

# Bethany Ross : Head Pupil Manifesto 21/22

**About me:** Hi! My name is Bethany Ross and I would love to be one of your Head Pupils. Knox Academy has been my home for the past 5 years where I have made many positive memories and built strong relationships with both staff and pupils. I have had numerous opportunities during this time both academically and socially and am eager to ensure that as many pupils as possible can have a similarly rewarding experience. Knox has helped me to develop resilience in difficult times, ambition to be the best I can be and a strong desire to help others. High school can be challenging but at Knox I have been able to overcome my challenges. My journey through Knox has brought out the best in me. I contribute as a team player and I recognise that it's good to ask for help. Knox has a great sense of community which I will look to promote and strengthen for future generations. I am committed to building on the positive policies already in place and am excited to listen to and support any new ideas from others throughout the school as well as implementing my own.



## What can I bring to the role of Head Pupil:

In these uncertain times coming together as a school community is more important than ever. As head pupil I would do my very best to make that happen. I am committed and motivated to take on the responsibilities that come with the role and have spoken to numerous different people to ensure that my goals are realistic and achievable. I have also spoken to some pupils and listened to their suggestions about the school and what they would like to see implemented.

As Captain of the School Hockey Team I have developed key skills such as communication, teamwork and leadership. These skills would help me to support and work closely with pupils, staff and members of the local community. Taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards has presented me with many challenges. Working through these as a team and helping to motivate others when struggling myself has strengthened my resilience and given me the confidence to embrace similar situations that I would face if elected as Head Pupil.

These experiences have also taught me about the importance of preparation and planning in order to achieve our desired outcomes. I have represented Knox as a Youth Ambassador where I have learnt the importance of building relationships with others in our community. As a volunteer at my local hockey club for the last 5 years I have used my friendly nature to be an approachable coach and mentor.

As part of the Pupil Leadership Team it is vital to me that everyone in the school community feels represented and listened to and I would strive to ensure that is attained. As a YPI Finalist I have improved my organisational and time management skills which are essential to the role of Head Pupil. It would be an honour to follow in the footsteps of past Head Pupils and continue to build upon the positive changes that have already been implemented.

**Vote  
Beth**

# My Policies:

**Ambition**  
**Respect**  
**Community**

## Vote Beth!

### Building relationships

This proposal would focus on developing and building the relationships between all pupils throughout Knox and Meadowpark. This would be achieved by:

- Holding house events/team challenges each term
- Introducing S6 pupils into S1-S3 registration classes a few days a week
- Bringing back lunchtime clubs
- Encouraging S6 pupils to help out in BGE classes in their free periods

Each of these would help to develop relationships around the school community particularly focussing on helping the new S1 pupils joining the Knox family.

I want the school to feel safe for everyone and having approachable familiar faces in the senior year groups would help to break down communication barriers and encourage respect across the school.

### Mental Health training

Mental health is a prevailing issue for young people around the world and I would like to build on what we already offer at our school. At the moment we have a group set up to help any S4-S6 pupils in need of support or just a chat. This group has been very successful and has offered invaluable support to a number of pupils already. I propose that we expand this group to help support all year groups around the school creating a safe space for young people to go to if they need help. I would also like to give pupils the opportunity to take part in mental health first aid training so that they are better equipped to deal with the issues they face daily.

### Charity dress down days

I propose that on the last Friday of every month we have a charity dress down day. Those able to would hand in a small donation of their choice for a different local charity each month. The charity would be voted for by the pupils and staff and donations could alternate between food, toiletries or money. I believe that this will give pupils a chance to express themselves and will help to create stronger bonds within the community.

### Careers information - widening access

I would like to expand on a booklet that has been created by a former pupil. The booklet offers mentoring support for people interested in a career in healthcare.

This is unique as all of the mentors are former Knox Academy pupils who are more than happy to chat to current pupils about their career so far. Their contact details and a short description about their journey so far are provided and pupils are encouraged to get in touch. I would love to expand on this by creating more booklets that showcase other career paths and opportunities outwith school such as apprenticeships. This would be an easily accessible resource to encourage pupils to be ambitious and aim high just as their peers did.

### Examination book drop off

I propose that we create a drop off and pick up system for pupils sitting exams at Knox. Many pupils would welcome the additional support of books which guide them through the course work and support what they are doing in class especially when faced with SQA exams.

However, these books are often expensive and not therefore accessible for everyone. I propose that we have a book drop off, just like the school uniform system. Pupils could borrow and return books for others to use which is not only better for the environment but is inclusive of the whole school and providing access to these resources for all.