

OLIVER SHAW FOR ACCESS & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Hi, I'm Ollie and I'm a first-year Historian. I really want to use this opportunity to show the world that Merton is the kind of place where anyone can achieve amazing things!

WHY ME?

- ✓ I want to use my experience of growing up with a profound hearing impairment to connect with the challenges that potential applicants and current Merton students face in their education.
- ✓ I wrote about the importance of making Oxford a welcoming, inclusive place in Cherwell. I was interviewed for The Oxford Student about the challenges of deafness, and wrote about my experiences for Humans of Oxford University.
- ✓ I'm super organised. At school, I managed a team of 80 prefects as Head Boy. I also had to talk to large audiences of prospective parents about my school as a safe, inclusive scholarly community - which will definitely come in handy at Merton.
- ✓ I like to think I'm friendly and approachable to anybody. I'll happily chat about anything, no matter how big or small! Talking about access and 'imposter syndrome' can be tricky, after all.
- ✓ I'm also a tough negotiator, and I'll work robustly with College staff to get things done. Progress will be made over the next year - we have much work to do!



MY AIMS

- ✓ **Boost Merton's social media presence so we can show the world what we're about.** We'll keep the JCR Instagram page VERY regularly updated with photos and content submitted by members of the JCR community. It's so important we show off our hard work in making Merton a wonderful and inclusive place to be!
- ✓ **Help teachers to debunk myths about Oxford** through informative and illuminating school visits to Merton. Providing clear information about Merton, Oxford and the application process will help teachers to support their students' dreams. Misconceptions about Oxford are still a HUGE problem and stopping talented people from having a go.
- ✓ **Promote financial support** to interview candidates and current Merton students. There really is a lot of help on offer, and I'll always be around to discuss options.
- ✓ **Build links with other colleges** to promote events for students who are among the first in their family to go to university (or Oxford!) including a social for our very own first-generation Merton freshers. There's a place for everyone here, and we need to show that.
- ✓ **Stand up for all members of the JCR** by ensuring that decisions taken by College and the JCR won't disadvantage anyone when it comes to events and opportunities.

I'M SHAW ABOUT THIS - ARE YOU?