

END OF YEAR REPORT

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Director of Education

July 2024



WELCOME MESSAGE

You made it to the end of the 2023-24 Academic Year - congratulations!

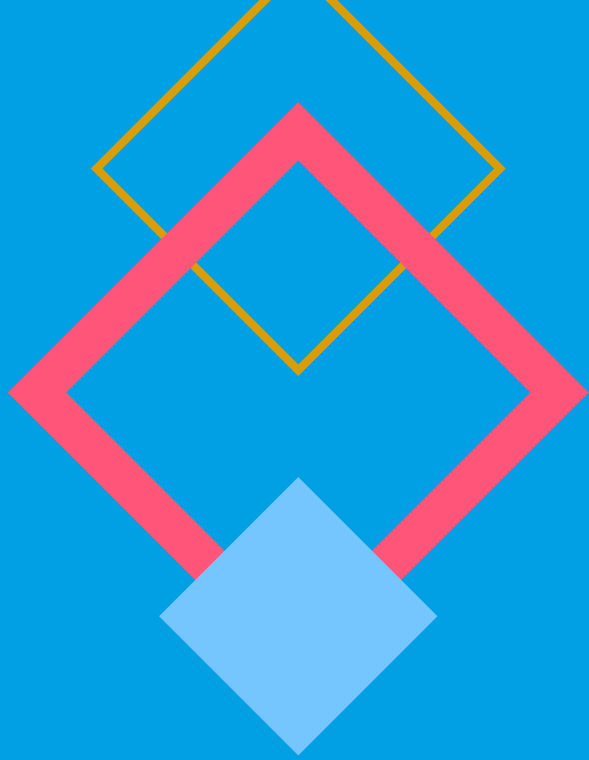
This report reflects carefully on the work I've done throughout my time as Your DoEd. I review the progress I've made toward my original manifesto goals, explaining where those have changed and why, as well as discussing some of the opportunities that arose on the job.

I am eternally grateful for the team around us, from our Class Reps to the School Presidents and Language Convenors, our outstanding Academic Representation Co-Ordinator, Chase, the Education Executive Team, and to the rest of the Sabbs - without whom, none of my achievements would have been possible.

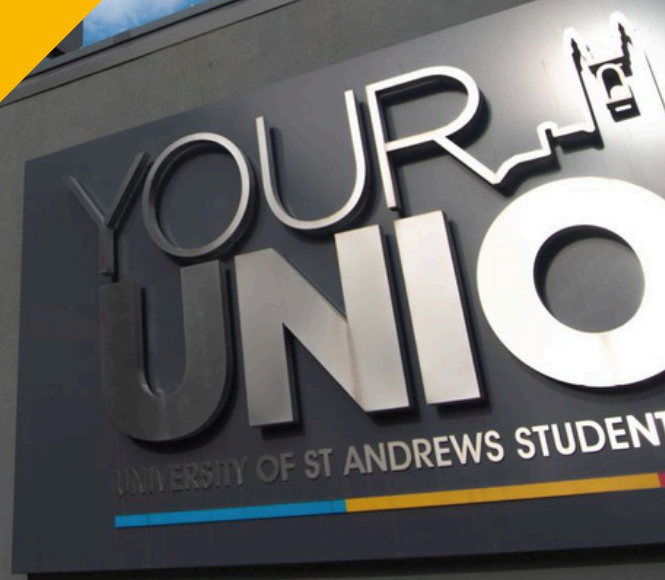
I'm excited that my time as one of Your Sabbs is not quite over - I get to return as Your Association President for 2024-25. While I will miss focusing on education matters, I'm excited for a new challenge.

I hope you enjoy my final report as Your DoEd!

