

**Scott Nelson - Head Pupil - Manifesto**

**#VoteNelson**

**About me**

**Who am I?**

For those of you who are unaware, I am Scott Nelson. I have attended Knox Academy since my first year in 2012 and believe that after being a part of this school for 5 years I understand the needs, wants and values of this school and the pupils within it. Over the past 5 years I have played a small part in contributing to the school through the Sports Council and a variety of sporting events. I would now like to take the opportunity to contribute back to the school in the best way possible, by having the power to make a real positive change to this school

**Why should you choose me?**

I believe that a head pupil of this school should be able to represent the pupils and live up to the expectations of those who voted for them, I have the potential to prove myself as that person. If I were elected Head Pupil I would try my hardest to ensure that all my proposals were put into action or at least adapted to fit the school’s rules. The interest of the pupils are within my best interest, if elected I would not just be a Head Pupil of the school but a Head Pupil of the pupils, your interests are mine too.

**Why am I running for Head Pupil?**

I am running for Head Pupil because change needs to be made in this school. In my eyes Knox Academy appears as a product in the declining stage of its lifecycle, the school is in need of an extension strategy to regain the respect of the pupils, I am that extension strategy. This time last year I would have never seen myself running for Head Pupil but within the last year the overall Pupils view of the school as seen a rapid decline, something had to be done and I felt that I was the person to bring that change. As a 6th year pupil I don’t plan on aiming my policies to benefit myself or others in my year but instead to benefit those who still have plenty more years to go in the School. I hope that if elected I’d be able to make a change that would last for years to come leaving a positive mark on this school.

**Policies**

**The continuation of Active Girls Day and the introduction of Active Boys Day**

As Head Pupil I would aim to ensure that Knox Academy will continue, for a second year in a row, its Active Girls Day. The event was a great success and was a brilliant way to encourage the younger girls of our school to take part in sports. Due to the success I think it would be a great idea to use this event as a means of raising money for a gender specific cause such as Breast Cancer UK. As there is already an Active Girls Day I feel it would be necessary to introduce an Active Boys Day, I feel this is necessary as there is a huge amount of boys who don’t partake in a sporting event and this is a problem that should be addressed just as equally. The Active Boys Day event would be very much the same as our Active Girls Day but with the means of raising money for a cause such as Prostate Cancer UK.

**Access to Food Court throughout all of lunch**

An issue that has already been addressed to me is the use of the Food Court at lunch. During lunch the Food Court is always a busy place, usually packed with pupils, it is one of the main areas within the school for pupils to gather and socialise during break and lunch. However I have been informed by a number of pupils that they are being removed from the Food Court before the end of lunch. This is an issue which has been bugging pupils as they have to spend the remainder of their lunch break wandering about the school looking for another place to socialise. I feel as Head Pupil and as a representative of the pupils of this school it would be necessary to resolve this issue.

**Dress Code**

 Whilst I agree that pupils should be dressed smartly I do feel as if there could be a little more flexibility regarding the options we as pupils have. For example I feel that during the warmer periods pupils should be allowed to wear shorts instead of trousers and that during the colder periods pupils should be allowed to wear their Knox academy hoodies e.g. sports hoodies and Activity Week hoodies. I also feel that black shirts should be introduced to the dress code, other schools within East Lothian have allowed black shirts as a part of their dress code and I believe that they do look smart.

**Sports Day**

The past 2 years has seen a big change to the way sports day is run at Knox Academy. Sports day is now an exclusive event where only those who choose to take part competitively are allowed to take part at all. Sports day used to be an all-inclusive event where any pupil could participate in potted sports (beat the goalie, welly boot toss, bean bag toss etc...) in order to contribute points to their house, recently sports day has seen pupils who aren’t participating sitting around waiting to partake in an option of 2 ‘fun non-competitive races’. Another event which needs to be brought back to sports day would be the activity for the winning house. After sports day the house points collected from all over the year would be added up and pupils from the winning house would be rewarded an extra period out of class to partake in a fun activity on the playing fields such as a water fight. I feel that bringing this activity back is essential because now pupils are not being rewarded for their contribution to their house, this effectively renders house points near useless, and their only purpose now is to ensure that pupils have over a certain amount so they can attend events throughout the year.

**Introduction of a Knox Academy Athletics Club**

Throughout the year Knox pupils have the opportunity to compete for the school at interschool sports events, Youth Games for S1-S2 and County Sports for all years. County Sports is the event I would like to focus on as it’s the only event that pupils from all years are eligible to attend, this event consists of a variety of track and field athletics events. Despite Knox having a strong and well established sporting community, there is next to no interest at Knox for those who are enthusiastic about athletics, this is a problem that needs to be fixed. At County Sports Knox is always able to attend with a full team of enthusiastic young athletes but despite this we always underperform against the other schools, I feel that this issue could be resolved with the introduction of an athletics club to better prepare Knox’s young athletes for this highly competitive event.

**Demerit to merit distribution ratio**

The House Points system at Knox sees pupils gaining merits for good behaviour and effort and losing merits for bad behaviour and lack of contribution to the school rules, or so it should be. Amongst the younger years merits are often handed out as a reward to ensure that these younger pupils develop a sense of good behaviour over their time here at Knox. However as the years go by the older you get the less merits you are likely to receive, this is most likely due to the fact that as you progress through your time at Knox it becomes more and more expected of you to abide by the rules without the need of a reward for doing so. The only issue with the decrease in merit distribution is that no matter what level you are at within the school demerits are always handed out as a means of punishment, the problem here is that there is a severe imbalance between gaining merits and having them taken off you. It is an extremely common thing within the older year groups for pupils who do abide by the rules to receive no merits whatsoever, making it extremely difficult to regain merits if you have had them taken off you at any point throughout the year. This issue can be easily overcome if pupils throughout all levels of the school are rewarded just as equally for their good behaviour as they are for their bad behaviour.

**Vote Scott Nelson**

If change that will benefit you as a pupil or change that will benefit our school as a whole is within your best interests then remember to vote Scott Nelson on 28/06/17.

This School needs change, let’s make that happen.

Scott Nelson **#VoteNelson**