: The information in this programme may have been abridged or otherwise amended due to space constraints or as a result of sub-editing. This programme was completed using the information available from candidates at time of print. The candidates included are those who submitted their information on time. Contact editor@nouse.co.uk with letters and complaints.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

the YORK UNION



15 FEB

Full-time Officer
Candidate Hustings
hosted by York Union &
Debating Society in
Hendrix Hall at 5pm



18 FEB

Voting opens at 9am on
elections.yusu.org using
Single Transferable Vote
which allows students to
rank candidates



23 FEB

Election Results Night in
the Roger Kirk Centre at
7:30pm and TimeWarp
Election Special after-
party in Courtyard

12 FEB

Candidates announced,
online campaigning
begins, and YSTV release
60 second manifestos

17 FEB

Physical campaigning
begins at 12pm and URY
runs Candidate
Interview Night (CIN)

22 FEB

Voting closes at 4pm
with Candidate Debrief
from 4pm to 5pm



THE ELECTION SYSTEM

Very soon cardboard signs will adorn campus and candidates will be asking for your vote in the YUSU elections. After you study this supplement carefully, and you come to cast your vote in the elections, you may wonder how exactly the voting system operates (or not but hey, you've started reading this explainer so you may as well finish it).

The voting system that YUSU uses is known as Single Transferable Voting (STV). When you come to cast your vote you will be asked to rank your preferred candidates in descending order; for example, you would rank your first-choice candidate as 1. and so on. You can rank as many candidates as you like.

By Week Seven, almost a third of the student body (going by past voting turn-outs) will surely be on tenterhooks, waiting for the outcome of their vote with almost as much anticipation as waiting for your huge plate of nachos to arrive in Courtyard.

Votes will be counted in rounds and to get elected a candidate needs to reach a set number of votes known as the quota. The quota is determined based on the number of votes and number of positions available. The first round will count all the first preference votes; if at this stage no-one has exceeded the quota then the person with the least number of votes will be knocked out, and their votes will be transferred to people's second preferences.

Another thing to look out for is more mentions of "RON" than there is in a *Harry Potter* film. Don't get confused though, RON is not a person, but you can still vote for it. RON stands for "Re-Open Nominations"; if it receives the most votes under the STV system then nominations for that position re-open, and we all get to vote again in a by-election, hurray!

Generally, students will vote for RON if they feel none of the candidates are suitable to fill the position. For many, voting for RON has become a way of expressing discontent with YUSU and calling for reform. Last year, RON placed second to James Durcan in the race for Union President.

UNION PRESIDENT



Connor Drake

Third Year. Constantine.
Social Policy.

*For Goodness' Sake, Vote
Connor Drake!*

 ConnorDrake4YUSUPres

How would you describe yourself?

I am a passionate student who wants to change society, as well as our University. I have run two successful YUSU campaigns.

Why are you the best person for the job?

As Working Class Officer I have already worked with the University and Union staff members to create change at our University. I want to empower students to fulfil their potential.

What are your three main manifesto points?

- (1) Magnifying students' voices;
- (2) Tackling hidden course costs and costs of living issues;
- (3) Inclusive opportunities for all.



Samara Jones

Third Year. Alcuin.
Maths & Philosophy.

*Samara J, YUSU Prez The
STUDENT Way*

  samaraj4prez

How would you describe yourself?

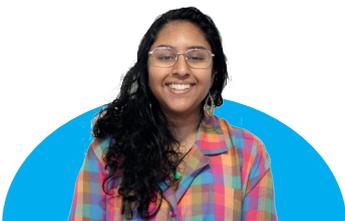
I would describe myself as dedicated, positive and kind. I deliver on my ideas and learn from what goes wrong.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I will put my all into it, I am not a person to quit on something, and I am always asking for feedback on things to improve. Also, I have already been heavily involved in the colleges and sports.

What are your three main manifesto points?

