

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

# VOTE **CHRIS** CLASSICS PRESIDENT

ON MARCH 4TH AND 5TH

PRO DISCIPULIS



- **Rebuild the Classics Community post-Pandemic**
- **Access to Study Spaces and Resources**
- **Bring Back Classics Events**

# Manifesto

## Introduction

My name is Chris Wilkinson, and I am studying a joint honours degree in Classical Studies and Latin. I would love the chance to represent students of the School of Classics, and make sure their concerns are always heard and prioritised. I have spent this year as a deputy copyeditor for *The Saint*, putting me in regular contact with the thoughts, opinions and worries of the whole student body. As School President, I would like to make student voices heard in the same way. Equally, I want students to be completely informed about the decisions made which affect them. Beyond the weekly email circular, I would also like to utilise social media to keep students aware of the increasing opportunities available to them this year.

## Rebuilding the Classics Community

The pandemic has prevented most of School of Classics' most loved events from taking place. For over a year, students have been deprived of the opportunities they deserve (and pay for). Now that plans to lift restrictions are in place, we must ensure our Classics community is as strong and exciting as ever. I plan to work closely with the Classics Society to ensure events take place regularly, such as Pub Quizzes and Symposiums (informal discussions with lecturers). I would also like to survey students and staff to see if there are any other ways they feel Classics community can be strengthened.

## Access to Resources

Swallowgate/Craigard is the heart of the School of Classics, and I want students to be able to make use of the Classics library, computer room, and other study spaces as soon as possible. It is vital students can access all the resources the School has to offer and feel safe and comfortable doing so. Students have spent months studying in limited spaces, and variation has become increasingly necessary. Likewise, online texts or scanned books are no substitute for physical copies, and they cannot be a permanent fixture after the pandemic. I will push for relevant Classics books to be readily available in the School of Classics library, and make sure students are not obliged to scroll through endless PDF files!

## No-one Left Behind

It is no secret that Classics has been an elitist subject in the past; and despite the University's best efforts, the pandemic has put some students in Classics at a disadvantage. Limited access to books, study spaces and free conversation with peers has made it harder than ever for students without a background in Classics to build foundational knowledge. Like many state-educated students, I did not have the chance to take any Classics qualifications before I came to St Andrews, so I understand the importance of extra-curricular resources. I will make every effort to ensure no student is put at a disadvantage because of this.