

Reyhannisa Haji for Target and Access Officer

About me:

- Second year Bio NatSci
- Biology chair of Homerton Science Society
- Homerton Changemaker ambassador
- Likes to stay in my Homerton onesie all day

Why is this role important to me?

As a student from a not-so-good state school with a low income and underrepresented ethnic minority background, my knowledge on the Cambridge application process heavily depended on access and outreach programs. Without these, I feel I would have been heavily disadvantaged. Now that I am at Cambridge, I want to be on the giving end.

Living in East London and coming from a diverse community, the one thing that I appreciate about Homerton is the inclusivity that helps me feel at home. Speaking to other people, many agree, and I believe it is an important part of the Homerton identity. That being said, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to ensure that students from underrepresented backgrounds are given the support they need.

Manifesto:

- **NETWORKING EVENTS**
 - 85% of jobs are given through networking. Not everyone has an extensive network, especially those from a disadvantaged background.
- **IMPROVED COMMUNICATION**
 - There are often multiple Access projects happening in college without the knowledge of the HUS. I believe that it is important that, as a student body, the HUS should be involved in such projects to improve widening access.
- **IMPROVED SUPPORT BEYOND MATRICULATION**
 - It's hard enough getting into Cambridge, it shouldn't have to be even harder trying to understand how to survive in Cambridge. As someone that struggled a lot in first year but did not receive the help I needed, I know first hand how it feels to feel like you've been thrown in the deep end. There currently is not a system in place to help first year students (undergrad or postgrad) to better adjust to Cambridge academia.
- **SUPPORT FOR FOUNDATION YEAR STUDENTS**
 - As you may know, Homerton is one of the first colleges to intake foundation year students next year. It is crucial that they are made to feel welcome (imposter syndrome is bad enough as it is) and to provide necessary skills needed to survive a Cambridge degree.