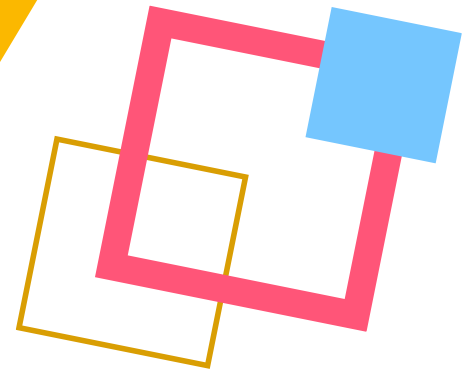






MANIFESTO GOALS



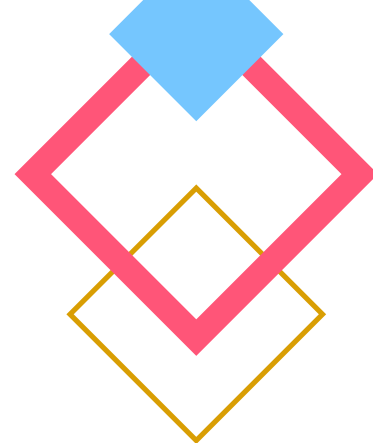
MANIFESTO GOALS






My original manifesto contained 20 individual goals split across five areas: (1) Be Visible (2) Deliver for You (3) Make Your Voice Heard (4) Ensure Every Person Matters (5) Supporting the Sabb Team. While many of my goals have changed since taking office, I am proud to have made significant progress on many of my promises to you. Here is a brief description of what I've done so far on my original campaign pledges:

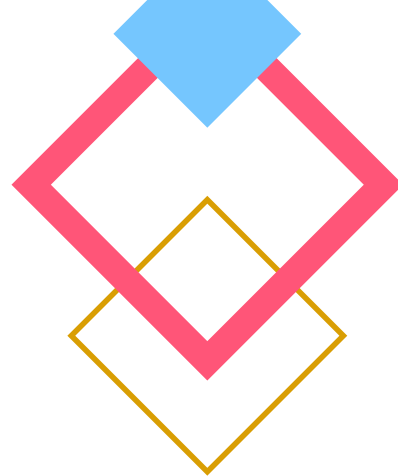
Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
Visible and Accessible	 Always in progress	As Your DoEd, I spent much of my time out and about, meeting students where they are all year. On various projects (like the Academic Calendar consultation), I went on "road shows" to listen to students' views in buildings and in spaces. I posted regularly on my social media , have spoken on podcasts, and have co-hosted open forum meetings as well. If you've missed all that, you've probably at least received one of my infamous "you've been nudged..." emails during Class Rep Elections! I'll continue to be visible and present when I take up office as Your Association President, so I can meet even more fantastic students to hear their ideas and experiences.
Access my diary	 Complete	I made my diary publicly visible on Microsoft Outlook. Anyone who wanted to could view my calendar (doed@) through the Outlook App or Web Browser to see what I'm up to on a daily and weekly basis!

MANIFESTO GOALS



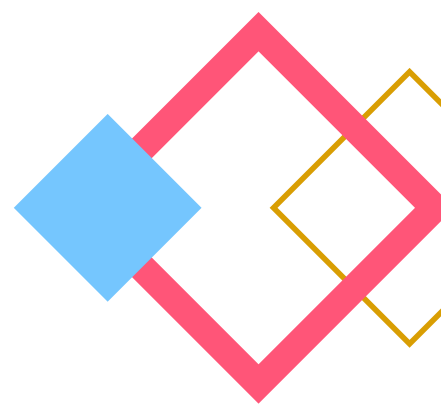
Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Listening & Championing and Representing YOU</p>		<p>Listening to student ideas and championing them underpins all of the work that I do. In the second section of this report, I detail all of the work I've done on topics that students have told me are priorities, like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension policies • Academic appeals • A Change Programme at the Union <p>I took action to strengthen the student voice wherever possible; for example, I expanded the number of student seats on the Academic Senate by adding the PGT and PGR Presidents as voting members of this high-level decision making body within the University.</p>
<p>24 hour study spaces</p>		<p>We launched a review of all the study spaces in St Andrews, and lobbied the University to open up access to Butts Wynd 24/7 for seminar and group study rooms.</p> <p>We also rebranded the PG Lounge, keeping and respecting important PG Access through the day, while opening it up to any student who wants to use it when the Library is closed.</p>
<p>Personal academic tutors</p>	 Paused	<p>I paused work on the Personal Academic Tutors scheme I discussed in my manifesto. This was in-part due to industrial action; I wanted to be sensitive to teaching staff and not adding a review of that workload during ongoing strike action at the start of term. I ended up prioritising other goals, due to how time-intensive this project would have been. I would love the University leadership to explore options for academic and pastoral advice in Schools in the future.</p>





