

KATIE MOORE

HEAD PUPIL MANIFESTO



WHO AM I?

My name is Katie Moore, I am a motivated candidate who prospers in challenging situations and loves nothing more than being able to help others.

During my time at Knox Academy, I have learned a lot about myself and matured throughout my years. In some situations, I can be quiet and reserved and in others outgoing and confident. I believe that this allows me to empathise with all pupils and see the school as a whole, and so experience situations from a range of perspectives.

I would like to give *all* pupils, confident or shy, a voice at Knox Academy.

WHY AM I RUNNING FOR HEAD PUPIL?

I have been lucky to be involved in school committees every year since my arrival at Knox. This has ranged from the Sports Council, Pupil Council and then taking on the role of Deputy House Captain last year. This has allowed me to see the school from different viewpoints and build a greater understanding of the challenges and hard work behind the scenes. Through these opportunities I have gained self-confidence and always felt that my voice and opinions have been valued, even at a young age. This motivated me to do well and made me feel like a true member of the Knox Academy community. I would like to give back to Knox, a place that has helped me grow in so many ways, and believe that in running for head pupil I can allow students to benefit from Knox in the same ways that I have.

QUALITIES I CAN BRING TO THE ROLE

I believe that the head pupil of Knox Academy should embody the schools' key values: **AMBITION RESPECT AND COMMUNITY**

I believe I have shown ambition during my time at Knox through my engagement and contribution to the committees. I have continuously shown respect towards my teachers and have built positive relationships with them. My participation in committees has also allowed me to respect the diverse opinions of other pupils. Throughout the community I have always looked to aid others and represent Knox in a positive light, through the coaching of gymnasts and assisting elderly people at Haddington Concert society. This has allowed me to learn empathy and engage with a range of people. This has also demonstrated to me how important relationships are within the broader community.



WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR ME

As Head Pupil I will strive to be a familiar face to all years; a pupil who students would feel comfortable speaking to and someone who will stick to their policies.

I believe that I am a friendly and approachable person and would welcome any pupil's opinion and contribution to the school. This truly has been something that has benefitted me throughout my years at Knox.

I have gathered ideas from pupils across all years, opinions from teachers and also worked hard to include aspects from the school improvement plan to ensure that any policy that I introduce will be beneficial to Knox Academy and Meadowpark.

MY POLICIES

- OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
- LEARNING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH IN A PROACTIVE WAY
- STRENGTHENING BONDS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY AND HOUSES
- MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH FORMER PUPILS
- A MORE INCLUSIVE PUPIL COUNCIL
- COVID-19 RECOVERY – FOCUSING ON CLUBS

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OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Outdoor learning has multiple benefits, particularly during COVID times. The social area courtyard was recently cleaned up and accommodated a leavers brunch. This clearly highlights how accessible and safe it is to use.

The use of this area as an outdoor classroom would reap benefits to both students and teachers. It would be a place where COVID guidelines are more relaxed and could allow for a change of scenery. In addition, the fresh air and time outdoors would also be beneficial to not only the physical but mental health of teachers and pupils too.

This learning space could be adaptable for all faculties and be advantageous for all teaching styles.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Positive mental health is just as important, if not more important, than having good physical health. Unfortunately, it is often treated entirely differently.

I propose that half a day be dedicated to promote positive and worthwhile strategies that begin conversations about mental health. A similar method was successfully used to promote girls in sport.

The main aim of this would be to ensure that information about outlets and methods to cope with stress and anxiety are retained, which is often not the case in current assemblies. In S1 I helped to organise the Girls in Sport Day and hope that I can use these skills to implement this policy.

COMMUNITY BONDS

One of Knox's key values is community, however, there has been a lack of any house-based activities over the past of couple of years.

I propose that each house would be allocated a local charity to fundraise for. This will not only strengthen the relationship with the wider community but also create a positive reputation for Knox Academy. Participation from within each house will help build bonds and allow for team building. I would work alongside the House Captains to ensure that this policy becomes a reality as I know first-hand how rewarding working with the community can be.

CONTACT WITH FORMER PUPILS

Knox Academy has created many life-long friendships and played a key role in setting pupils up for life post-school. Initially, I was intrigued by the idea of creating a reunion dinner, for pupils to reminisce on their time at Knox. This idea received positive feedback from many teachers and former pupils. Due to the current circumstances this may not be possible, but I would still like to reach out to past pupils who were proud to be at Knox. In doing so I would look to speak to them about their career and how Knox helped shape them. These conversations could be showcased throughout the school and motivate current pupils.

COVID RECOVERY – FOCUS ON CLUBS

After a very disruptive year, there has been a loss of school clubs. These clubs are often a safe space for many pupils at lunch time. Clubs could be run by passionate students which would allow them to develop leadership and organisational skills. This would also allow teachers to be separated from their subject and role as a teacher; creating a nurturing relationship and presenting pupils with another trusted adult in times of need. I strongly believe in creating positive relationships with teachers as it makes school an overall better experience, not only for pupils but teachers too.

As head pupil I will encourage many pupils to join and start clubs. I hope to partner with the PTA for initial funding / snacks to encourage participation.

A MORE INCLUSIVE PUPIL COUNCIL

As head pupil, I will aim to improve the way that the Pupil Council is run.

I recognise that for younger pupils speaking to older pupils it can often be a daunting experience. I would like to propose that in preparation of each Pupil Council meetings, myself and another member of the leadership team would meet with the S1-3 members for a short period of time to listen to their thoughts. This would allow pupils to voice their concerns in an inclusive environment, and less-assertive voices to be heard.

This method would also ensure that all points are discussed by every year group and allow for an inclusive, fair and enjoyable committee.