

Vote Ben Johnston for Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs

Myself

My name is Ben Johnston, a year four Computer Science student right here, at Magee. I have always been a huge admirer of the Students Union, what they stand for and how they strive to have a positive influence over all the students that come through our doors. This year, as a hopeful candidate for the role of Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, I intend to make your university life as fulfilling and life changing as mine.

Why vote for me?

A vote for me would guarantee incredibly dedicated and hardworking member of the Students Union. I will stop at nothing to achieve my personal goals, and will do everything in my power to make the voice of the student body not only heard, but acted upon.

If elected, I will strive for excellence in the role. I am sure with my passion, work ethic and dedication. I demonstrate daily in my roles as Residential Assistant and Treasurer of the Magee Men's GAA team, that nothing will stand between me, and your needs as a student.

In the four years I've been a student at Magee I have seen two great Vice Presidents. John Cunningham and Micky Quigg. They embodied the ideals of our proud university, and having watched them take on the role, I know that I have the ability to go above and beyond the call of duty.

I can honestly say that my years at Magee have been the best of my life and I want everyone who follows me to feel the same way I do. This all starts with highlighting the accomplishments of the university, getting a great reputation for Magee, locally and on a regional level. This is something I'm truly passionate about and was a part of the historic All-Ireland victory last year with the Men's Gaelic Football team. Building on our already impressive success there, I hope to have the Magee spirit show all over our campus and help build and improve the many diverse societies we have here.

Hopefully, with your votes, I will be able to make a real difference by being a strong and reliable voice, but also a sympathetic ear for you, the students.

My Aims – 2016/2017

The Students Union Bar

The Union bar is always going to be a big question with any candidate. Over the past few years, it has been obvious that demand has dwindled due to rival clubs and bars. This is one of the most unfortunate tragedies I have seen as a student here, as the Union was THE place

to be when I was in first year. The fact that such a huge asset is sitting idle is truly a shame especially when so many great Monday night memories were made (or lost) there.

Regrettably, my aim for the bar is not return it to its former glory every Monday night. My hope is that it can be turned into a big calendar event. Every few weeks, and every major landmark, like Freshers and Halloween. The Union could be the one and only spot for a truly massive blowout, a dream factory, if you will. Everyone knows the phrase Quality not Quantity. That is my intention for the Union Bar.

I will also be looking to hire the bar to different bars/clubs for these big nights out. This can provide a decent cash flow for the Students Union which would be amazing. The bar has to be treated like a business, and if it is not making money it cannot be run. Hopefully with your help and support, we can one day build up our Union to heights never before even seen.

Clubs and Societies

We all come to University to get a degree, but along the way, we discover the other things that are important. My dream for Magee is a place where you can really find yourself and express your hobbies and interests freely. Clubs and societies are a massive part of this, and can be seen in the massive variety that can all be found here, on our Campus. From Sports to Nursing to Video Games, we have everything in between, (Even a Beer Appreciation Society), Magee has it all.

Societies provide a fantastic opportunity to fundraise for charities and give back to the community. This is incredibly important and should be promoted through the Students Union.

The only hurdle to overcome, is the funding that each club and society receives. My aim, if elected, will be to alter the funding. I will look into extra funding and also to come up with new ways to ensure that each and everyone gets the funding that they need and deserve to keep the diverse Magee lifestyle alive and well.

A Helpful and Approachable Vice President

Even though this is under my 'aims' this is a promise. I promise to be approachable, helpful and always free to deal with student enquiries on a daily basis.

Through my time as a Residential Assistant in Duncreggan, I have the ability to deal with student problems in a calm, collected and helpful manner.

Through my time as Treasurer of the GAA team I have learnt responsible management skills, allocating funds and even brokered sponsorship deals with Pearce Cullen Property Services and Sugar Night Club.

Through my time as a student I learned who I was and who I wanted to be, And I'm going to take everything Magee taught me and build an even better experience for you.

This is something I can guarantee you.