

Beth Riva



Head Pupil Manifesto

2020/2021

Ambition Respect Community

Why am I running for Head Pupil?

The S6 leadership team is something that has always interested me and is something I have looked forward to getting involved in during my final year at Knox academy. Running for Head Pupil is a great opportunity to be able to have greater influence on the school and to implement changes in the school in order to create the best possible learning environment. Throughout my five years at Knox Academy I have grown and developed into a confident and ambitious young person. I believe that this is thanks to the opportunities that Knox Academy have provided for me. I would like to pass on these opportunities to the year groups following behind in order to make sure that all students receive the same positive experience that I have had. I believe that I am the most qualified candidate to encourage and inspire our young people at Knox Academy.

What could I bring to the role?

I like to think of myself as being pretty ambitious, I enjoy pushing myself and overcoming different challenges, and I see this S6 Leadership Election as being the next big challenge in my life for me to face. I'm a very competitive person, and I've played sports all my life. Over the years I've played a number different sports, but the main sports I've played are hockey, football, and bowls. These sports have given me the opportunity to experience many different types of leadership roles and have enabled me to develop lots of different skills. For example when it comes to leadership roles I have had lots of experience in different captaincy and coaching positions. These experiences have taught me the important aspects of what makes a good leader, and just how much of an impact a good leader can have on the people around them. Sport has also helped me to develop my confidence and self-esteem which in turn has enabled me to become the outgoing, strong-willed person that I am today.

I enjoy working with others and I pride myself on being a good team player. I also have experience working on committees, voicing my opinion, and representing others. For example I am currently the youth representative on the E.L.I.B.C committee. This role has given me the opportunity to work with important members of the executive committee and put forward my views and opinions on different matters within the E.L.I.B.C. As the youth representative I have to work as a link between the East Lothian youths and the rest of the E.L.I.B.C, provide a voice, and make sure that the youth's views and opinions are heard.

With the different skills and experience I have I believe I am well suited for the role of Head Pupil, I am able to dedicate my time and energy to listen to the views and

opinions of the students of Knox Academy. In the aim to better our school I have devised five different policies and aims which if elected I will implement.

Policies and aims:

1. To strengthen our sense of community within Knox Academy.

Knox Academy is a great school and one that I am proud to be a part of. I believe what makes our school so unique is our sense of community and the different traditions we have. For example the S6 panto, social dancing, and singing the twelve days of christmas. However I believe that we could do more to strengthen this sense of community to make sure that all our students feel valued and part of a team. If elected I intend to ignite an enthusiastic competition between all three school houses, Garleton, Traprain, and Lammerlaw. I intend to introduce house tasks and challenges in order for students and year groups to win points for their house. The house with the most points at the end of the school year wins not only bragging rights but also an esteemed trophy. This will allow students to work as part of a team and develop relationships with other members of our school community.

2. To strengthen our Eco-School status and further develop our understanding of the current climate change crisis.

Over the last few years climate change and global warming have become a huge concern and as the next generation of young adults I believe that we must do as much as we can to stand up and fight against the current climate change crisis and educate others on ways in which they can help the eco-friendly movement. I intend to work closely with both the green team and the eco-committee to raise awareness and educate not only our school as a whole but also the wider community. I will also look to further develop our Eco-School status.

3. To encourage students to get involved in charity events and educate students on current social issues.

I believe that it is important to make sure that as a school we support our local charities by both fundraising and spreading awareness of these organisations and the issues they are trying to combat. I also believe that as young people it is very important that we are informed and educated on current social issues. In this day and age young people have a lot of power, with social media platforms and access to as much information as they want, young people are

able to voice their opinions on current social issues in any which way they choose. But with this power comes responsibility and I believe as a school we have a responsibility to make sure that all our students are well informed and socially aware. If elected I intend to hold more charity events and encourage more pupils to get involved. I also intend to make sure that more social issues are talked about in assemblies and registration classes, in order to better inform students.

4. To encourage more girls to get involved in sport both within and outside of school.

As I have said above, I am a very sporty person and have played sports my whole life. However unfortunately by age 17, more than half of girls will quit playing sports altogether. I feel as though more needs to be done to address this and as a school I believe that we should lead by example. If elected I intend to encourage more girls to try out different sports and provide more opportunities for girls to get involved in leadership and coaching roles. I also intend to make sure that all girls who are currently involved in sport are acknowledged and recognised for it.

5. To alter the way in which the school recognises the achievements of our students.

We are very privileged at Knox Academy to have so many talented and high achieving students both in and outside of school. I believe that it is important not only to recognise but also congratulate and encourage the achievements of our students in order to make sure that they feel valued and acknowledged. I believe that as a school we could do more and try harder to recognise the achievements of our students. If elected I intend to further promote the achievements of our students and encourage students to talk to teachers and classmates about their achievements. I would also like to introduce a new achievement reporting system within each house in order to make sure that all achievements get recognised.

In conclusion I believe that I am the best candidate for the role of Head Pupil, and I will embrace the challenge. Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto, and remember #VoteRiva!