

# Holly Maguire for Access Officer 2010



I want to improve Pembroke's already thriving reputation amongst the colleges for access, and I know that I have the time and conviction to do this.

- I will promote an application policy amongst both state and private schools that is not about statistics. Schools should support any student who wants to apply to Oxbridge - however "likely" their success.
- I want to encourage greater participation in access visits amongst Pembroke's undergraduates.
- I will establish training evenings in giving school tours and going on visits so that undergraduates feel confident in getting involved with access.
- I will stress greater awareness on the importance of GCSE results amongst secondary school students visiting Cambridge, whether they are likely to apply to university or not. We have the opportunity to impress upon students that how you do in exams matters.
- I will raise awareness amongst other colleges during CUSU Access meetings of Pembroke's positive attitude to applications i.e. being flexible over offers (AAB).
- I can devote the time I will have as a second year English student to making contact with our 140 link schools across 8 counties.

## The Specifics

- I will highlight admissions issues such as those surrounding the school or college essay requirement, which cannot necessarily be relied upon as an indicator of a student's regular work or academic ability.
- I will focus on understanding of the UCAS, and Cambridge, application process with teachers, for example highlighting the importance of a specific and relevant reference.
- I will dispell myths about the new A\* grade, and the disproportionate emphasis placed on interview (in fact it is only the decider in 20% of cases).

Students at Cambridge are not representative of the population, but they are representative of the people who apply.