



Christian Smith

Postgraduate & Mature Liberation Officer

- Promote commuting postgraduate students at York St John. In speaking to postgraduate students who commute to YSJ, it has become clear that the university needs to put on more events within campus for all postgrad students to make them feel more part of the YSJ family. At the moment, postgrad students can become isolated and can lack a sense of belonging, with some questioning as to whether their tuition fees are worth the experience; or lack thereof. I will ensure to reach out to the schools within YSJ to rectify this and increase inclusivity amongst mature students.

- Promote sports and societies to postgraduate and mature students. My university life before I joined a sports club felt lacking. By joining Badminton, it opened up an avenue to meet hundreds of people I would have never met and build friendships that will last a lifetime. Whilst events such as the Freshers Fair push these clubs and societies to undergraduate students, there appears to be little to no effort to reach out to postgraduate and mature students. If I were to be elected, I would ensure to create an outreach to these mature students to make sure they are aware that these amazing clubs and societies exist and add a new dimension to their student lives.

- Give postgraduate and mature students a bigger voice to be heard across YSJ. Mature students are a massive factor in the makeup across the university. It is not only important to provide these students with equal say regarding their educational experience, but to also to ensure they have a say of things outside of education, yet still related to York St John. This is why I am pledging to hold monthly meetings for all postgraduate and mature students to attend and voice any concerns or queries they are having regarding their experience. These matters will then be followed up to the relevant avenues of staff on campus to ensure a quick resolution.

- Increase awareness of postgraduate study to undergraduates. The postgraduate and mature students that study at York St John are an inspired community of fantastic people. I have met many fellow postgraduates having begun my further study who have all made me feel welcome and greeted me with a smile. It is important for this section of students to continue to flourish inside these walls and it is vital to increase awareness of the postgraduate studying options that are available to students who have completed their studies either at YSJ itself or from further afield. I pledge to ensure the university put a bigger effort to sell this wonderful experience to undergraduate students, whilst explaining better what the postgraduate lifestyle may entail.

This university has given me so much over the 3 years I have been here and if I were to be elected, it would be an honour to be able to give something back.