

Keyleigh Caffrey for Target and Access Officer

About me:

Hello everyone! I am Keyleigh Caffrey, a first year Geography student who feels passionately about improving Homerton's target and access to those from underrepresented backgrounds.

Being a recipient of Free School Meals at school and a product of outreach programmes, I believe I have the first-hand knowledge to help to improve these initiatives, making sure they are as productive as possible and are truly meeting the needs of those who rely heavily on them. Being given the opportunity to work closely with Homerton's own Schools Liaison Officer and the wider Access and Outreach team, would be a role I take seriously and with care as I understand the importance of their work through my own lived experiences.

My Manifesto:

- Adopt a hands-on approach with Homerton's outreach scheme, to make sure those who are sent to speak to underrepresented students, do not alienate students further, context is essential!
- Offer transparency to applicants from underrepresented backgrounds by offering a mentoring scheme from students currently at Homerton who have also come from similar backgrounds.
- Speak openly about imposter syndrome, include student testimonies on how they have found their Cambridge experience so far in an online blog/newsletter published on the Homerton website for prospective students to access.
- More social events held by the HUS for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, more frequently. This will allow students to feel like they are part of a community as opposed to the odd check up here and there at the start of term. The more frequent events are the more likely students are to show up!
- Campaign and work towards subsidised formals, May Ball, Union membership. These are all Cambridge experiences that any student should have the ability to access, financial background should not hinder a student's experience- should be seen as opportunities for all not privileges for some.
- Strive to achieve more inclusivity within Homerton. We have a beautiful new butchery and dining hall and yet not everyone is catered for. With no halal options, Muslim students can often feel alienated at mealtime having to opt for vegetarian/vegan options which may not be their preferred choice for dining, most often choose to cater for themselves as they are not accounted for. As a community we need to do better in making sure all students can feel they are a part of Homerton, especially in something as communal as having a meal with friends.