

Furness

RON will be a candidate for all positions. Re Open Nominations – allows voters to state they do not feel any of the current candidates standing are suitable for the role and would like to re-open nominations.

President

Victoria Phillips

Manifesto

Being on the JCR has provided an insight into what it means to be part of an incredibly hardworking and student-focused college. It's shown me the real standard of effort that goes into upholding the notion that 'Everywhere Else is Nowhere', a standard that I would like to build upon by taking on the role of JCR President. I consider myself to be extremely outgoing, approachable and reliable, and I believe that I would thrive in this role on the JCR.

Throughout my time at Lancaster, I have continuously been an active member of, not only Furness College, but of the university as a whole. In my first year, being part of the Furness Netball team as well as being an Academic Rep for my department allowed me to develop my confidence to work alongside others, as enabled me to see the value of teamwork, which I carried into my role on the JCR. Being a member of the university Rowing Society (LUBC), alongside being a Socials and Events Officer, has given me ample opportunity to be more organised because of the dedication required for each of these commitments. Having been able to manage my time by attending both training sessions and meetings in a week, on top of my studies, establishes the way in which I would be able to manage the pressure of being JCR President.

The way in which the JCRs function is key to our success as a college. Seeing the college flourish under adversity showed how multifaceted we were in our response to the unprecedented times that were ahead of us. Our ability to communicate and function as a unit is an aspect that was key to this, and is something that I'd like to further encourage within the JCR. As JCR President, I would ensure an increase in the levels of communication within the JCR by creating group-chats between different roles, and by giving everyone access to documents such as the 'Events Schedule' so that we can be more organised. With this, I'd hope to improve the experience of being on the JCR, which in turn would improve the college as a whole.

Furthermore, since we are expecting a continuation in the use of online learning through Microsoft Teams, I'd like to extend the use of this platform by creating a 'Furness Hub' that everyone in the college could access. Having seen the way in which updates across different social medias would often be missed, I'd like to create a 'Furness Team' on this platform so

that the information we share would be more accessible. Not only would it be for information, but it would also be a space where students would be able to directly communicate with the College Manager and the JCR team. This would allow everyone within the college to stay up to date with events and would provide a safe space for them to communicate that doesn't involve social media. I'd also like to further this by creating course channels within the team, so that students would have a chance to meet more people, which is something that is very important at the moment due to the current climate.

I am organised and committed to maintaining the high standards that Furness upholds. I understand the significance of teamwork and communication, and will work alongside members of the JCR to ensure cohesion and cooperation. If I am voted into this position, I am confident that I will fulfil the responsibilities of this role with enthusiasm and positivity.

Vice President (Socials and Events)

Amy Wyatt

Manifesto

Hi everyone!

My name is Amy and my pronouns are she/her. I am a third year maths student and am running for the role of VP socials and events.

I believe that this role requires communication, teamwork, organisation and leadership skills. I believe that my past experiences throughout school, within sports teams and working multiple jobs for several years have allowed me to develop all of these skills. Also being one of your socials and events officer this past term has allowed me to really improve upon these skills as well as get to grips with working within the JCR.

My favourite part about being on the JCR so far has been writing and presenting our amazing Trev Quiz each week. I would love to be able to continue doing this and will make sure to keep getting feedback so that we can make sure it gets better and better.

If elected VP Socials and Events my aims will be to:

- Make sure our Trev Quiz keeps coming back each week even better than the week before.
- Ensure our second 15 hour social of the year goes ahead, even if it is once again an alternative to our usual social.
- Lead our Extrav committee to come up with a great event, that complies with whatever COVID regulations are in place at the time.
- Continue to introduce new social and events ideas to get more people involve whether they are on campus or not.

If these have to be done online still I would like to introduce more team activities as they have proved to be the most popular so far, one idea would be an escape room style evening.

Hopefully we will be allowed some in person events this year and if that is the case then I would like to create more events in town whether that be bar crawls or exploring our many local cafes.

- Continue to work with our Welfare team on our Teams and Talk sessions and other events to support Furnessians welfare.

I also value any feedback that we receive on events and always look to improve upon events that people enjoy so when we run them again they come back even better!

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto, please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions and remember to vote Amy!

