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CUSU Class Act

CUSU Class Act is a campaign working to support students from working class and other non-traditional Cambridge backgrounds, such as low income, first generation, and care leaver or estranged during their time at the University of Cambridge. It acts as a network for students with similar experiences to provide support to one another, and to have a welcome space for the discussion of issues relating to class, educational background, and socio-economic privilege, which often feel taboo at the Cambridge.

The overarching aim of the campaign is to build upon the great amount of work being put in to getting students from these backgrounds to apply to Cambridge, in improving post-admission access work by providing and campaigning for greater support for these students once they arrive. Part of this would include the provision of guidance for those involved in access work relating more specifically to class and related backgrounds, and how to help support current students from these backgrounds.

The campaign has established a number of events, which are open to self-identifying students that fall under the campaign. These have included relaxed social-based events such as meet-ups and formal dinners, as well as a rolling ‘sibling scheme’ that matches up students, giving younger students the opportunity to gain advice on both academic and personal matters. There are also discussion forums, some open and others with a focus topic, to allow Class Act students to find solidarity and strength in shared experience. We have also planned further events including film nights with discussions and a clothes and items swap, with more in the works!

Over the coming year we aim to further develop relationships with other campaigns such as WomCam, the LGBT+ and BME Campaigns, as well as FLY, to ensure the intersectionality of Class Act. As we develop we wish to provide both academic and pastoral support, giving a voice to and recognition of these students and their experiences.