

# MICHAEL MCLEISH FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Proposed by Louis Slater

Seconded by Kieran Daly

## Who am I?

I am a **somewhat** friendly and approachable second year HSPS student. I enjoy memes, playing FIFA, and performing the sort of dull and bureaucratic functions you have to carry out as Vice-President of the JPC.

## Why am I running?

Because I have been at Pembroke for nearly one-and-a-half years now, and have seen both the **good** and the **bad** of what it has to offer. Although I love this place and many of the people in it, a number of things have left me wanting change:

- I am **frustrated** at the haphazard way in which college has handled a variety of welfare issues in the last year
- I am **sad** at the way in which the JPC is not being used to its full potential

Although the Vice-Presidency has been reduced to an administrative position, and this remains of immense importance, it has the potential to push a wider agenda. The dialogue that the Vice-President has with the Senior Tutor, and their role in the organization of the JPC, mean that this is the **ideal** position for me to tackle a variety of issues

Furthermore, I am not just running because I want change, but because I believe I will be the **best** person for the job. As a tutor in an after-school study centre for underprivileged 4-11 year olds, significant levels of understaffing meant that I had to take on a leadership role; this means that I have **real-world** experience of organisation, with **real-world** implications. In addition to this, in my time here as a student, and working as a housekeeper over the holidays, I have developed **good** relationships with staff and students in the college.

## What will I do and How will I do It?

1) For too long, the JPC has been the preserve of the same people from the same social groups, with the same personalities. It is **imperative** that it begins to represent the student body as a whole, not just those who actively engage in student politics.

To be completely honest, a significant proportion of students will remain uninterested in the JPC, irrespective of how many open meetings or other initiatives are held to increase participation. So in my role as chair of JPC meetings, **I will ensure the fair representation of people who are less willing to engage with student politics** by articulating opinions that are prevalent in college even if they do not align with my own.

2) The college disciplinary and welfare policies need to be reformed as a matter of **urgency**. As someone who was involved in multiple welfare issues last year, I have a unique and privileged position when it comes to fixing these.

I will liaise with the Welfare Officer to recommend amendments to the 'Fitness to Study Policy', in order to ensure it is more **process driven and clear**, as opposed to issues being resolved by the arbitrary discretion of the Senior Tutor.

3) I have had significant dealings with the Tutorial department in the past, and have never been afraid to say it like it is, and I will **demand** that the college is made more accountable to the student body.

Prior to my meetings with the Senior Tutor, I will encourage everyone to bring me **suggestions and complaints** which I will then pass onto him, before providing feedback of his response to the student body.

4) Use my positions, both on the JPC and in CUSU, to promote **improved access policies** at both University and College levels

I will be supportive of any suggestion that will improve access, and will encourage both the college and university to fund it. For example, I will ensure that prospective Pembroke students are aware of next years' university-wide **BME Access Day**.

5) Continue the **smooth** running of the JPC and **support** the other members in carrying out their duties.

Through continuing the **good standards set by Zach**, and introducing small **practical measures** to improve efficiency. For example, holding meetings at regular time each week to encourage attendance.

I am not a student politics 'keen bean' or someone who just wants to pad their CV, I am running because I have a genuine vision and purpose for how the college can be improved for the better, and I am the best person to do that.