Media and Communications Officer

Rachel Lord

Manifesto

I'm Rachel Lord, my pronouns are she/her and I'm running again to be your Media and Communications Officer.

This past year as media and communications officer has been so fun and I want to continue on as my role to keep you all up to date with college events!

My manifesto points last year were to improve accessibility by ensuring hashtags are in CamelCase and our photos have image descriptions in alt text and include all vital information in the description. I will continue to improve this accessibility by making sure videos, which don't provide automatic captions, have closed captions to ensure more of our Furnessians have access to our social media.

I will also continue using multiple social media sites to promote events. During my time as media and comms officer, I have revamped our twitter account and created a Furness TikTok and I plan to continue to post on here and post on our Snapchat and our YouTube Channel. I have my own YouTube channel and I can use the skills I've learnt from posting on there to continue to start posting on our Furness College YouTube Channel.

The pandemic means media and comms is a more vital role than ever and I want to make everyone feel involved during this difficult time. I want to offer more opportunities for

students to feel involved by doing more JCR take overs and encouraging our Furnessians to send in photos of how they're spending their time in lockdown so we can all feel closer.

I hope you vote Rachel Lord for media and comms so I can continue on in this fantastic role.

Social and Events Officer

Nia Chonova

Manifesto

Introduction

Hello, my name is Nia, I am a first-year law student from Bulgaria and I am running for the position of Socials and Events Officer. I love organizing events mainly because of the team effort, the friendships and the memories that are created in the process of creating any kind of socials.

My experience and why I believe I am suitable for this position

I have participated in the organization of numerous events, the biggest ones being two national debating competitions. For them we had to find our own funding which was the most challenging part. What we did was create a project for our idea which I presented before the Municipality. We also went to some of the bigger local businesses to look for sponsorships and created a charitable public debate (in which I participated) to show the people of our town what we are passionate about. At the end we ended up raising approximately 4000 pounds which was enough to cover the expenses of the competitions.

I have also organized different public discussions on various topics, some of them being easy-going and others related to the political questions of the day.

One of the most rewarding events that I have helped organize was raising money for children who were in social care. Last Christmas, with the help of the local schools, I organized a small Christmas Market. Me and my friends campaigned around the schools and found talented volunteers who crafted different Christmas decorations and cards and cooked some sweets which we later sold at the Market. We raised approximately 170 pounds, which is not a very large amount, but after all that money brought happiness to a few kids.

I am also very passionate about the idea of creating events which promote kindness and equality. This is why a few years ago I proposed to my school committee the idea of students buying Christmas gifts for their classmates who are in disadvantaged positions. The whole purpose of this project was for every class to come together and pupils and teachers (who could afford to do so) to donate a small amount of money. With the gathered amount they would buy a certain student a Christmas gift. I was surprised to find out that almost every class took that idea to heart and we ended up surprising over 15 students.

Another event that was aimed at raising awareness was a screening of the film 'Wonder' amongst children aged between 7 and 12. The whole idea of the movie was to show that

everybody is different and that we should not exclude or bully people for who they are. What I did was come up with an appropriate movie and talk to all the psychologists from the schools around the town and promote the idea of equality. The price of the entry ticket was 1 pound and we later decided to donate the small amount gathered from the tickets to a boy from the town that needed expensive medical treatment.

Aims

The social events are a major part of university life. My purpose as a Socials and Events Officer would be to help students relax and forget (at least for a while) about the many academic assignments that they have. The freshers' week is another big event that I would take very seriously. It is important for all newcomers to create new friendships and find their place at Lancaster. If I get elected, I would put my time towards trying to create the best social events.

International and Welfare Officer

Pawel Kulesza

Manifesto

Hi, Hola, 안녕하세요, Cześć, Salut, مرحبا, Hallo, Selam, Ciao, مرحبا, नमस्ते... fellow Furnessians! No matter who you are and where you come from, I want you to feel welcomed and recognized! Moreover, before anything else, I want to tell you that all of your feelings are valid, even more during these difficult uncertain times! We're all in this together, please remember it. If you need serious help, visit: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/student-and-education-services/counselling-and-mental-health-service/services/>

My name is Paweł Kulesza and I like to see myself as an upbeat and highly motivated person. Although I study Business Management, I'm not your stereotypical business major student. I'm not the wannabe Wall Street type of guy, who's thinking all the time about making money. In fact, I'm quite the opposite. I think a lot about people as I truly enjoy listening to other students' stories, thoughts, struggles, dreams etc.

