

Alright pets!

My name is Rachael Blaney (Blanes to some, 'that Northern girl from Byker Grove' to many!) I am a first year Dance student and I will be running for the position of Societies President.

Since coming to Roehampton in September 2010, I have become an active member of many societies. I was encouraged within my first week of university to become involved in as many activities as possible, to widen my horizons and get to know as many people as I could. So I got on it! Being on the dance course, I was eager to join their society, which has given me so many opportunities to watch professional performances and to take part in extra classes. I also joined the Roehampton Players, as I am a bit of a musical fanatic and the Netball team, as of which I am a first team player.

I feel I have a good knowledge on the direction of Societies at Roehampton to date and I have become eager over the past few months to strive for change and for something new and fresh to be brought to the table. I would love to carry on where our current Societies President leaves off.

It has become clear there is lack of communication between societies at Roehampton and this is where I would like to start the change. As a student, I never hear of any societies, other than the ones I am in. I see a few posters here and there and the odd event on facebook, but there is no passion or drive behind it to involve other students here at university. Although it may seem a heavy loaded job, I am willing to commit to regular meetings with representatives of each society and to discuss any problems they may be having or any changes they would like to make. I plan to keep the students of Roehampton fully aware of what is going on and hopefully encourage a lot of them to sign up to different societies. I would like to work closely with the activities and events officers and organise various socials, gatherings and trips away – events that will allow everyone to integrate over something they are passionate about.

Personally, I have made some of my best friends here through societies. Long rehearsals and training sessions followed by a few drinks in the bar (standard!) is what has brought me closer to the people I share so much in common with. I am a very passionate person and I am extremely driven to make changes within our societies, to allow students the best university experience possible. I am determined to bring some fun into our long-lectured, constant studying, ever so hard working, lives!

If you see me around campus, come and have a natter, I'm a very approachable person – honest! Or if you fancy a snoop, add me on facey-bee!

Over and out, see you about! x