MANIFESTO GOALS



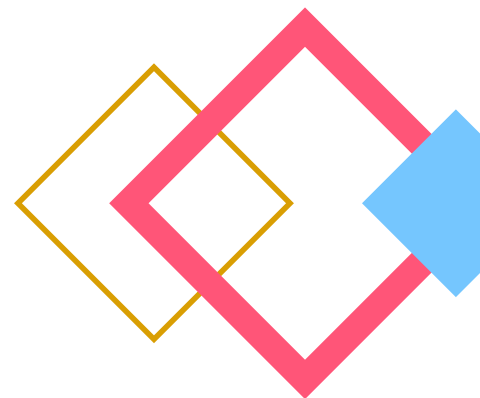
Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
Tuition receipts		I also paused work on tuition receipts. As above, auditing where spending goes within Schools wouldn't have been possible with industrial action, and other priorities were more time-sensitive and able to be actioned. I would love to see this picked up by future reps!
Expose hidden fees		I worked with the Associate Deans on how to coordinate this project within Schools and had hoped to see more work on this in Semester Two, though this did not come to fruition. I hope this is picked up by reps in future years.
We'll Ask & More Regular Polling		As DoEd, I took steps to ask for student opinions and ensured I always based my decisions based on what you want and need. The new Academic Calendar, for instance, was based on students' top preference of model. My team also ran a Library open forum, and conducted regular smaller polls through our Class & PG Rep system and social media to gather student opinions about what to do.
Introduce Q&A with the VP	 Complete and in progress	In addition to regular meetings with the Vice President Education (the Proctor), I also co-hosted podcasts and interviews with her on topics like the calendar. The Proctor attended our first Undergraduate Academic Forum of the year, where she interacted with School Presidents and Language Convenors about important topics like academic alerts and extensions. In Semester 2, I even managed to get the Principal to attend EduComm for the first time! I hope to carry on this kind of work as Your Association President.



MANIFESTO GOALS



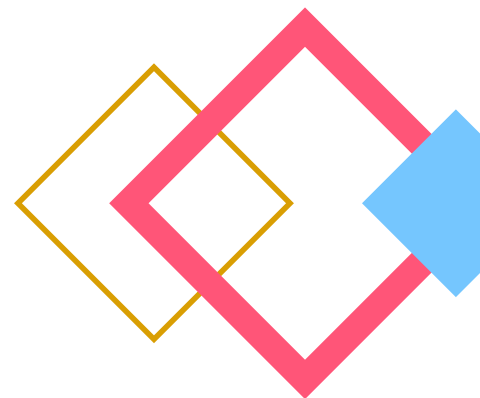
Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Supporting School Presidents and Reps (and Building Up PGT & PGR Reps)</p>	 	<p>Early in summer, I worked to remodel the PG Rep System, and my proposed changes were ratified by the SRC and Academic Senate.</p> <p>At the Undergraduate level, I worked to build a supportive environment for School Presidents, creating opportunities for partnership between senior University decision makers and our top student leaders in Schools.</p> <p>I also diversified the student voices serving on University Committees (see below in the "Reimagining Representation" heading!)</p> <p>On the PG side, we've launched discussions into making the PGT and PGR Presidents paid, part-time Sabbs, under the work of the Democracy Review.</p>
<p>Here for you at every level</p>		<p>From the Student Representative Council to the University Court and Senate, I am representing student voices at every opportunity. I took action on emergency situations, like the discovery of RAAC in teaching spaces and industrial action, ensuring a strong presence for students so that our needs are represented and met. This is something I will carry forward as Your Association President.</p>
<p>Cutting red tape</p>		<p>Both within the Union and the University, there's a lot that can be changed and simplified. For example, I reformed the Education Discretionary Fund (EDF) to make guidelines clearer and more transparent, ensuring student money is accessible to our Reps. I also worked to build better links between our SRC Officers on topics of shared priority (like Employability). Most importantly in this section, I led the initiation of a Change Programme, which is detailed in another heading.</p>


