



RHONA MCCRACKEN

Voting Opens

Thursday 4th March

**COMPUTER
SCIENCE
SCHOOL
PRESIDENT**

Rhona McCracken CS School President Manifesto

As your Computer Science School President, I will be a friendly face for all students. I'll strive to ensure that CS students know who they can go to with any concerns, whether academic or personal and be reassured that they'll be supported by their fellow students and the school itself.

My three aims are to:

- **Better engage with students** through open, thoughtful discussion to help make informed progress on important issues.
- **Make up for lost time** by ensuring events that were cancelled during the pandemic are rescheduled so that we all can experience everything the school has to offer.
- **Support students** and their **wellbeing** by creating an encouraging environment to work and learn in.

Engaging with Students

Class representatives' roles in the school are well-established and invaluable, so I will work with them to ensure that all issues are being dealt with. As the class reps focus on day-to-day issues and individual problems within each year group, I will supplement their work by looking towards more general, bigger issues. My emphasis will be on collecting feedback through **initiating conversations** and using it to make informed, useful progress towards **diversity and wellbeing**.

To this end, I will ensure that I am always available for conversation, whether that be in labs (restrictions allowing), in the CS discord, or even in the informal discussion sessions that I will hold.

Making Up For Lost Time

The computer labs available to students are a valuable asset and one that I will work towards revitalising after the pandemic. This unique workspace fosters the inclusive community that sets CS apart from other schools, and I hope to allow students to make the most of it in the future.

Many events were heavily impacted this year by the pandemic, from the boardgames evening to the 3rd year Reading Party that takes place at the Burn. I want to make sure that these **experiences are not lost**, so I will try to reschedule these events and make sure that no one misses out on the fun, social experiences that the School of CS has to offer.

I think every student at St Andrews should thoroughly enjoy their time in their school, so I want to take every possible step to ensure that people are having fun and feel welcomed in CS. Most of all, I want to motivate both incoming and current students to rejuvenate this community we are all proud to be a part of.

Student Support

One of my most important goals, especially due to the difficult situation we find ourselves in, is to **improve the mental health and wellbeing support** that's on offer. I'll endeavour to collect and respond to feedback about workload, to make sure that students are not feeling overwhelmed academically.

Also, I would like to work on **building students' confidence** from the moment they join the school. One way to achieve this would be to introduce activities that nurture engagement; for example, I'd like to run workshops where Sub-Honours students can talk to tutors or older students about how to approach a piece of coursework and learn how to break down a complex problem.

Thank you for your time, and I hope I have won your vote! :)