

Volunteer Officer Report October 2018

Georgia Petts – School of History & Heritage Rep

What has been worked on in the past month?

This is my first time as school rep, and as much as the last few months have been challenging regarding scheduling all of the meetings i've had to attend, as well as setting up events, I believe this has been a successful first term. I have tried to adopt a very hands on approach and have made myself available to my course reps and others that required my help/'insight' whenever it has been possible for me to do so.

Plans with the History Society to promote involvement in both the society and in an academic sense are well under way. This includes organising the first History and Heritage ball and other events such as the meet your academic reps that took place earlier this month.

I attended my first SRG meeting of the academic year which was useful to catch up on what the other school reps were doing (provided inspiration for more plans and things to work on in my own school), alongside this it was also a chance to air out any concerns or struggles I have had so far. One such concern that I was able to have addressed was the upcoming TEF meeting, we discussed the meetings and things that needed to take place leading up to the meeting in more depth which has allowed me to be more proactive. I have been able to arrange meetings for all of the reps (as some positions have only recently be filled not all courses/year groups were represented at the time, however I made sure the cohort that were in attendance discussed issues whilst keeping in mind the whole school to the best of our ability). These meetings have been largely informal to again build a good relationship within the school, but also with the formality of discussing any successes or misses from the previous years. At the first meeting there were only second and third year history students in attendance but we were able to help one another in terms or advice the second years on modules etc they will be taking this year and any 'points' that they may need to consider. Whilst this was probably more help to the individuals at the meeting, I think it began a good line of communication and has set a precedent for how we approach or respective roles.

I was not able to personally attend the course reps training due to conflicting commitments, however I was able to discuss with the reps what they took away from the session and from the feedback I gathered they had a more renewed and consolidated sense of their roles, what to expect from me and overall they were made aware of the benefits of being a course rep which was received gladly.

Successes from the past month and any Reps Wins

I have attended the elections for the course reps for Conversation and Classical Studies and both positions had one or more nominations for the roles.

Myself and a few of the second and third year reps attended the 'Meet your Academic Reps' recent hosted by the History Society in the Swan. This allowed for other students to ask us questions in a more informal environment, which in turn has helped students ask for help/advice/guidance with a whole host of issues in a place where they felt comfortable.

I have attended some extra events/meetings that require volunteer officers in attendance which have helped me further improve on my own role and continue to provide inspiration for future events/plans.

Plans for next month

I am planning on meeting with the History Society again to help put more concrete plans in place for the March/April 2019 History & Heritage ball.

Continuing on with gathering information for my upcoming TEF meeting (24/10/2018) with Jamie Wood along and a few other history 'staff members'.

I will be attending my first rep forum (22/10/2018) of the academic year and I am excited to be able to learn about the process and have all of my school's course reps in one place so we can start to create a more united community across all history and heritage courses.

Be able to set a schedule of events for the reps and myself to keep in mind for the rest of the semester through to the new year. One of the problems the reps have faced so far is a lack of notice on training and meetings/groups they are supposed to attend, which is something I believe I can help fix by being more proactive and organised.

I will be attending my first subject committee meeting (31/10/2018) which I will be co-chairing. Myself and the course reps that will be attending have arranged to meet with James Greenhalgh prior to discuss the meeting and best prepare ourselves so we can make the most of the opportunity.

After the TEF meeting and other like events, that are currently taking precedent in my schedule, are 'out of the way' I want to meet with James Greenhalgh our School Champion to bring any problems or ideas myself and the other reps have come up with since the start of the year. We were able to meet to discuss any concerns or points we wished to bring up prior to starting the semester and this proved a useful tool to ground us in our positions and gave us a starting point for the rest of the year. I think this can be incorporated in the meeting we have before the subject committees.