

Charlie Gates

Head Pupil

Manifesto

2020/21

- *Identity*
- *Support*
- *Success*



Ambition, Respect, Community

Who am I?

I am the last of three brothers, who have been lucky enough to attend Knox Academy. This began in 1999, with my oldest brother, and will end in 2021 with me. I previously represented the school in rugby, for East Lothian Falcons. I am also an international hockey player, representing Scotland at U16 and U18 level.

Some of you may know me from my time as a Young Ambassador for sport where my role included running the sports council and organising the Sports Awards night.

However, it is not just sport I am interested in. I have always strived to make Knox Academy proud and in my final year would like to widen the impact I have already had and improve not just the school but also our wider community.

Why am I running?

Knox has always been a large part of my life, from watching my brother play rugby, to seeing my other brother stress about exams, to my first day here as an S1. Little did I know the profound impact this school would have on me and will have on my future.

Knox has educated, motivated and transformed pupils for hundreds of years and has pulled out the best in me. The school encourages me to be the best version of myself every day of my life.

I would now like to give everything, not just something, back – and at such a difficult time when there is so much uncertainty, I believe having a motivated, positive and confident Head Pupil is more important than ever.

Qualities and skills

Communication and Teamwork – As a goalkeeper, being a key communicator within my hockey team has always been a strength. I spend every game organising defences and constantly analysing what is in front of me and adapting to what I see. I have transferred this into my work as a Young Ambassador for sport when organising events and working with a team to create a successful event.

Confidence and Motivation – Being a high level athlete there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes, I have the motivation to be able to put those extra hours in to get the best end result possible. I also have the confidence to know that the hard work will always pay off, so I am willing to go the extra mile to get the best possible outcome without being afraid to learn from my mistakes.

Something I believe will be vital in successfully carrying out the role of head pupil.

What am I going to do?

My focus is on three main values: Identity, Support and Success

Identity:

I want to make every single pupil be prouder than they already are to go to Knox and cement the school within the local community. There are several ways in which I could achieve this goal, such as by utilising East Lothian Council's STRiVE volunteer hub and by strengthening the connection between year groups and staff members through increasing interactions via inter-house events and pupil-to-pupil support.

Support:

This would be implemented through a three part 'Cross-Learning Support System'. This system would primarily give every pupil the support and resources they need to excel and *succeed*. Not only would this increase interactions between all years and help strengthen *identity* but also provide an easily accessible and vital educational resource in these uncertain times, where often it may not be clear where to seek support from.

Success:

This value works towards the aim of both celebrating and growing the school. Using approaches based around the achievement tie scheme and recognition of success programme, I believe we can proudly present Knox as the successful school it is. In parallel, success often originates at grassroots level and by giving back to local clubs by supporting them with young coaches I believe we will fuel the future success of Knox for many years to come.

In summary...

Identity – Introduce Volunteer Hub and improve House Pride

Support – Introduce a 'Cross-Learning Support System'

Success – Improve recognition of success and pupil lead coaching



*Identity and support feed off one another, the more we **identify** as a community, the better the **support** and vice versa. **Support** drives **success** and in turn, promotes school **identity**.*

My plans in detail

Identity

Community Outreach

To improve Knox's impact on the community I plan on utilising the STRiVE volunteer hub as a key tool. STRiVE has over 200 volunteering opportunities in East Lothian. A 'Knox Volunteering Hub' could be established, whereby a member of staff could act as a liaison between the school and STRiVE to offer volunteering opportunities across East Lothian to pupils. Each pupil from S4-6 would be encouraged to sign up for some form of volunteering to give back to our community. A priority would be put on Haddington's local opportunities and links that have already been formed i.e. the Community Kitchen and East Lothian Young Carers. I believe these links are vital in cementing Knox's place within our community. This will also assist with finding YPI charities to work with as well as, Duke of Edinburgh and Saltire Award volunteering opportunities and work experience, which are often a struggle to find easily.

