

# MCR Committee Elections: Candidate manifestos

## Easter 2018

Elections are upon us! Here are some reminders about voting, and following are the candidate manifestos:

All full members of the MCR, that is, all graduates registered at Murray Edwards College (as well as affiliated graduates and certain mature undergraduates) are entitled to vote. It is **vital that you vote** at each MCR election. This is your chance to **have a say** in who will be on your committee, and the committee have a considerable impact on your life in college! **Even if there is only one nomination for a position, your vote is still important:** this way, you can demonstrate your support for a candidate you endorse (a well-supported candidate has a better standing when they represent your views). Furthermore, if a position is uncontested and you don't support the candidate, you always have the option to vote for a **re-opening of nominations (RON)**.

Here is the elections schedule:

- **Fri 11 May:** Voting opens at 9pm
- **Mon 14 May:** Voting closes at 9pm

# Candidate manifestos

## Tamzin Byrne

Proposer: Hannah Forde

Secunder: Caitlin Frankish

### **Running for President**

Hello! I'm a student in the business school studying social change and organizational change, and professionally I've worked as a journalist and science communicator in Australia, Kenya and here in the UK, connecting experts with the communities they serve. I'd love to use all of this experience to help build a stronger community at Murray Edwards.

As a current member of the MCR, I played a big part in updating our constitution to make it more efficient and more inclusive, and I've done lots of work behind the scenes to help the MCR run smoothly. As your Pres, I could build on the committee's work this year to move forward some of the topics we've been discussing as a community, like financial support for students, student representation and race/ethnicity in College.

Aside from my studies, I'm also a member of University staff, so I have pretty good understanding of the University and the Cambridge community. I can connect us to useful resources and support networks. I also have loads of committee experience, including a term on the board of a major youth radio station back in Australia.

Murray Edwards was my first and only choice of college, and this community has expanded my world in so many ways. It would be the greatest honour to represent you in the next academic year. And regardless, I look forward to meeting more of you over a glass of sherry and doing what I can to keep Murray Edwards the most inclusive, supportive college at Cambridge!

## Melissa Newsome

Proposer: Brittany Orton

Secunder: Victoria Calderon

### **Running for social secretary**

Hello! My name is Melissa Newsome, and I am an MPhil candidate in Social Anthropology at Murray Edwards College. I am running for the position of social secretary. Last term, I was co-opted into the committee to provide a helping hand for the social events and other MCR committee tasks in College. I would love to continue serving the postgraduate community at Murray Edwards in this position, so, if you will, please vote for me to be the social secretary through Easter term and the summer. It would bring me great joy to continue serving the MCR on the committee as we finish the rest of the academic year.

## Ilana Toledano

Proposer: Frejya Yeatman

Secunder: Lakshmi Sagarika Bose

### **Running for Vice president**

Hi everyone! My name is Ilana Toledano and I am a 1st year PhD student in the Electronic Engineering department however it's my second year in Murray Edwards.

I would like to become the MCR vice president for many many reasons but mostly to share and give back all the fun and good energy I have had since joining Murray Edwards.

A lot of great things happened in the past two years; we have had several great events both socially and academically oriented. Despite not being part of the committee I have always been around to help with preparation, facilitation and clean-up. This has inspired me to participate in more activities and has given me many great ideas for further events.

This is why instead of focusing on one specific part of the MCR life I would like to get involved and support many different areas as much as I can; including welfare, green and socials. Which is why vice president made more sense than any other position.

This being said I would like to continue the previous Vice Pres' initiative on the PhD and living out students' community without giving anyone a feeling of being left out. As a PhD student myself I have noticed that work can be quite overwhelming. We tend to forget about the possibilities of college life and how nice a break can be and girls from college can be helpful. It is also a great hub for sharing your academic experiences and the struggles of a PhD, trying out presentations or just discovering what other people do in different fields and maybe start some collaborations or small projects.

I also would like to facilitate the very frequent transfer from living in college to moving outside of college for continuing students and give them as much support as possible, seeing as our college is too small to accommodate us all.

I think that the MCR committee is a great group and a nice way of working together for the college's well-being and I wish next year will be full of more cultural activities, sharing food and experiences or simply have a good time. I also look forward to preparing fresher's week which is a big part of the year and an amazing way to meet new people both in our own college and the others.

## Akhila Denduluri

Proposer: Helen Sander

Secunder: Tamzin Byrne

### **Running for Vice-President**

Dear MEdwardians, I write this statement as a candidate for the Vice President of Murray Edwards with much excitement and a spirit of camaraderie. I am a first year PhD student in the department of Chemistry. I was born and brought up in South India, and moved to US to pursue Bachelor's and

Master's in Biomedical Engineering. I am interested in the intersection of technology and healthcare, and I love performing arts.

Having been on the committee as a social secretary and performing the role of BME representative officer, I have had the chance to understand a lot about the structure and working of and within the college. However, most importantly, it has allowed me to be part of team passionate about enhancing the student college experience at MEdwards.

The conversations I've enjoyed with many of you over the last few months have helped me to understand and appreciate the diverse and prolific student body that constitutes the Murray Edwards MCR. Given the opportunities I've had and my experiences thus far, it would be a privilege to serve on the MCR committee for another year in the position of Vice-President. My foremost aim is to strive to truly and better reflect the values of the graduate community as part of the MCR committee, and if elected as the Vice-President, I would like to achieve this by focusing on the following action items:

- To better implement existing initiatives and foster new ideas that will further encourage inclusivity, and (as the incoming JCR President mentioned) 'help establish cultural diversity as part of the narrative at Murray Edwards'.
- To help with the smooth transition of international and local students, who are starting their graduate studies at Cambridge, with easy access to consolidated information sources and relevant knowledge body.
- To promote more interactions with each other within the college and with students across Cambridge.
- To explore ways to appreciate the vast art collection at MEdwards as part of the college experience, and to better discover the history of Cambridge.

As a person, I value transparency, creativity and diligence, and strive to bring the same values to any responsibility given to me.