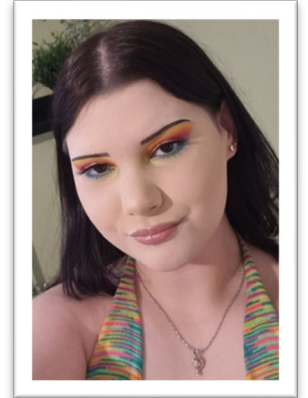


OLIVIA WRIGHTSON (STUDENT OFFICER)

The accessibility around the University is one of the many things that I want to improve on, there is so much more to accessibility; it contains many subcategories, such as improving the physical environment and helping to get rid of social barriers that people face, whether it be due to their sexuality, gender, ethnicity, religion, or social class. Accessibility is incredibly important; it enables people to achieve more within their own lives despite the barriers that people can face daily. For this reason, that is a massive passion of mine and something that I, on the daily, advocate for.



The physical environment around the University is incredibly inaccessible to disabled students, and the journey between campuses can be incredibly difficult due to the lack of street lamps and ramps that allow students to get around safely. There are also issues with the lifts breaking down and the communication around that, alongside learning agreements not being fully met. These are just a small number of issues that I want to fix within the University, as everyone has the right to an accessible education. I intend to improve the accessibility for disabled students, especially as I am one myself.

Additionally, the cost of living crisis has heavily impacted students, limiting the accessibility for those within the lower classes; I would like to limit its overall effect on students. This has also led to students' mental health and well-being declining, and according to student feedback, the university's support is lacking. This is something I desperately want to improve on, as it is important that all students have a support system from the university. I personally know the struggles of dealing with mental health whilst studying at university, whether this is due to assignment stress or outside factors. It is vital that we all, as students, can get adequate support from the university. I hope and plan to limit these issues and improve accessibility within the university.

Diversity and inclusion are just one of the many things that I am also passionate about and very eager to improve. This also is another sub-category of accessibility! There is a general lack of representation across the universities, and I would love to work with the social networks in an attempt to help improve this. I would love to increase the number of events that take place under the student union and include different types of holidays across all religions and cultures so that we can truly embrace the diversity that there is at the university.

These are just a few issues that I intend to change, and as of now, I am actively putting in a lot of time and energy to help make a positive change for these things. I am able to attempt to make a change through being a StAR, a One Winchester Representative, and working towards being a co-chair for the disability, inclusion, and equality group. It is through these groups that I can start to make a change for the better.