**Union Council Report**

**Bran Carr-Malloch, Union Council Chair**

On 22nd October, the newly elected Union Council met for the first time. This meeting was an opportunity for representatives - both returning and new to the role - to introduce themselves to each other and set out their goals for the year. We heard updates from our Sabbatical Officers, we heard from our Chief Executive and we gave both the School Reps and Part-time officers a platform to outline their manifesto points for the year.

Some aspirations from some of your council this year include:

* A cohesive campaign involving multiple members of council on mental health awareness.
* The “I am a student” campaign is back for another year; a campaign designed to increase the visibility of mature students and their needs.
* A campaign to increase inter-school learning.

All of this sounds promising, and your council is a well-driven council who seem determined to meet their targets. This being said, the council has already made some important decisions. At the last council meeting on the 19th November, the council voted to declare a climate emergency.

I am new to the role of chair, but I am not new to Union Council or the Student Union. I can see already that this year is going to be a productive year for our council. Listening to the officers updates, the level of student consultation seems to be fantastic; the reps want to (and enjoy) talking to students!

In my role, I will take a focus on ensuring every representative knows that they have a platform and that they can use it. I will encourage students, both on the council and off, to participate in Union activities and hopefully show them that they can be involved in creating change.

I can see this being a productive year, and I hope so! If policy is created and used effectively students should notice, and that should create an interest in what Union Council does.