Since probably most of you don't want to spend much time reading all of the manifestos, let's get straight to the point. If you choose me as your International and Welfare Officer, I pledge to do everything that I possibly can, to make your voice heard and make your life less stressful. All students' wellbeing, and particularly wellbeing of our international friends, should be treated with a special care and diligence. Moreover, I want to let you know that I will always be there to help you, as I'm a strong believer that it's what the university should be about. Caring about each other and sharing memories, both the positive as negative ones. Since I'm an international student myself, I'm particularly aware of the problems overseas students face whether they are physical, such as financial issues or those that are more mental such as culture shock, language barrier or the feeling that each of us sooner or later feels which is homesickness. At the moment, I'm mostly concerned with the overall welfare of students, as every day I see how many of my friends struggle due to the ongoing

pandemic caused by Covid-19. We can't mingle with our course mates, other households, can't go for a night out, have to study from our rooms, in simple words, we feel isolated. In order to be as helpful as possible (especially during these difficult times), I've been following a lot of news outlets and social media accounts that provide educational content about coping with anxiety, mental illness, traumas etc. I'm aspiring to be that type of Welfare Officer to whom you feel safe to come to and talk about your struggles, achievements, goals, ideas or generally anything, as I'm always down for a chat. I love to learn about new cultures and especially languages. In fact, I'm a polyglot, being able to speak fluent Polish, Spanish and English. But let's come back to the main question you all probably ask yourselves, why should you pick me? Well, if the reasons above aren't enough then here's the last one: If I'm chosen I pledge to organise each week 'An hour for laughter' (Hope it doesn't rhyme only in my head), an hour long virtual meeting where international students can have fun either by sharing memes, playing online games, complaining together about the British weather or whatever humours you best!

That's all from me. Thank you for reading my manifesto, and I hope that you'll vote for me!
– Paweł Kulesza

Sports Officer

Michael Bunn

Manifesto

I'm a second-year computer science student. Throughout my entire life I have been keen on sport and I started playing sport from a very young age. Playing sport is a great way to keep fit but perhaps the part that I enjoy the most is the social element - it allows you to make new friends and experience things that you never would have done normally. Sport is also great for your mental health which is all the more apparent given the current circumstances in the world. After having a great first year at Furness College, I am keen to increase my involvement in the college; hence I am running for a Sports Officer role in the JCR for the year of 2021.

Last year I played a large part in college's darts team and got to know a lot of the people in the college. Taking part in college sports was very enjoyable and a very enriching experience. Due to this I will only be increasing my involvement within the college this year and I would love to help other people have as close to the same experience this year that I had last year. Being involved with the college sports teams has given me insight into most of the teams, putting me in a good position to be able to manage all their needs accordingly. In the past I also have had a lot of experience running sports coaching camps which gives me the necessary skill set to run sports events within the college.

Unfortunately, due to the current coronavirus pandemic sports societies are quite limited in what can be done. However, whilst these restrictions are still in place, I will try my best to run and include as much of the college as possible with various online events. For example, these could include darts tournaments, sports themed challenges, posting fitness plans and health tips to help keep people as active as possible during lockdown.

Once restrictions begin to be lifted, and sports sessions begin to run again, I shall keep everyone's safety as my utmost priority so that no one who wishes to take part shall miss out due to safety concerns. When possible, I would also like to run more sports sessions that are open to the entire college since I know that a lot of people would like to play sport but do not wish to involve themselves within a competitive environment. This would get a larger number of people active and involved with the college. Also, I would work closely with both my partner and the Cartmel sports officers in order to deliver the best "Patriots" as possible. This is a very important event in the college's calendar and so whether it be online, in person, or a mixture of both I will ensure that it is run as best as it possibly can be for everyone at the college to enjoy.

I would also like to run the Furness sport Instagram and Facebook pages to help keep the entire college up to date on recent sports news in the college. This would include posting any information about fixtures and results when matches resume and the main source of information for my online events during lockdown.