MANIFESTO GOALS

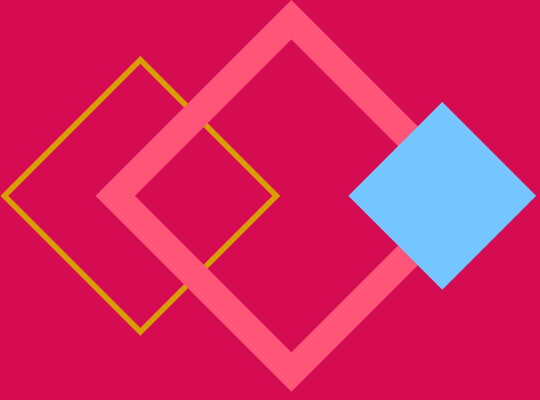


Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Putting you at the heart of the SU</p>		<p>To make the Union more responsive to students, I worked with the Students' Association Board to initiate a Change Programme (see the heading below for more details).</p>
<p>Retention and Reintegration Programme (Leave of Absences)</p>		<p>Beginning in December 2023, my team and I began reviewing University policies and procedures on returning from leaves of absence. We also undertook a peer comparison at other Universities to see how St Andrews can be better supportive of students who take a gap in their studies. We had hoped to launch a more thorough investigation, consultation, and potentially a campaign in Semester Two, though this did not come to fruition due to other priorities. However, Student Services have resources for students considering taking a leave of absence, so please reach out to them if this is something you are thinking about.</p>

MANIFESTO GOALS



Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Supporting other Sabbs</p>		<p>I'm grateful to work in a team of five other amazing full-time Sabbatical Officers. We get to partner and collaborate almost every day, but some highlights from the last year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Barry (Association President) on setting up and advertising the Campus Larder • Backing Caitlin (Director of Wellbeing and Equality) on her work with the Race Equality Charter. • Partnering with Sam (Director of Student Development and Activities) to review Postgraduate Activity Support. • Working with Fiona (Athletic Union President) to expand the Wednesday Afternoon Protection (for sports and activities) to PGTs and PGRs. • Supporting Lucy (Director of Events and Services) and her staff team during Freshers by taking on shifts in the bars, and events, just to help out! • Working with all the Sabbs to allocate our Activities Budget, giving funding groups like Saints LGBT+, Debates, and the Academic Representation Team.






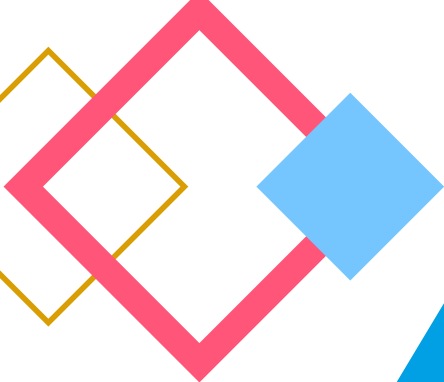
ACHIEVEMENTS & **PROGRESS**






ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRESS

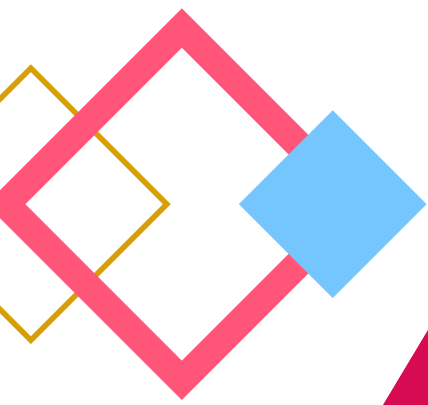
This section encompasses the projects and initiatives I have progressed *outside* of my original manifesto plan. While many of my initial ideas outlined in my manifesto remain important, many opportunities to positively affect student learning and research have presented themselves since taking office. Here are a few of the opportunities I've jumped on:

Achievement or Project	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Remodelling the Academic Calendar</p>		<p>In the largest-ever consultation run at the University, I worked with senior decision makers to get a new model for Semester Two passed and adopted through the Academic Senate. Thanks to the hard work of your representatives, Semester Two will include an independent learning week, a longer winter break, and a restoration of the May Dip tradition BEFORE exams, all while retaining two weeks of revision time and allowing staff to have time off during school holidays. We overcame substantial resistance; when the University wanted to delay changes by another academic year, I pushed hard to ensure changes for 2024/25 (the soonest possible timeline). The new calendar will be based on 65% of students' first or second choice of model.</p>
<p>University-wide Extensions Policy (for assessments)</p>	 	<p>Working with the Deans and the Academic Representatives, we put together and launched a new University-wide platform and guidelines around extensions. The new portal is live NOW and has been adopted by all but two Schools. From AY2024-25, the guidance and portal will become mandatory, ensuring every student has access to the same basic system and entitlements for extensions, regardless of subject area.</p> <p>The School Presidents and PGT Reps brought to our attention that how the new portal is being used still varies widely by School, and I worked on this with the decanal team to ensure consistency. We're well on our way to an extension system that is equitable and supportive for students.</p>





