

# Full-Time Officer Manifestos 2019-20

## **PRESIDENT George Nuttall**

Hi, I'm George and I'm running to be President of your Students' Union. I am a third year History and Politics student, your Student Representative on the University Council, a former Democracy and Finance Officer of The County College, and in April will serve as one of your delegates at the National Union of Students Conference.

If you elect me as your President, my areas of priority will be:

### **Communication and Transparency**

**Problem:** Too often the students don't understand the decisions that the Union makes, the processes it is going through, or the good work it has done.

**I will:** Prioritise communication to reconnect with the student body and show the good things the Union does for them and correct any misconceptions.

**This can be done by:**

At least once a term having a list of the top 5 things the Union has done for you that term. Including what JCRs, Societies, or Sports teams have done for you.

Having an Officer or staff member stood at one of the market stalls once a week to talk to people about what they think of the Union.

Using social media to ask what people think is wrong with the Union and then trying to fix it such as by putting out regular social media polls and anonymous questionnaires.

### **Welfare**

**Problem:** 1 in 10 students at Lancaster will use the welfare services and there are insufficient welfare provisions in departments.

**I will:** Push to try and create a dedicated welfare staff member in each department who you could entrust with welfare problems you face. Expanding the welfare provisions to the departments would be a great way to respond to students need and to relieve the stress on the existing services. As part of County JCR, I was responsible for helping the JCR win the Unions Community Impact Award for our campaign concerning better mental health services. If you elect me as your President, I shall work with the Mental Health Society, other Officers, and those who use the welfare provisions to continue to pressure the University to improve its services.

**Problem:** The taking of illegal substances at University is and always will be a reality yet people do it without knowing how pure or safe they are.

**I will:** Look into getting free drug testing kits, such as Manchester and Newcastle Union's do, even if it is only for big events such as Extravs as it would be a big step to improving student's safety.

### **Education**

**Problem:** There currently isn't a level playing field for Black and Minority Ethnic students

**I will:** I'm no expert on the many issues that BME students face, but I would work with the relevant Part-Time Officers, societies, and those who understand it better than myself to try and close the gap and continue the good work previous Officers have done.

### **College Sports**

**The Problem:** Roughly 1 in 10 students are a part of a college team, yet it often feels like they are of second thought to the Union.

**I will:** Hold regular meetings with club captains, the Vice President Activities, and JCR sports Officers to try and improve the structure of the college leagues and how matches are organised. College sports

is a massive part of many students experience and wellbeing and by looking at ways to make it better it will go a long way to improving that.

### **Union Reform**

The Problem: The Activities officer often focuses on either sports or societies leaving the other to feel neglected and left behind.

I will: Examine the viability of splitting up the officer role so as to provide better support for the two groups.

The Problem: More needs to be done to make JCRs and PTOs feel like an integral part of the Union.

I will: Look to advertise more what these groups do on social media so that people can see all the hard work they do and so they feel appreciated by the Union. I would hold meetings to see how they think the Union can support them better.

The Problem: PG students, specifically PGR students don't feel represented by the Union

I will: Work to build better communication with PG students through academic networks and support their issues. This would include supporting PGR students campaigning for fair pay for every hour of work.

I hope you vote me number one to be your President