

SU MANIFESTO FORM 2020/21

Position: Disability and Dyslexia officer

Name: Naomi Ellynn and Adam Williams

Course: Contemporary Performance Practice:
Drama, Applied Theatre and Education.

Year: 1 (Will be second years soon)

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1. To work with central as a whole in order to ensure 2-way communication regarding student experiences. It is so important that student voices are not only heard but also responded to. We want to use this dialogue to represent the needs and interests of disabled and/or dyslexic students within the school.

2. Start a conversation to support self-identifying students with adjusting to coronavirus circumstances and changes, whatever they may be. As well as communicating the impacts that these changes may have in order to create a mutual understanding.

3. Provide information for those looking to understand the experience of disability/dyslexia within the field of drama. We feel that this could create a more understanding, empathetic, welcoming community. This could happen in many ways such as spoken word, plays, online resources etc. - a space to learn without judgement.

4. Ensure that self-identifying students feel that they have equal access to the University building and learning resources in general. We have a number of ideas for ways in which this could change such as within lectures having the assumption that it can be recorded unless stated otherwise in order to remove this barrier. Also looking to make use of existing hearing loops and looking at creating a resource for any individual looking to navigate central who has access needs, as current signposting may not be helpful in that scenario.

5. Continue to facilitate a space for students to voice concerns and queries such as the Blue badge group that the previous officers set up. We feel in order to make Central we must take into account first hand experiences in order to address perceived student issues. We want this to be a communication channel for those who may feel excluded or marginalised.

We are running because we want to make a positive change for disabled and dyslexic students and work to improve their overall experience at Central. We are excited by the opportunity to do so! As a community we are moving in the right direction but there is still so much more to be done! As a team we feel that we have skills and experiences which complement each other and would allow us to create a more well rounded team. Here's a little bit about us...

Hi! My names Adam! I think I would be a good candidate for this role for a number of reasons. Firstly, have first hand experience of what living what a disability can be like. I was first diagnosed when I was six years old and this has allowed me to have some insight and have a lot of empathy towards the struggles and that people go through everyday due to buildings/lectures etc are accessible enough for them. Since 2016 I have been volunteering with a local theatre company and have gotten opportunities to work with a wide variety of vulnerable people and work on multiple outreach projects. And more recently I have volunteered with a theatre company who specialise in working and training young people with disabilities to become full time actors. Take it away Naomi...

...Thanks, Adam. I have lived and worked with people with a variety of disabilities which has helped me to better understand the range of issues different people experience and the importance of each voice being heard. As well as this I am passionate about alternative different forms of communication being recognised and am currently learning BSL and Makaton, hoping to get my level 1 when lockdown ends. I have been previously been involved in student groups and therefore feel confident speaking up for change within institutions. I also attended the Blue Badge society this year which gave me an insight into some of the current issues and student perspective within central as well as allowing me to connect with other individuals who are also passionate about making central a more disability and dyslexia friendly place. Can't wait to meet more of you next year!

Between us we feel we've got a number of skills which make us ideal candidates. We hope to get the chance to bring our energy and enthusiasm as well as experience in order to make central a more inclusive place and a more comfortable place for all. We want to learn too and are able to adapt and develop according to your needs. We want to support you and feel we can make a better environment at central for self-identifying students to succeed. Your voice matters, Help it be heard, Vote for Us.