

Sasha Grantham for Academic Affairs & Liaison Officer

Who am I?

Despite having the rapidly receding hairline, beard and dress sense of a Geography teacher going through a mid-life crisis, I am a **first-year** student studying Education, English, Drama, and the Arts.

Completing my A-levels in 2018, I took two gap years working as a secondary school drama and history teacher, including having to teach dozens of children online at a time during the COVID-19 pandemic (hence the premature balding).

This experience has taught me a lot about 'academic affairs', particularly that there is more than one way to skin a cat and everyone's working patterns and academic interests are different. Therefore, I am passionate in making Homerton as accommodating and inspiring an academic environment as possible.

In my spare time I can frequently be found screaming at Arsenal's poor performances from my room (apologies all on my corridor xoxo) and 'liasing' with mates over a pint at the Griff or a leisurely stroll around the Orchard.

Why do I want to be on the HUS?

In an incredibly testing and difficult year for us all, the Homerton community spirit has remained indefatigable, realising the tagline of 'Cambridge's friendliest college'.

In some respects, next year will be even more difficult. With (fingers crossed) all COVID restrictions lifted over the summer, both current first and second years will be moving onto their subsequent studies without ever having a 'normal' Cambridge term. Combine this with a new crop of freshers who (for most) have had both years of A-level study significantly disrupted and lost many of the cornerstone experiences of moving from secondary to further education due to the pandemic. I want to ensure that these transitions are as smooth as possible for the entire college community, whilst ensuring that we do not sacrifice the friendliness and laid back environment we pride ourselves on at Homerton in the quest for academic rigour.

What will I do?

- Propose an 'Academic Affairs' workshop during Fresher's week to explain the jargon (I didn't know what a 'Supo' was let alone what it was for until halfway through Michaelmas) and general idiosyncrasies of academic life at Cambridge.
- Encourage stronger links between students studying various subjects (something lost somewhat this year) by proposing subject swap events.
- Encourage stronger links between year groups by ensuring that college families and subject reps are a source of support and familiarity for the entire year, not just for freshers' week.
- Encourage stronger links between students and faculty by facilitating open discourse and exploration of shared interests.

If elected, I promise I will always have our back as students of Homerton College and work as hard as I can to make sure that our college is an inspiring and motivating environment for all students to live and work in.

Sash