A little bit about me:

Hi! My name’s Rebecca (or Ouida when I find myself in an important place) and I’m a fresher studying Materials. I went to a state school and I had loads of support through lots of access schemes run by colleges and the university which are the reason why I’m here today and that’s why I’d love to be Access Officer for St Anne’s.

Access is something I’ve gotten involved with since coming to Oxford through college and my department but also back home where I’ve been in contact with a number of state school Oxbridge candidates and helping them out with their applications.

My ideas:

- Carry on the hard and amazing work already done by the Access Team here at St Anne’s!
- I’ve been putting together a budgeting spreadsheet and a little guide to finances as well as a list of bursaries for students to consider. A huge thank you to everyone that’s contributed towards this!! I hope to share this with everyone and organise a little drop-in session for anyone that needs help personalising it to their needs at the start of term as well as my email address if anyone has any problems during term too. (If you’d like the spreadsheet now, please feel free to send me an email-search Ouida and you should find me!).
- Encourage students to come up with their own ideas based on what they think would have helped them. Do a little survey of students who were involved in access initiatives before coming here to share their experiences.
- Get St Anne’s publicised. I love the Instagram student takeovers but I’m not going to lie to you, I didn’t even know St Anne’s was a college until I came across it on the list of 7 colleges that did Materials Science and then decided it was the college for me. Therefore, I think publicity of the college, especially publicising events being run to boost access, would really help. I think a “Students of St Anne’s” page which celebrates the amazing students here and all their achievements (or adding this to the college Instagram) as well as making some content on YouTube!
- Alternatively, instead of videos, a little page on the website which covers some advice on what you could do/read for your application for that subject. This wouldn’t need to be long but would be an invaluable resource for students, especially those applying for more niche subjects or from schools where students receive little or no support.
- Work with the Equal Opportunities Officer and have an event for Freshers from disadvantaged backgrounds (First-Gen, low income, low Access to Higher Education in their area/school etc.) and create a parent system for these students with older years who are from similar backgrounds.

Why I’d be a great Access Rep:

- I’m incredibly passionate about access and the impact it can have on students’ beliefs that they can apply and are good enough to apply.
- I’m super organised (literally my entire life can be found in various lists and spreadsheets).
- I’m approachable and open to any ideas anyone has. I love a good survey!!
- As somebody who has had “people from Dursley don’t go to Oxford” said to me, I know what a big step applying and then going to Oxford can be.

Thank you for reading my manifesto! Rebecca x