In conclusion, I am very much looking forward to being able to improve and deliver the best possible students experience with sports at Furness college given the current circumstances. Therefore, I would greatly appreciate it if you would give me your vote and make Furness sport better than it already is.

Finance and Democracy Officer

Alex Booth

Manifesto

Now that we've got that election in America more or less sorted, its time to move on to the defining election of 2020. I'm Alex, I come from Staffordshire (I know, it's grim), study Politics and International Relations and I would like to serve as your Finance and Democracy Officer.

I live in the Greenodd building with four other people in my flat and so far, my college experience has been a positive one. Considering that this year has been unprecedentedly naff, that outcome did not look likely but I believe a large part was played by the effort put in by the JCR in attempting to make the first two months of uni as decent as possible for Furnessians. I would like to assist in this in whatever way that I can, for current and subsequent Furness students.

There are several ways in which I would go about doing this.

About Me

Coming from a dead-end town that has been a Tory safe seat for the past 10 years, I have a clear understanding of what it is like to be a part of a community that is ignored by those whom should be serving it, to prioritise the needs of a privileged few. This instils me with a

strong desire to ensure that every organisation that I am involved in is one that promotes equality, public engagement and adequate representation.

I believe this desire, coupled with a comical lack of interest in participating in any society that requires athletic ability or artistic talent, make me a strong candidate for this role, as I will be passionate, present and readily available to fulfil the role diligently.

For any further questions that you'd like to ask, feel free to reach me on Instagram account, Alxx_1992. Or if you'd just like to talk about Britpop, new wave, football, Wes Anderson films or Peep Show.

Accounting for Everybody

As the officer for both finance and democracy, I would combine these responsibilities into making sure the requests of Furness students are heard and that projects that are popular are funded. A JCR should act to serve its college members and I will ensure that it is in its best position to do so by chairing meetings regularly and allowing them to be a platform for open discussion about college needs, wants and things that can be done better to optimise the Furness experience.

Public Participation

Being the chair for JCR meetings, I will prioritise opinions and concerns raised by students for discussion, to make sure improvements are made and new opportunities are created in a timely, considerate manner. This will involve working closely with the Media and Communications Officer in guaranteeing that every Furness student feels like they can come to the JCR easily to voice their views and that these views are then considered in the meetings when debating how to best serve the members of Furness college.

Furthermore, I would look to keep regular lines of communication to all other members of the committee, as I believe this is essential to an effective JCR. Specifically, this entails making meetings regular and easily accessible with equal time afforded to each committee member to voice public concerns, utilising every aspect of the college and therefore creating the best possible experience for every Furness member.

Spending Wisely

The financial aspect of the role is also something that I have considered carefully. By largely surviving on pot noodle, I have found that budgeting is one of the few things that I have excelled at during my time at Lancaster. For me, it was worth sitting through the pot noodles for the chance to occasionally indulge in a Sultan's. The Sultan's, in this case, would be a number of projects that I would like to ensure that there is adequate funding for

In particular, I believe that more could be done by the college to improve its environmental practices and if I am elected, I will make sure that there is a budget for this, whether this is through fundraisers or more long-lasting green policies.

Moreover, I would take great interest in helping my fellow committee members to devise new college activities, societies or socials for 2021 to make try to ensure that it is a slightly less painful year than 2020 was for Furness students.

Finally, I will fight for what is right and attempt to make Elmo the new official Furness mascot and a feature on the logo but that's a personal vendetta of mine.

Welfare and Education Officer

Jess Hindley

Manifesto

My name is Jess Hindley (she/her) and I am re-running to be Furness College's Welfare and Education Officer. I have held the role for 5 months and I'm seeking your support for my re-election to do 12 more.