Interhouse growth

To increase house pride and competition I would run the interhouse championships. This is an event that would run over four months and would consist of four elements. The first would be sports, several competitions across different sports and PE would be organised by the Young Ambassadors for sport and the Sports Council. These events would involve both pupils and staff, giving everyone a chance to represent and earn points for their house with the end goal of being crowned House Champions. Competitive events would also run across three other areas: music, art and English. A team would be formed to design, run and organise each event with one teacher from the relevant faculty assisting. These events would be primarily run during core classes (S1-3) and at lunch times. The house that wins each event would receive points, with the last chance to earn points being sports day. The Champions will be

announced on the final day of school when the entire school gathers in the Assembly Hall.

Support

Cross-Learning Support System

This system will comprise three main elements. The first being S5/6 Students who excel in a subject volunteering in a S1-3 class acting as a 'helping hand' and facilitating one to one support that a teacher may provide to pupils. Providing this support is not always possible in large classes but an extra pair of hands assisting can help achieve this. To kick off this system, I will ask faculty heads to select pupils who they believe will be the greatest asset to this system. Pupils will also be able to apply for a volunteer position via an online form, where each application will be considered by the pupil leadership team and the relative head of faculty. This can be applied online (during lockdown) by volunteering pupils joining Google Classrooms of relevant classes and being a point of contact for pupils with any questions/concerns. The hours spent volunteering will also be accepted as volunteering for Duke of Edinburgh awards and counted towards the Saltire Award, which they will be encouraged to sign up for.

Secondly, I would extend the above to create a Cross-Learning Revision System, an independent revision and tutoring service run by the above-mentioned volunteers. Maximum These volunteers would host revision sessions, tutoring specific subjects at a maximum ratio of 1:5. The focus of these sessions are the pupils: they can ask specific questions, finish homework, revise or do anything else they need to do. Following the successful implementation of this scheme, it can then be expanded to provide a paired reading system between school years. I believe this will massively benefit junior students who may feel uncomfortable bringing up questions in front of their peers. The Cross-Learning Revision System will allow for a safe, comfortable space to best support pupils requiring some extra help. This again can be utilised online during this lockdown period, with the volunteers hosting Google Meet calls for pupils in their subject who are looking for extra help.

The third and final element of Cross-Learning is a well-structured, clear and understandable revision timetable hosted by staff with the focus on S4/5/6 and their exams. This timetable would consist of three types of revision sessions: exam technique (where applicable), past paper questions and drop-in sessions. Staff would plan each session (bar drop-in) and deliver these before school, after school or during lunch times. Staff in each department would rotate each week, delivering a different type of session each week meaning pupils attending would have the opportunity to be taught in a different style and from a different angle which might just be what they need to understand that tricky concept or master that technique. For example, in English, on Monday Mr Bristow could teach how to answer each different type of RUAE question, then on Wednesday Mrs Reynolds might go over an essay question, then on Friday Mr Edwards would host a drop in session where he can answer any

questions that need answered. The timetable provides a focus for each session and would be fully accessible and well-advertised in each department well in advance.

Success

Achievement Ties

I would continue to support the Achievement Tie scheme by setting up an easier and more concise system to nominate pupils for these awards, and have each recipient of the ties celebrated and announced at monthly assemblies as well as a dedicated section on the school website where each recipient of the tie will have a paragraph about them and their achievements. Alongside this, each month there would be a feature in the East Lothian courier about the recipients and what they have achieved each month. They would also be celebrated at the awards night and athletic achievements would be celebrated at the Sports Awards.

Pupil Led Coaching

Using my links to the sporting side of the school I would encourage and support the already very successful system for getting pupils into coaching and link this to the Volunteer Hub. Pupils who are interested would be able to sign up via an online form to coach with a junior rugby team or coach with the girl's hockey team at various age groups. This would also be expanded to offer coaching opportunities with younger rugby age groups (through HRFC) and younger hockey age groups (through HJHC). As with the rest of the volunteering opportunities through Knox Volunteer Hub, all hours spent would be counted towards Duke of Edinburgh and the Saltire Award.