



## Lydia for target & access officer



### **-WHY TARGET & ACCESS OFFICER**

- As a first-year Education student, I have spent time learning and reflecting on, for example, **racial and gender inequalities existing within and as a result of the education system**. As Target and Access Officer I have the opportunity to make changes within an educational institution myself, not only to increase access to college amongst students of all backgrounds, but to ensure they feel welcome and at home here.
- Calling the North of England my home, I have recognised that it is an under-represented area of the UK for Cambridge applicants. In the North, I have found that, for example, the damaging assumption remains that all Cambridge students are from a particular and privileged background, which can deter students from applying and therefore perpetuate the under-representation of northerners. Reflecting on my experience, I would love to be directly involved in **ensuring students from under-represented backgrounds have the accurate knowledge, as well as the necessary support, to apply to Cambridge**.

### **-MY IDEAS**

- **Continue to work on improving availability of financial aid in college:** better advertisement of the availability of financial aid, and insight into unique student experiences to guide introduction of new funding/grants, if necessary
- **More direct contact with under-represented areas of UK:** organising more events specifically targeted at schools in the North East/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland, including increased visitation and resources to ease the application and interview processes for prospective students
- **Direct contact with prospective students of under-represented backgrounds:** a programme matching prospective students from under-represented backgrounds with students of similar backgrounds, to gain insight into life as a Cambridge student/how manageable workload can be/ that **people like them are thriving in an institution like this**
- **Listening to current and prospective students:** hearing from under-represented groups of people (including BME students, students with disabilities, LGBT+ students and female students) about how our application process could be fairer and more accessible to them, through anonymous questionnaires/discussion sessions

### **-How you can vote!**

**Come along to Hustings**

**When? Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May @ 6:30pm**

**Where? MAB Auditorium (near Porter's Lodge)**