



Hills Road Sixth Form College Cambridge

Dear Year of 2016-2017,

My name is Zehra Munir and I am the chair of the 2016-2017 Student Council. We are a group of eleven elected Year 13 students who work as a team to improve the college community, and represent you to Hills Road's management and outside observers. Below are some important points we'd like you to read about who we are, what we do, and what you can do for us.

- First and foremost, **we need you to pay the £10 subscription** to the Student Council fund. We use this money to fund social events and the student planners as well as invest in council policies and various projects. We can't try out any of the new ideas we have or set up great events without this money, so we need it from you! If your financial circumstances make payment difficult, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Tracey Southwell in the Guidance Office on 01223 247251 ext 1464 or direct dial 01223 278010, in confidence, to discuss the matter.
- One of the greatest responsibilities on our part as a council is to organise the Hills Road student events. They're fairly prestigious amongst Cambridge sixth form students, with large enough budgets to book The Junction, as well as some great acts.
- We will be regularly updating you through our Facebook page '**The Hills Road Student Community**', our twitter page **@officialhrsfc**, our Instagram page **hrsfccouncil** and through our website at **www.myhrsfc.co.uk** on policies, events and college news generally.
- We provide funding for arts and music performances, and the popular HR4.5 charity run. We accept applications for grants and loans from fellow students. So if you have a project you think could benefit the college community, we would be happy to review it to see whether we can give our support.
- We run a **Calculator Exchange programme** that is designed to help Maths students attending Hills Road reduce the burden of purchasing a graphical calculator. A new graphical calculator could cost a student up to £50 if bought from the bursary and up to £90 elsewhere! The Student Council purchases used graphical calculators from students that will not be continuing to study Maths and sells them to incoming students for £30. They are checked to ensure that they are fully functioning. The revenue generated will go towards the Student Council fund and this helps us improve College events and ensures that students have access to the best facilities that we can buy. We encourage incoming students to purchase calculators from us instead of purchasing new calculators.

- We have set up five subcommittees so far that support the organisation of finance, events, environment, charities and media. Being a member of a subcommittee means helping the college community and getting CV- worthy experience in your chosen field without running in an election, as the system for application is interview based. I would strongly encourage you to apply to be in one of these subcommittees when vacancies are advertised, as they are a great way to get more involved in different aspects of college life.
- We are affiliated with the **National Union of Students**. Purchasing an NUS card will give you access to a huge variety of discounts, so it's definitely worth looking into. At a time when so many drastic and contentious changes are being made to our education system, being part of a union and having our voices heard is very important.
- There are many societies at Hills Road and we encourage you to visit our **Freshers' Societies Fair** to come and see if there are any you'd like to join.
- We take your welfare very seriously and have a designated officer who deals with any issues to do with equality and diversity. This welfare officer will always be available to listen to any complaints or problems you have, and if they can't help you themselves they will be glad to put you into contact with someone who can. Our welfare officer leads 'Amigos', which is a student-led organisation that exists to help fellow students with any problems they may be having. This year will see a shift towards an anonymous online Amigos system - look out for more information about this in the coming months.
- We hold a **general meeting** every half term that allows you to express your thoughts and concerns to us. When you arrive your tutor group will elect representatives to attend these meetings. The meetings are open for anyone to attend in addition, so please feel free to do so.
- Our email address is **StudentCouncil@hillsroad.ac.uk** if you would like to contact us at any point in the year.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions, and please like our Facebook page and pay the £10 contribution to ensure we can keep in contact, and continue our work on your behalf. I and other Council members are looking forward to the rest of our time as your Student Council, and I can promise we will do our best to represent and support the student community of 2016-2017.

Thank you for your time,

Zehra Munir.