

Abbie Gibson 2020-2021 Head Pupil Manifesto

Knox Academy



Ambition Respect Community

About Me

As a pupil who has completed five years at Knox Academy I now have many academic and social qualities which will allow me to transition into my final year with confidence and a willingness to embrace our new learning structure challenges.

As my years progressed my confidence in both myself and my abilities has grown and together with friendships and the core values Knox has taught me, I would now enjoy a leadership and mentoring role. Our school foundations are solid and I would like to move forward with these uncertain challenges helping others and learning together. I would describe myself as kind, friendly and approachable which would seem to be a good attributes of a head pupil.

Why do I think I should be head pupil?

After attending the hustings over the years, it is clear how **committed all the candidates are** and their passion to try and make the school an environment everyone is proud of. I feel I would enjoy a leadership role in the schools next steps engaging and listening and also sharing my experiences and knowledge so progression is innovative and enjoyable for everyone.

Since the age of five I have enjoyed the teamwork and spirit of Girl Guiding, learning many beneficial skills and proudly achieving my Baden Powell award. This gave me a great sense of achievement and shows my **commitment** to complete everything I do and achieve success at any level. It has shown me that with encouragement and teamwork we can strive to achieve goals which can be useful to help others and we can take forward our future plans and be able to plan and take lead of activities.

After this achievement I then went on to the challenge of The Duke of Edinburgh Award and am close to completing my Silver Award with only one final expedition to complete when possible. In addition to the physical, practical tasks, volunteering is also involved. For the last year I have been volunteering at my local Beavers groups. This helped me develop my **leadership skills**, as I had to organise activities for the Beavers to do. It has also enabled me to develop my communication skills as I had to work with both adults and young children. This shows that I am able to **communicate** with a wide range of groups, staff, pupils, parents which enables me to take charge of tasks and activities when elected. I believe all these skills are relatable and relevant to our school values.

For the last few years I have tried to involve myself in **committees** and be in the **Pupil Parliament**. In S4 I was elected Lammerlaw house captain, allowing me to voice my thoughts on how the school was performing and being able to get feedback from those in my house and listen to what they would change or improve. Also, for the last two years I have been a part of the Duke Of Edinburgh committee in Pupil Parliament, speaking about my experience and how we can promote it to people. This has shown that I am listening and communicating with others, willing to take others peoples opinions and thoughts into consideration.

If I was elected head pupil, I would continue to make sure that Knox reaches its **full potential** and remains a place for those to come and enjoy learning.

I have always been **motivated** to support Knox and would love to continue to do so in my final year. I would endeavour to represent the pupils at Knox as much as possible and give back to the school as it has helped me so much, developing me into the person I am as I continue to learn and achieve more.

After seeing the amazing job last year's head pupils did and how well they achieved their policies, I would love to try and continue their policies through the next year but also bring in some new ones to help make the school continue achieving.

Policies

As we all are aware things this year are going to be a bit different as currently we are in a global pandemic. However I have tried to adapt my policies around what's going on.

- Online school **buddies/ mentor**
- Making **dyslexia/ learning disabilities** more aware
- Continuing **last years policies** that were put in place
- **Promoting Sports**
- **Shared Knowledge**
- **Strengthening our community bonds**

Online buddies/mentor

With having a wide range of year groups, it is sometimes hard to communicate with everyone and always having someone to talk to from another year for some advice.

The togetherness of the school is vital to our success in times when we may not be able to attend as one. Together we learn, share knowledge and prepare for our future. In times when we all need help, assistance and the information from many sources it would be beneficial to introduce a core group in each year who rotate and volunteer to be in person or online mentors. It can be daunting for an S1 student starting a new school and an S2 or S3 perspective could be hugely beneficial whilst also promoting responsibility or equally in exam/test times the experience of an S6 or S5 pupil can be shared and support an S4 student. We could work within all year groups to best utilise and pass on our skills and experiences.

This could be achieved with an application system whereby all those willing and keen to participate would apply knowing that they will help numerous students on a rotational basis.

Making dyslexia/learning difficulties more aware

With learning difficulties such as dyslexia and mental health issues becoming more and more common, perhaps more prevalent today it is vitally important that we support people's unique needs in our everyday learning. Supporting but at all times including everyone. I would propose to set up a weekly meeting group whereby all issues are discussed openly, listened to carefully and dealt with thoughtfully by both students and teachers.

Raising more awareness to the issues people face on a day to day basis and breaking the stigma that a learning difficulty is a negative, but making it into a positive issue through supporting them and allowing them to have a place to talk about how they feel.

I would achieve and promote this by placing posters around the school, getting it mentioned in assemblies, classrooms and also in the schools bulletin. I would also try and work closely with the learning support base for further support.

Continuing last years policies

After seeing what an amazing job last year's head pupils did on getting their policies up and running, I would love to continue them, reinforcing their values and the positive impact they can have on the school long term. I feel it is extremely important to continue strengthening our relationship with the primary school and with Meadowpark. With the primary schools I would continue the paired reading with them and ensure Meadowpark students are involved in all aspects of our school activities possible.

I would achieve this by speaking to last year's Head Pupils so that communication with Meadowpark is a good transition. Look to Meadowpark to put forward ideas which have worked and those they propose for future change. It is important we are together, inclusive and looking to the future.

Promoting sports

As it is a known fact that sports and activities can have positive effects on our health and wellbeing and mental health, I would propose to help with the set up of more groups and promote them. In my early years at Knox I was involved in the girls rugby team which I thoroughly enjoyed however this ended as I entered third year and this also applies to netball. Many of my peers admit to very little physical exercise in school and would like the chance to enjoy group sports. These are only examples but both these sports encourage us to achieve our goals, work as a team and are accessible to all abilities i.e. inclusion which is probably most important. So I would try to promote activities students are interested in at all age groups keeping us all connected and healthy and fit at the same time.

I would work with the P.E department and together we could recruit students to try and build teams for sports on a rotational basis so that we have a varied exercise routine.

Shared Knowledge

As we move to more remote and self-disciplined learning I would suggest a Q&A page for each subject would be beneficial. At home we may be studying a certain subject but come across a problem we need answered before proceeding. We could post the question and either student or teacher could provide the answer. Eventually the page could list the most common questions and be helpful to all as a reference point. We all know different aspects of subjects better than others but it would be good for confidence to be able to share our knowledge with others.

This I would hope to achieve with the help of our administration and business department for the setting up of a document.

Strengthening our community bonds

As it is important we maintain and continue to strengthen our bonds with the Primary schools and Meadowpark it would also be useful to extend this to the local community. By interacting with other age groups in perhaps a voluntary role i.e gardening or helping with shopping this enhances our skills and shows we are lifelong learners and not just within the school. It

would establish the town links to the school in a positive way and also mean we would gain employability skills. A survey could be done to ascertain exactly how we could be useful in volunteering showing we are willing to offer our services or perhaps contact the local council for connections and groups we could join. This would particularly be beneficial for S6 year students as they will be thinking about preparing job applications, any employer would be more willing to employ if life skills are broader.



Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto. I hope together we can look forward to our new learning challenges and continue to make Knox Academy a place we are all proud of. Vote Abbie!!!!