During my time on the JCR exec so far, I have:

- Started the "Cooking in Furness" Campaign where I produce recipes and short cooking videos explaining how to cook easy student meals.
- Organised and hosted the first virtual Enterprise Week – a weeklong series of events aimed at those interested in business and entrepreneurship with guest speakers ranging from seasoned entrepreneurs to campus societies and a special pitching event ran by NatWest. Planning this required months of work and involved communicating with a variety of people from across the whole University community and bringing them together to present a full series of events
- Co-hosted multiple Teams and Talk sessions with the VP Welfare to offer students a chance to chat if they are feeling lonely or require some advice
- Assisted with various socials throughout the academic year including the first virtual Welcome Week
- Taken LUSU finance training – I have a good understanding of how the role of the JCR exec fits in with the wider university community

I joined the exec during the pandemic and have spent all of my time here working within the limits of a virtual environment. I know how to plan virtual events and work within the very restricted budget that JCRs have been assigned during this pandemic – If re-elected I will bring this experience into the new exec team.

Over the next 12 months, if re-elected, I intend to do the following:

- After the success of the initial cooking videos, I will expand the "Cooking in Furness" Campaign. Producing more videos and recipes throughout the year with features for special holidays such as Christmas and also highlighting food from different countries and cultures. If at any point during my term it is safe to offer in-person cooking classes, I will do so.

- Run a varied and accessible Enterprise Week whether it is online or in-person. Build upon the connections I have established with presenters at this year's event to provide an even better Enterprise Week. Running such an event virtually is challenging but I have the experience to be able to do it again if necessary next year. Hopefully, I will be able to present an in-person series of events by next year and this will allow me to provide an even more exciting week with food provided to attendees and a mini societies fair for all the relevant societies on campus.
- Try to establish a Welfare group chat between all the colleges – this will be useful for organising inter-college welfare events and provide an area where all welfare officers could consult each other and share ideas and information. This has the potential to improve the welfare capabilities of officers across all participating colleges.
- Continue to work within the welfare team to host weekly Welfare sessions.
- Continue to promote the good work done by Furness students and university societies – this is especially important in a year where societies' fairs cannot take place in person.
- Continue to assist my fellow exec members with events.

Thank you for reading my manifesto and I hope that you will consider re-electing me as your Welfare and Education Officer. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to give back to Furness and there is a lot of work that I want to continue to do over the next year.

Vice President Welfare

Phil Ouko

Manifesto

My name is Phil Ouko, my pronouns are he/him. I'm a third year Chemical Engineering Student, your current Media and Communications Officer, and I would love to be selected as your next VP Welfare.

As the current Media and Communications Officer, I have worked incredibly closely with every member of the current JCR and have directly contributed to a significant proportion of their success, in particular the welfare team in order to manage the Facebook welfare page as well as teams and talk. I would like to use this in order to boost the outreach of the furness welfare page, increasing engagement and providing a safe space within Facebook in order to destress and relax from the negativity that is prevalent on Facebook at the moment. I want to do this by returning to a regular posting schedule, providing Facebook events, livestream and wholesome content (building on the work Henry did with wholesome Wednesday's). I would also like to look into getting a Furness Welfare Instagram page, another yet untapped avenue.

I've decided to run for VP Welfare because as someone who has personally gone through various rough spots, it pains me that throughout uni, I've seen that it's very difficult for people to feel like it's ok to reach out for help. Though there's no shame in reaching out, that first initial step between recognising there's an issue, and speaking to a mental health professional is an incredibly big gap, and within the role of VP welfare, I believe I would be incredibly suited for this, as an incredibly approachable guy, I am more than willing and capable to give 100% of my time in order to deal with any issue that may be handed to me on a case by case basis.

One key factor that contributed to my application is that distinct lack of BAME students across the JCRs of every college in the university. As a university that describes itself as an international university, the fact that so many students are essentially unrepresented is a crime. When I first joined the JCR in the summer, during the height of the BLM movement, I was appalled by the lack of action throughout the university, and was essentially powerless to change anything. My promise to you is that I want to initiate a college wide task group that looks into how colleges can become more welcoming to all BAME students, as well as boosting links between international and domestic students. I want to look into reasons why BAME students are underrepresented across the university and hopefully put in place a framework to combat this in the future.

Overall, I just want to make sure that you guys are ok, it's difficult to get by between lockdown and uncertainties with the virus and the workload that uni throws at you, and I really want to work towards making welfare services more accessible to everyone in Furness, as mental health can affect anyone, not just those that have had previous experiences.

Welfare and Communities Officer

No candidates