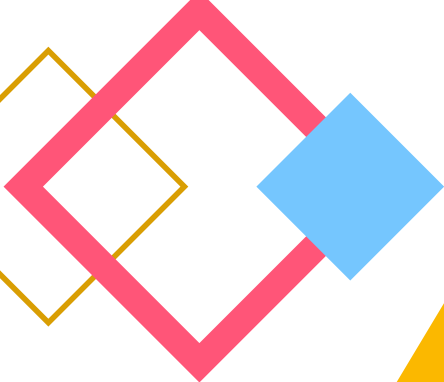
ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRESS

Achievement or Project	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Students' Association Change Programme</p>		<p>Along with my fellow Sabbatical Officers and Students' Association Board Members, we've launched a comprehensive review and restructure of how the Association functions. As the Vice-Chair and Convenor of the Change Committee, I secured partnership and funding from the University to support the Change Programme, which is being led by a newly hired Change Director. This work will bring our Union up to par on the services and representational support we offer, and will look at ways to make us more responsive to the student voice.</p> <p>Over Semester 2, we installed Antony Blackshaw as our Change Director, with Graeme Woods and Natalie Bates (two of his consulting staff) undertaking reviews and staff and officer consultation. We are beginning work on the Democracy Review, looking at our student leadership structures, including how to make SRC more effective, and a clearer definition of Sabb roles.</p>
<p>Academic Alerts</p>	 	<p>Partnering with the Deans, the DoWell, the Disabled Students' Network, and the Disability Reps, we've successfully reviewed and improved the Academic Alert system. This includes a softening of the language used in these emails, focusing first on student wellbeing rather than employing blaring warnings and punitive language.</p> <p>A greater review will hopefully take place in the new academic year.</p>






ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRESS




Achievement or Project	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Reimagining Representation on University Committees</p>		<p>This year, I implemented work that was started by the past two DoEds to improve student representation on University Committees within my remit area. As part of this process, the Students' Association and the University have agreed on a new method to appoint students to serve on University Committees in the first place – diversifying the voices on these decision making groups and ensuring all levels of Academic Reps are speaking for students on important policies and priorities.</p> <p>We've also improved the guidance given to student reps on these committees and ensured that committee staff are more actively consulting students and student reps on any proposal they are drafting that affects the student experience. These changes mark a larger culture shift to make the University more responsive to student voices, and strengthen our position as your representatives.</p>
<p>Purdie Building and RAAC Response</p>		<p>In response to discovery of RAAC in the Purdie Building, I stepped up to provide a student voice and response at weekly check ins with University Officials. I consulted with School Presidents and Reps about alternative venues, the move to online study, and what further support was needed while these spaces were closed. We also made sure that there were QR Codes in the Willie Russel Building to collect feedback from students about the alternative teaching spaces put in place, and sent out a variety of communications with the University to students whose classes were affected by the closure.</p> <p>Purdie Theatre A reopened for teaching this academic year, which is a huge success!</p>