- (1) YUSU outlets and transparency;
- (2) Campuses and colleges;
- (3) Student groups and life in York.



Nayomi Karthigesu

Third Year. Halifax.
PPE.

Take on (Nayo)Mi

  Nayomi4Pres

How would you describe yourself?

The personification of the *Bee Movie*.

Why are you the best person for the job?

Having been a liberation officer and having to deal with the bigotry and the unnecessarily complicated bureaucracy of the Union.

What are your three main manifesto points?

- (1) Accessibility - making campus accessible for all, and engaging every student;
- (2) Health - Unity Health and Open Door are failing us: it is time to lobby for change;
- (3) Accountability - holding YUSU Officers and staff to account.



Christopher Oldnall
Second Year. Alcuin.
Maths.

Make a more C.H.R.I.S York!

  Chris4Prez2019

How would you describe yourself?

I would consider myself to be a jolly and approachable person, who always looks out for anyone and everyone!

Why are you the best person for the job?

Through my experience of being a Vice-President in my college, and YUSU Volunteering Officer, I have seen so many gaps and wish for improvement and success in the university.

What are your three main manifesto points?

- (1) Improving Refreshers: including a YUSU Freshers' Fair;
- (2) Mental health and hidden disability training for all;
- (3) YUSU on the move: making YUSU more accessible by having all 5 sabbatical officers in one place in a "pop-up" style.



Flavio Sansa
Second Year. Vanbrugh.
History & Politics.

A positive message for change

How would you describe yourself?

Someone that wants to see change in YUSU.

Why are you the best person for the job?

RON is the best option, as it's the only way a president in the future will have a mandate for change

What are your three main manifesto points?

- (1) Reform;
- (2) Engagement;
- (3) Representation.



Chris Small
Second Year. Derwent.
History.

Believe in Chris, someone has to.

  Chris Small for YUSU President

How would you describe yourself?

In a word: small. In two words: Chris Small.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I'm not the best person to run for the role, but I have the self-awareness to admit this right off the bat, which I believe actually makes me the best person for the role.

What are your three main manifesto points?

- (1) To create the smallest plastic bottomed lake in Europe;
- (2) I want to tie YOYO points to the gold standard;
- (3) I want to create a travelator between Fairhurst and Morrell, with the direction being decided by a YUSU referendum.



Anna Spowage
Third Year. Halifax.
Business & Management.

Vote Spowage, she's alright.

 Anna Spowage

How would you describe yourself?

I'm alright.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I haven't seen the others' manifestos yet so tbh I can't really call that right now.

What are your three main manifesto points?

- (1) Increase transparency about what YUSU can do, and what is out of their control and in the hands of third parties;
- (2) Triple the population of waterfowl on campus;
- (3) Build a small scale tram system connecting campus.

YORK SPORT PRESIDENT

Maddi Cannell
Third Year. Goodricke.
Law.

Mad for Sport

 Mad for Sport



How would you describe yourself?

I'm an outgoing, caring and approachable person, as well as proactive and organised.

Why are you the best person for the job?

Sport can provide many benefits: socially, physically and mentally. My experience in college and University sport and my manifesto can ensure people experience these benefits.

Manifesto:

- (1) Facilitate a more cost effective approach to transport and college sport bookings;
- (2) Make qualifications more accessible;
- (3) Having helped set up the Women's Football league, I'll set up more sporting opportunities.

Ellie Griffin
Third Year. Alcuin.
French & Italian.

Get Griff-IN!

 Ellie for Sports



How would you describe yourself?

I'm a positive and committed person. Sport is central to my life and I always want to be friendly and approachable.

Why are you the best person for the job?

With experience working on a club committee, I understand York sport. I've faced adversity and know how to make tough decisions.

Manifesto:

- (1) Emphasise sport helping mental health;
- (2) Create more opportunities for getting involved with sport at every level;
- (3) Integrate with local schemes like GoodGym, Parkrun and Move the Masses.

