

My name is Grace High, and I wish to become your social secretary (personally, I think that Max Burley and I would be a killer social sec team!). Though this is my second year at Cambridge, it is my first at Downing and from the start I could sense it was an incredibly special place, in good part because of the people and social interaction within the MCR. Laurel and James have done a wonderful job as social secretaries and I have experienced firsthand the importance of involved social secretaries committed to maintaining a strong sense of fun and community; social secs organize swaps, trips to Grantchester and all of those 'get to know you' events.

You have probably met me from my weekly attendance at Friday formals, where I grow increasingly tipsy as we move from dinner to the MCR for port and more shenanigans. You can judge for yourself whether I am 'fun.' I can tell you, however, that I am also extremely organized, communication-oriented and proactive in every aspect of my life. As social secretary, I would utilize the connections I have forged over the last year and a half across colleges to organize swaps in addition to those that James and Laurel have already put together for the coming terms (Trinity formal, anyone? I have an in).

I believe that weekly pub nights and/or crawls could provide a chance to unwind and bring the MCR closer together. The prospect of a Wednesday drink at Prince Regent with fellow Downing MCR students would doubtless make Mondays a bit more bearable! We could employ the Butterfield's tactic of having special random drinks nights (but in our MCR rather than the Butterfield!). A monthly Tequila Tuesday could do us all some good, as could an organized Thursday at Spoons communicated to all.

To avoid the inevitable 'I am contemplating attending Friday formal, but don't know who will be there this week' dilemma, I would create a Google Doc to be updated weekly in which MCR members can indicate whether they intend to go to formals. If you are attending, of course you may elect to put your name down or not, but if someone sees that old friends or people they would like to get to know better are attending, we can make informed decisions before shelling out £10. I could do the same for May Balls, so that MCR members have an idea of which people are attending which May week events—again, up to members to add their names to the Google Doc so if you wish to remain discrete this practice would not affect you.

I realize that all of the aforementioned activities revolve around consuming alcohol. However, I can assure you that I have other interests and ideas that do not revolve around alcohol. These include punting trips to Grantchester when the weather is nicer, weekend brunches, and I personally would like cheese and chocolate related events. Or potluck/food/excuse to bake.

Perhaps most importantly, I believe that the MCR members should have input into the social events organized for them. If you have activities or colleges with which you are dying to swap, I would always welcome a message with these suggestions and do my best to implement them. My extremely organized nature means that I will always get back to you in a timely manner (and be sure that word of events is communicated clearly and multiple times preceding the event). Downing's MCR is a team of which I feel fortunate to be a part, and I would cherish the opportunity to continue to bring us together in ways that please diverse tastes.