

IONA CUNNINGHAM

MY MANIFESTO



WHO AM I?

I am Iona Cunningham, I am a hardworking, easy to talk to, along with being a confident individual and a highly motivated pupil who wants to represent the pupils of Knox.

Being head pupil gives me an opportunity to have a key role in the school community and voice the thoughts and ideas of other pupils which is a responsibility I am very keen to take.

Personally I feel as if I am an approachable and social student who has their ears open for anyone no matter the age or year and will try my absolute hardest to solve and help their problems and concerns to the best of my abilities.

I have many family members and previous generations who went to Knox but never ran for head pupil, I would love to be the first Cunningham who has successfully received the role of Head pupil.

Ever since I joined Knox Academy in 2016 I felt privileged to finally be a part of a supporting school environment. In the past 5 years Knox has taught me multiple life skills that I will continue to use throughout my life. I now feel like I have to give something back which will improve the school and make beneficial permanent changes. In first year I started becoming part of a group called Pupil Learning team as I wanted my voice to be heard in the school and make a positive impact and I want other pupils to realise they can do that as well as anything can happen if you work for it.

WHAT DO I WANT TO ACHIEVE?

One of my main goals in life is to make people happy and smile. In Knox Academy I feel people's mental health and wellbeing is not prioritised and it is hard for pupils and teachers to show how they are actually feeling.

My goal is to prove and show people that life gets better. This is really important to me as one of my best friends who I went through Knox Academy with was struggling without realising how much help he could have had from others around him. His passing made me think about how important mental health is in schools and how it is not talked about as much as it should be resulting in people thinking the only way out is having horrible thoughts and feeling alone.

This is why it is one of my main priorities in my manifesto as I truly believe that mental health in school needs to be improved and I can help make that difference.

One way of completing this could be organising multiple fundraising days for mental health charities and bringing in someone from the charity to talk to pupils and get their opinions on mental health. Another way I would like to improve people's opinion of mental wellbeing is having support groups on different days during a lunchtime and be placed on the bulletin to remind them. Another way is every once in a while making everyone complete a google form so I can get a better judgement to see how pupils feel while being in a school environment and then work around the results to work on how we are going to move forward.

My ambition is to be a head teacher. Being head pupil gives me the fundamental experience of being a leader and being approachable at the same time. I know this will take a lot of time as I have to build trust with the people I am going to be involved with.

I want to work towards gaining the respect of the teachers, the pupils and the local community. I know there is a lot of work involved in being the representative of the school whilst dealing with people outside of the school. My current work experience has shown how easy I am at talking and engaging with others. This is an incredibly important skill for a head pupil to have.