

Manifesto

Over the past academic year the students of Digby Stuart College have been extremely patient. At the beginning of the year there was a lack of any social space for the students of Digby and sadly it was damaging to the college spirit. First year students needed a space to establish as their own at the beginning of university life which is individual to their college and Digby didn't have one. Because of the lack of a social space it was difficult for off campus students such as myself to feel a part of Digby. There was also a clear lack of space for the students who did not drink because of the centrality of The Union bar to Roehampton's social life. The current Digby President Luke holiday has spent most of the year fighting for a space for our students to socialise; the canteen and the Digby Square. To make next years new students feel comfortable in their college from the very beginning of the year we should have an event during Fresher's week individual to Digby College.

The Digby Square would be a perfect space to develop into an event such as a Digby Arts fair. Musicians, creative writers, artists, actors and imaginative individuals are found in abundance on Digby. It will serve as an opportunity to meet and greet others, it will enable all students on and off campus, drinking and non drinking to engage in the artistic skills of Digby. This college is filled with imaginative and creative individuals and so a Digby Arts fair would be very beneficial in the development of our unique academic qualities. Luke recently said to me that his year as President was always going to be difficult and his essential aim was to set up a foundation on which a new Digby can be built. Therefore Digby should hold an event in the common room every week organised by the students through either an online forum or social committee so that they feel closer and more connected to their college.

I work in the bar and already have a good relationship with the RSU which I would be able to build upon in the role of college president. I have given my full support to Luke in his role this year in every way I can, in voicing the opinions of off-campus students and being a part of the Digby social committee. The committee set up this year will be very important in voicing the opinions of the Digby students and it is important to establish its beneficial qualities as early in the year as possible. Rather than just facebook groups being used to openly debate issues surrounding the college I think it is far more important to have a hands on approach to dealing with any issues. Discussions of issues face to face is paramount in creating a stronger college spirit. Through this the students can feel as though their reps really are there for them. Finally I think it is important to build stronger relationships between other colleges. Joint events between Froebel and Digby would not only lessen the animosity between the colleges but also create a feeling of unity.

Although this year has been a rather frustrating one for many Digby students especially in view of a social space, the foundations laid by this years representatives and a strong College President next year would pave a way for a bright future for Digby Stuart College.