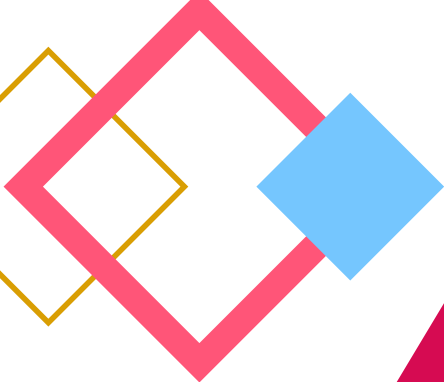


ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRESS




Achievement or Project	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Rebranding and Upgrading the Student-led Teaching Awards</p>		<p>Ahead of our annual Teaching Awards, I rebranded them to be the "1413 Awards" (named after the year the University was founded), and making internal changes to make the awards and accompanying ceremony feel more special and important. Our teachers do excellent work, and it's important that we give the staff recognised by students a celebration that is as exceptional as they are.</p> <p>This year's event was a fantastic success - thank you to all the staff, officers, and students involved, and of course, our teachers!</p>
<p>Rectoral Election</p>		<p>Along with the Sabbs, led by the Association President, we ran a successful Rector's Election with three candidates. I made sure to bring all three candidates before the Education Committee to answer questions from School and Postgraduate Presidents and to test their views on important academic and research issues.</p>
<p>Library Open Forum</p>		<p>The Education Executive Team partnered with the Library to run a student consultation on topics like opening hours, facilities, and collections. We're working actively with the Library staff to review the incredible amount of student feedback we received, and will be working together to make improvements and enhancements based on student feedback.</p>

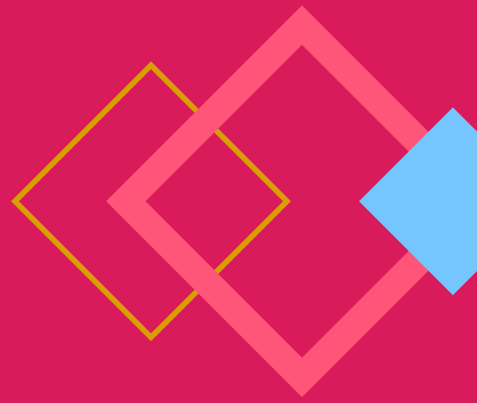
ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRESS

Achievement or Project	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Quality Enhancement (URLTs, QESR, Annual Academic Monitoring)</p>		<p>As part of my role, I served on several University-led Reviews of Learning and Teaching to ensure Schools are meeting quality teaching standards. I also preparing student views for the next external review of the University, our Quality Enhancement Standards Review (QESR) and am updated the "student engagement" section of the Quality Code that the University responds to on an annual basis.</p>
<p>Education Committee Constitution Review</p>	 Pushed	<p>EduExec reviewed the EduComm Constitution in Semester 1, looking at how we may better work with equality SRC officers, and clarifying remits.</p> <p>This work now falls under the scope of the Change Programme and Democracy Review, so it has been placed under that wider review of the Union's work.</p>
<p>Class and PG Rep Elections</p>		<p>You've Been Nudged!</p> <p>In semester one, the School Presidents and EduExec team set a record for the highest number of candidates in a Students' Association Election – with over 9% of the student body choosing to run for a Rep role! This exceptional involvement is the result of immense dedication from School Presidents and Language Convenors, and thanks to our team efforts, we now have over 500 Reps in place, trained, and making improvements in your departments.</p>



ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRESS

Achievement or Project	Current Status	What I've Done
Subcommittee budgets		<p>Working with the Director of Student Development and Activities (DoSDA), I introduced a new budget for Education Operations (which allocated £4,000 for Education projects and Rep support). This will prevent funding that should go to School-level Reps from being eaten up by annual projects like the Teaching Awards, recognition for volunteers, and Rep Election materials.</p>
Student Partnership Agreement		<p>Working with the other Sabbatical Officers and the Proctor, we wrote a draft Student Partnership Agreement between the Union and the University. Work on this has since paused, and will carry on into the next academic year.</p>
Academic Appeals Consultation		<p>In Semester 2, we undertook research into academic appeals policies at other universities to see how these processes work at other institutions. We also launched a survey on student opinion and experiences of academic appeals. We were unable to take this further, but hope that other staff and student reps will be able to progress this in future.</p>



LOOKING TO 2024-2025



Your Sabbs 2023/24

As you can see from this report, I've worked on so many projects in my time as Your DoEd. It was such a privilege to be trusted with this mandate for education over the past 12 months. None of this would have been possible without my fellow Sabbs, the Academic Representation Team (thank you, Chase and Emily), and the other Students' Association and University staff who supported me in my projects.

Now I have the great honour of being elected as Your Association President. While my remit has changed, my focus on transparency and improving the work of the Students' Association has not wavered.

I can't wait to see what the next academic year holds. Here's to 2024-25!

#YESWECAM



Your Sabbs 2024/25