Charlotte Elsy
Third Year. Vanbrugh.
English & Linguistics.

There's no one Elsy

 elsy4sport



How would you describe yourself?

I'm passionate, determined, and competitive, yet I'm also very approachable and friendly.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I've got lots of experience! I'm on the Sport Union Committee and have helped to organise Roses 2019. I understand how YUSU works and how to improve sport at York.

Manifesto:

- (1) Improve mental and physical health awareness;
- (2) Improving Equal Opportunities for all;
- (3) Ensuring YUSU is 100 per cent for the students and that transparency is maintained.

Nicholas Jones
Third Year. James.
Economics.

Pick Nick

 nick4sports



How would you describe yourself?

Sporty (naturally), pragmatic, and empathetic.

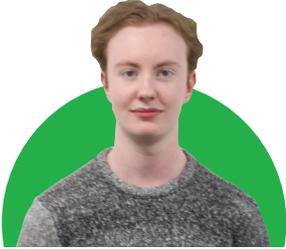
Why are you the best person for the job?

I have the most diverse sporting experiences out of the current candidates, at both college and University level. I know the needs of a vast range of clubs and have the personal skills to implement them.

Manifesto:

- (1) Streamline the sports funding process;
- (2) Train sports committee members in mental health awareness;
- (3) Put pressure on Akuma to honour their contract, including an online shop.

COMMUNITY & WELLBEING



Stephen Boakes
Third Year. Langwith.
Politics with IR.

Be Better with Boakes

 Stephen Boakes for
Community & Wellbeing

How would you describe yourself?

I would describe myself as an outgoing, friendly and fundamentally compassionate person. I am hard working and consider myself a good friend, colleague and society member.

Why are you the best person for the job?

My experiences with health facilities, both on and off-campus, as well as my sympathies towards the RON campaign and the feeling that YUSU lacks transparency and engagement.

Manifesto:

- (1) Closer collaboration with external bodies relevant to students;
- (2) College Health: stocked health & safety cupboards in every flat;
- (3) 1-to-1 drop-in and booked sessions with me to discuss individual well-being and community cases from a student perspective.



Steph (Effy) Hayle
Incumbent Community &
Wellbeing Officer

#HayleYeah - Re-Elect Steph

 #HayleYeah

How would you describe yourself?

I am the current Community and Wellbeing Officer, as well as a founding member of the Student Minds National Advisory Committee.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I'm the only person running who knows exactly what the role entails and has a track record of making impactful change at this level. I know how to instigate change in the University and the understand limitations of the role.

Manifesto:

- (1) Improve Mental Health Support - lobby for greater university funding for mental health initiatives and services, and provide training to students;
- (2) Affordable Accommodation - both on and off-campus;
- (3) Increase Student Financial Support.



Jess Sawford
Third Year. Constantine.
Psychology in Education.

*If you want the best, vote for
Jess*

 votejessforyusu

How would you describe yourself?

I'm an extremely caring person and I always put others before myself. When I'm motivated to do something I will do everything I can to achieve my goals.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I care a lot about people, and ensure their voices are heard. I'm compassionate, dedicated and loyal to those I seek to represent.

Manifesto:

- (1) Improving communication and accessibility of YUSU with and for students;
- (2) Focusing on community in the University and the city;
- (3) Revamping wellbeing- improving sexual health provisions, ensuring services are more visible and give better signposting to Freshers.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Oscar Bentley
Third Year. Halifax.
Film & TV Production.

Better with Bentley

  oscarforactivities

How would you describe yourself?

I'm committed, approachable, determined and I'm outgoing enough to try and get involved in as many things as possible.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I'm the former President of VegSoc and Editor of *Nouse* as well as a former college RAG rep. From leading networks to hosting Freshers' Week events, I'm used to working with and lobbying YUSU and the University to get the best for students.

