

Aibhe McBride

for JCR President 24/25



Hey..!

My name is Aibhe McBride, I'm nineteen years old hailing from county Mayo in the west of Ireland. I'm currently studying BESS (my favourite flavour of Play-Doh is the red one), and I am also a member of the Irish Language Residency Scheme, or 'Scéim', in Halls this year. I'm very excited to be running for JCR president, and I hope I can earn your vote with my manifesto, quick wit and bribery! (the latter is...a joke.)

Why Me?

A Voice for Halls

As JCR president, a crucial role is to act as a representative for Halls within Trinity College, whether that be in TCDSU or the Accommodation office. I believe I have valid experience to be able to excel in this role. I've had the opportunity to represent my region at the National session of European Youth Parliament Ireland, engaging with hundreds of young people in the country on social, cultural and political issues Europe-wide. Working with motivated, like-minded individuals on solutions to these problems and further defending and debating our findings to a community of hundreds of delegates online proved to be an invaluable experience in developing my interpersonal, social and communication skills. Similarly, being a member of Comhairle Na nÓg, the Youth Council of Mayo and being on Ireland's first young peoples consultation with the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe, I have been exposed to the real-world solution-making processes to social, cultural and environmental issues that surround us today. These experiences have contoured my ability to speak up, take action, and make a difference in a community, big or small.

Creativity

I believe that any leading role must encompass enthusiasm, diligence and very importantly, creativity. There are no bounds to being creative and some of my extra-curricular experiences are ways in which I display my creativity, ambition and passion. I have been playing music for almost 15 years now, and have been fortunate enough to perform in the

Pantheon in Rome, the National Concert Hall in Dublin and the Royal Welsh College of Music in Cardiff. Being further part of the Mayo Harp Ensemble and various music groups has fostered a desire to strive for excellence, to push my limits and believing that the best ideas come from the collaboration of people working toward a common goal. I believe that that is what the JCR is all about. A group of inspired, motivated and passionate individuals forming a coherent team to work toward providing nothing but the best experience for each new incoming resident in Trinity Hall.

Leadership

Take a look at any leader of any organisation. Aside from some questionable public figures (not naming names, let's not get too political), great leaders encompass many qualities like reliability, integrity, trust and empathy. They also need skills like communication, delegation and organisation, and I have had the opportunity to learn and develop many of these skills and qualities by completing a diploma in Youth Leadership and Community Action with the University of Galway at sixteen. Through Foróige, one of Ireland's leading youth organisations, this experience allowed me to take on a community action project, through which myself and a friend set up an online second hand clothing shop to raise money for Mayo Pink Ribbon, a charity committed to supporting breast cancer research. To this day, I have continually used the skills developed throughout the completion of the course. This is evident in my role as a mentor to incoming first year students in my secondary (high) school, and also as a member of Scéim. Both roles require(d) taking an active leading role in organising events, making people feel welcome and comfortable in a new environment and having a good laugh doing it! These are all life experiences and skills which are directly transferable to the role of JCR president, and I would greatly appreciate your support and vote in the upcoming elections!

My Goals

1. Society Integration

As first year students, there are so many new opportunities to take a hold of in Trinity, one of which includes joining some societies. However, we don't seem to really know how they operate, what being an active member includes and even which ones to join. I would like to see more collaborations next year between TCD societies and Trinity Hall, to host some events to give students a flavour for the type of work the societies do. A great example of such an event this year was the TES Trinity Dragon's Den competition in halls, which I am proud to say I won along with my flatmates that got dragged along!

2. Increased Social Opportunities

As a resident of Trinity Hall this year, one of the highlights for me in terms of socialising and meeting new people was at the halls mixers like 'wine and cheese' and 'mulled wine and mince pies'. There's nothing that gets students going more than some free food and booze, so incorporating that into an event meant that so many halls residents came together in Oldham to indulge in the festivities. I believe holding more mixers such as these would not only keep residents fed and watered, but also create a forum for residence to get to know one another in a great environment. Providing beverages other than alcohol at the events would also diminish the college drinking culture that many people feel uncomfortable by. Creating events that cater to every need is everything. The JCR committee should aim to maximise each and every Trinity Hall experience.

3. Improved Study Spaces

As serious academics of Trinity College, members of halls made great use of the canteen and Oldham library as study spaces throughout the year and (mainly, let's be honest) during exam season. However, there are poorly accessible plug sockets in the canteen to charge laptops, and the Oldham library is quite a small and uncomfortable space, especially when the heating is off! I propose both the development of the halls canteen as a year-round study space and the investment of better study equipment in Oldham house. This would involve the insertion of more plug sockets and optimally placed desks to improve the quality of the study space for the hassle-free completion of last minute assignments and such.

4. A Halls Community

There is undoubtedly a fantastic community of people in Halls, between residents, the JCR and welfare teams and (most of the time) the warden and accommodation staff. As president, I would make it a constant goal to maintain and build upon the amazing relationships that have been established amongst all elements of the Halls community. These relationships are integral in the smooth operating of halls events throughout the year, creating the best experiences possible for residents. As president, it would be my duty to ensure that the JCR as a whole operate to the best of our ability to make this happen. The JCR is such a unique and incredible opportunity presented to us in Trinity College, and I would be honoured to represent the halls community as president!

