

# Why I should be 2020/21's HP

## History of leading roles:

Ever since I was little, my parents have encouraged me to join clubs through which I'd meet new people - from other schools around the area - and I'd be pressured to build confidence in myself. Without these clubs, I'd never be able to make myself known to these new people, many of whom are now my closest friends because I was comfortable in my own skin when I first met them.

I've gone to cubs and worked my way through the ranking system to become a leader - only to move up to scouts and be the youngest in the pack myself. I repeated this in the scouts and became one of the older members, adopting a leadership role as the opportunity presented itself, only to (again) move up a league and join the Explorers, once again being the youngest. I left the Explorers last year after eight years of being a member of the cub/scout community. Being a cub/scout/explorer has taught me to appreciate the value of community and shown me how, with strong leadership, even the smallest groups doing something positive can make a huge difference to someone's everyday life (through charity events, remembrance day marches, etc).

I spent six years as a player at Haddington hockey club and, as one of the few Yester pupils who went there (surrounded by Kings Meadow kids), I never thought I'd make such strong friendships due to it. I grew close with a lot of the other kids and events like that - where I've had to make a strong impression of myself to others - have really helped me, especially with showing teachers respect and meeting new classmates and colleagues.

I've been a willing performer: playing drums in the school Orchestra multiple times over my school career, the cajon player for Goats Toes (going to events for the elderly, performing at Burns nights in both small and large groups, etc) and I was in the band for my year in which I played piano. Piano and drums have taught me the importance of practice and staying committed to things - for example, being ambitious and picking a hard piece to learn and finally get it right after practicing for ages has taught me to respect hard work and that, even if something seems difficult and there are barriers, pushing through and sticking at it makes it possible.

I have been successful in getting a job at Foxlake where I've enjoyed meeting countless new customers and building strong and trusting relationships with them. Through this opportunity, I often find myself in situations where I must confidently and assertively speak to large groups.

The scenarios I have been put in at these events have shown me that I do not give up easily.

## A bit about me

I'm going to keep this short as I understand that you know a lot about me already. I'm the youngest of three boys, this has made me a very determined person - stemming from the fact that I always look to one-up my brothers. I work hard, I put in as much extra effort as possible and I have lots of experience with the community and with public speaking such as at assemblies. I'm very open to ideas and look forward to making a difference at Knox, with my priority being the pupils' sense of friendship and enjoyment throughout the year. I want to give experiences that my peers will look back on fondly for many years to come.

## Why I want to be Head Pupil

If I'm honest, my main goal is to do all I can to help the community and the pupils at Knox. Nobody can do this like a good Head Pupil - something I know I would be. I would like to give the school and the pupils the opportunity to do the things they've missed due to COVID-19. I would aim to have either a later sports day or to have an extended one next summer (because what's better than showing that you're faster than a rival teacher or pupil??). I would also use my ability as head pupil, and as a trustworthy, open person to my fellow Knox pupils, to bring around year-group dances (S1's alone, S2's alone, S3's alone, etc) with all the money made going to a charity of the school/councils choice. If this wasn't possible then we could combine S1's with S2's, S3's with S4's, etc and if *that* couldn't happen then simply just a junior dance and a senior dance. I just want events like this to be ensured for my peers, I know many are very unsure and I just want everyone to have nights/school days that they can look back on fondly, and to look forward to the next year as soon as they walk out the dance. I feel that nobody should have to miss out on these huge events (from experience, they're the best nights of my year, and I know I share that opinion with many others).

Due to the current situation, I understand that this years S6's and I will likely not be able to go to Dalguise. This being the case, I'd like to use my job at Foxlake to offer a day there for the S6 pupils who are still at school. They'd be able to go around all the different activities in groups and I think this would solidify friendships and help build new ones the way Dalguise would have - even if the Dalguise trip does happen, I'd like to arrange this event.

I also think another community-positive event would be for each year to create a "time capsule" which would then be buried in the school grounds until a specified date in the future. I think this would be useful for building a positive name/outlook for the school and would allow my peers to let out their creative side for something many schools do not have.

I want to be a good role model and stick to my word - something I understand previous Head Pupils haven't always excelled at. It's key that Knox's Head Pupil has a strong relationship with the teachers and this is something I feel I already possess. I plan on being the middleman: someone the pupils can come to for support and with queries which they may be nervous to talk with teachers about and someone who can talk to the pupils about things teachers' would like to be spread around the school.

I have a very positive image of how I see Knox looking at the end of the year and I hope to be able to realise this vision as your Head Pupil.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this, I hope I've said some things that have made you think about how fun this would be if I get the chance to make some changes.

Cody