Manifesto:

- (1) Create a sponsorship guide for student groups;
- (2) Get extra-curricular activities onto your degree transcript;
- (3) Make YUSU Finance more accessible and efficient.



Sam Linley
Fourth Year. Alcuin.
Physics.

It's time for Samthing new!

 Vote Sam Linley

How would you describe yourself?

I'm a dedicated, hardworking person who never gives up on his goals. I always want the best for everyone.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I have a wealth of experience across a range of societies. I am dedicated to making the student opportunities as great as can be which I have demonstrated by the amount of time and effort I have put into the societies, some of which I have helped to run.

Manifesto:

- (1) Make societies accessible for students from all backgrounds;
- (2) Work with YUSU Finance to aid student leaders' pockets;
- (3) Lobby for flat floor and storage space for student groups.



Nick Lunn
Fourth Year. Vanbrugh.
Physics & Philosophy.

Big Nick Energy

 nicklunnyork

How would you describe yourself?

I'm a ginger philosophy nerd, with a football obsession who loves jumping in to any opportunity or activity.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I have four years of experience in committees of societies and media groups of all sizes, and I have no hesitation advocating for what is right. Different societies face different issues and I have the experience, the skills and the will to fight for them.

Manifesto:

- (1) Lobby to reimburse STYCs for freshers tickets and transport;
- (2) Formalise the process of helping societies deal with problems;
- (3) Increase transparency by reviewing the Media Charter again.



Ollie Martin

Fourth Year. Halifax.
Electronic Engineering.

*The best bits of University
aren't spent in the library*

 Vote Ollie for Activities

How would you describe yourself?

Embarrassingly keen with a bad habit for spending far too much time on things that aren't my degree.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I've got a huge amount of experience with student activities. I represent and understand committed society members as well as the students that have yet to find their passion in activities.

Manifesto:

- (1) Update and improve YUSU's events calendar;
- (2) Update the York Award for greater student recognition;
- (3) Host a YUSU-led Refreshers' Fair in term two to give students a second chance to see the societies on offer.



Brian 'Wally' Terry
Second Year.

Constantine. Maths.

Spot Your Society!

 Wally4Activites

How would you describe yourself?

I'm full of energy, always up for a new challenge and always thinking about how to make other people around me happier.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I might appear silly dressed as Wally, but my depth of experience and my energy are what set me apart. I'm currently a member of seven different societies and have been involved with many others. I'm committed and I want to keep making people smile!

Manifesto:

- (1) Start a Refreshers' Fair to boost engagement with societies;
- (2) Expand skills-based courses provided by the University;
- (3) Extend Activities Access Grants to disabled students.



Matthew Wilkie

Second Year. Goodricke.
Computer Science.

Unification is Key

 Matthew Wilkie

How would you describe yourself?

I see myself as an approachable, kind and dedicated student. I am really excited to make a significant difference.

Why are you the best person for the job?

Being a chair of a society, a societies representative and running a large-scale event called GeekFest, I got to see first hand the best and worst parts of the Union. I'm also friendly, dedicated and I try to understand situations from multiple points of view.

Manifesto:

- (1) Develop student groups by pooling together the best practice;
- (2) Improve storage, finance and advertising for our groups;
- (3) Boost student altruism via more efficient student groups.

ACADEMIC OFFICER

Daniel Brookes

Third Year. Langwith.
Politics & Philosophy.

Depend on Dan

 dan4academic



How would you describe yourself?

I like to think of myself as driven, ambitious, and respectful. I enjoy taking on new challenges, and am motivated by the prospect of delivering visible results.

Why are you the best person for the job?

Because my priority is ensuring that every student can get their voice heard by facilitating greater communication with the student body.

Manifesto:

- (1) "Feedback Reviews" to show how feedback is being acted upon;
- (2) Introductory lectures for optional modules;
- (3) Annotated essay feedback.

