Hi everyone! I'm Hajrah (she/her), a first-year English student, and I'm running for Access!

Why vote for me?
- I've been volunteering since I was 16, so I understand the importance of giving back to the community, which I hope to be able to do with Merton.
- I'm currently on the committee for Right for Education as VP. R:Ed is an NGO which works to provide people in sub-Saharan Africa with educational resources to widen access to information, so I already have experience managing a team whose priority is promoting equal opportunity.
- My experiences with volunteering and working to improve access has made me a very approachable, empathetic person, and I will be peer support trained to offer advice and support to those who need it.
- I've been managing my degree whilst being on the committee for two societies for the past two terms, so I am prepared to manage my time effectively by being well organised.

My plans
- Organise more joint events with other access orientated societies e.g., the Crankstart Scholar's society and the Midlander's society. I've already informally spoken to these committees, and they would be open to organising joint events hosted at Merton!
- Reach out to schools in areas with particularly low rates of progression to higher education for organised access days and open days. The June 2021 ‘Equality of access and outcomes in higher education in England’ briefing paper released by the government revealed that one of the barriers to equal access is ‘Insufficient advice and support’, which I will tackle head on!
- In the past, the Merton Access Instagram page has promoted projects like Oxbridging the Gap as well as celebrating international awareness days. I would like to further this effort by posting about access related events, including cultural festivals on a regular basis.

Meeting Dr Susi, the CEO of R:Ed!