Matt Johnstone

Second Year. Langwith.
Mathematics.

Believe in the beard, vote Johnstone for Academic.

 JohnstoneForAcademic



How would you describe yourself?

I'm a motivated individual dedicated to promoting a positive and engaged Student Union. I love speaking to people and finding out what they think.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I'm working to improve the system from the inside out. I've been involved with academic representation. I was a Course Rep and have continued on to be a Department Rep.

Manifesto:

- (1) Rep visibility and accountability;
- (2) Mentoring schemes and pre-arrivals;
- (3) Mental health support in departments.

Giang Nguyen

Second Year. Derwent.
PPE.

Change for You

 Giang4AcademicOfficer



How would you describe yourself?

I see myself as motivated and passionate about making a difference. I am open and engaged with diverse opinions on how to make a real change to the benefit of the wider community.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I love the role and the prospect of improving the academic community. I got involved as a course and department representative.

Manifesto:

- (1) Improving career departmental support;
- (2) Transparency and Efficiency;
- (3) Building an Academic Community that is more accessible, diverse and universal.

Christian Stickels

Third Year. Constantine.
Maths & Physics.

BE BOLD. VOTE BALD.

 christian.st.9256



How would you describe yourself?

I like to think I'm fun, have a penchant for the eccentric and, above all else, I honestly and genuinely care about everyone.

Why are you the best person for the job?

Because I've kinda done the role before. I used to be Faculty Rep which means I have intimate knowledge of central University, the structures, and how things work.

Manifesto:

- (1) Building academic communities;
- (2) Re-structure the University;
- (3) Rethink the way degrees are made, making them more responsive to student needs.

PRESIDENT

JAMES DURCAN



- ### **MANIFESTO**
- CUT STUDENT COSTS
 - BUILD A BETTER UNI
 - STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- ### **ACHIEVEMENTS**
- TARGETING HIDDEN COSTS
 - ACCOMMODATION REVIEWS
 - EXTRA CAMPUS SPACES

SPORT

ZAC SHEPPARD



- ### **MANIFESTO**
- WIDEN PARTICIPATION
 - LOCAL LINKS
 - MORE CLUB DEVELOPMENT

- ### **ACHIEVEMENTS**
- PROMOTING WOMEN'S SPORT
 - COLLEGE SPORT REVIEW
 - MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

WELLBEING

STEPH HAYLE



- ### **MANIFESTO**
- BURSARY SUPPORT
 - STRESS MANAGEMENT
 - MAXIMUM PRICING

- ### **ACHIEVEMENTS**
- #BUSTICE
 - CAMPUS ACCESSIBILITY
 - MORE HARDSHIP SCHOLARS

ACTIVITIES

FINN JUDGE



- ### **MANIFESTO**
- ACCESS GRANTS
 - DISCOUNT CARD
 - #REVOLUTIONRAG

- ### **ACHIEVEMENTS**
- ACCESS GRANT PILOT
 - STAR COUNTER
 - 25 NEW SOCIETIES

ACADEMIC

JAMES HARE



- ### **MANIFESTO**
- FEEDBACK CONTRACT
 - SPENDING TRANSPARENCY
 - UPGRADING RESOURCES

- ### **ACHIEVEMENTS**
- LECTURE CAPTURE
 - VLE REP PAGES
 - JANUARY STUDY SPACES

PART-TIME OFFICERS

POLICY COORDINATOR



Kelly Balmer

First Year. Halifax. Social and Political Sciences.

Manifesto

- (1) Making the policy process more accessible, including face-to-face consultations;
- (2) Publicising the policy process to increase students' understanding of it;
- (3) Direct communication and consultation with students about YUSU.

Josh Mackenzie

Third Year. Halifax. Electronic Engineering.

Manifesto

- (1) Power to the students as it feels we don't control or make decisions;
- (2) Improve transparency to make YUSU better at sharing what's happening;
- (3) Ensure policies are implemented when passed.



ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS



Merry Dickinson & Mark Matthews

Second Year. Derwent. International Relations.

Manifesto

- (1) Promote better campus-wide mindset to sustainability;
- (2) Keep YUSU up to date with national and global campaigns;
- (3) Use modern and eco-friendly facilities suppliers.

Jay Dyer

Third Year. Vanbrugh. Environment & Human Geography.

Manifesto

- (1) Campaign for YUSU and the University to declare a climate emergency;
- (2) Organise a campaign divesting the University from fossil fuels;
- (3) Mobilising student participation in wider activism.



MATURE STUDENTS'



Ioana Dumitrescu

Second Year. James. History of Art.

Manifesto

- (1) Increase reach and accessibility of MSA to mature students;
- (2) Arrange a communal space for mature students;
- (3) Improve access to University resources.

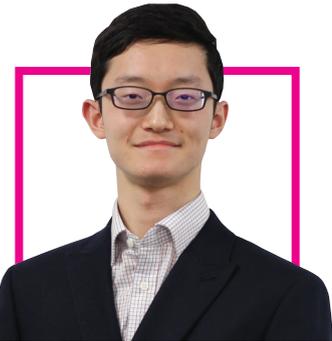
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS'

Samuel Kuo

First Year. Derwent. Law.

Manifesto

- (1) Work with the University for Brexit updates;
- (2) Consult with the 'EEA Public Services Research Clinic' on urgent concerns;
- (3) Enhance the visibility and accessibility of the ISA.



Zsofia Majer

First Year. James. Politics with International Relations.

Manifesto

- (1) Wider support system;
- (2) Closer cooperation;
- (3) Higher participation.

Sophie Schulze

First Year. James. Theatre: Writing, Directing and Performance.

Manifesto

- (1) Transparent information;
- (2) College collaborations - making events less expensive and more accessible;
- (3) Stronger presence of the community within the University.



PART-TIME OFFICERS

RAG



Annie Boccock & Sam Meadows

Second and Third Year. Goodricke and Derwent. Maths and Psychology.

Manifesto

- (1) More open and structured fundraising support;
- (2) A comprehensive and accessible feedback system;
- (3) Direct communication and consultation with students about YUSU.

VOLUNTEERING

Emily Johnsen

Third Year. Vanbrugh. Psychology in Education.

Manifesto

- (1) More training, digital development, and signposting support;
- (2) Promote our work and make volunteering more accessible;
- (3) Build a 'Volunteering at York' brand using local media and nominate awards.



WOMEN'S



Daisy Slate and Ally Smith

First Year. Vanbrugh. English & Politics and History & Politics.

Manifesto

- (1) Tackling sexual harassment and assault on campus;
- (2) Increase awareness of available mental and sexual health services;
- (3) Women's Officers in every college to support women and non-binary students.

WORKING CLASS & SOCIAL MOBILITY

Jenny Elizabeth Whitfield

First Year. Alcuin. English & Linguistics.

Manifesto

- (1) Bring class into discussions, include class in equality & diversity policy;
- (2) Improve communication by departments to assist studies;
- (3) Make the network more accessible and better advertised to new students.

SCIENCE FACULTY REP



Alex Spiby

Third Year. Halifax. Physics.

Manifesto

- (1) Ensure students understand they will be heard;
- (2) Make processes as transparent as possible;
- (3) Ensure best practice is shared between all departments in the faculty.

STUDENT TRUSTEE

Isaac Barnett

First Year. Halifax. Politics.

Manifesto

- (1) Support positive outcomes for the students from the Union Executive;
- (2) Review proposals to ensure they do not badly affect students;
- (3) Communicate for balanced decisions on proposals and motions.



The positions of BAME Officer and Disabled Students' Officer are still available.

Not all candidates' information was provided in time for this publication.

Visit elections.yusu.org for a full list of candidates and information on how to run.



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