

Hannah Wylie
Head pupil Manifesto 2020 - 2021
Knox Academy



Ambition - Respect - Community

About me:

I don't expect head pupil to be an easy job, I've heard from many people that there is a lot of work, time and effort that goes into it and I think that is one of the reasons why I believe that commitment and determination can be some of the most important qualities for a head pupil to have. As your head pupil I would want to be able to help students feel as though each and every one of them feel equally supported within our school. Throughout my time at Knox and being involved in other things outside of school such as work and my dance school, I feel like I have been able to develop various skills and qualities that have helped enable me to make a difference.

Why I would be a good head pupil:

I believe that Leadership is a very important trait for a head pupil to have but sometimes it can be viewed in different ways. To me leadership is not about telling people what to do, it's about being able to take on a problem or situation and work with other people in order to find a solution, but also being able to take the lead when necessary and guide and support people through challenges. And so I view leadership and teamwork as joint skills, you can't be successful in one area without the other. I feel that this was shown during my involvement with YPI, I took away skills from that I had never really used before. I became more confident and comfortable while speaking in front of people such as for the final presentation and then presenting in a smaller group to the parents and teachers after the YPI final. I also feel that this experience has improved my skills in communication and management as I was responsible for contacting the charity, organising the meet up and inviting East Lothian Young Carers to the school for the final.

why I want to be head pupil- how is it going to change/improve the school

Responsibility. I have been volunteering at Haddington School of Dance and Music since I started high school as it has helped me to develop my skills in communicating with a whole range of people from the students to their parents. Through this volunteering, I was dealing with younger children and making sure that they are safe and I have been able take initiative and act responsibly when required. This has helped to develop my responsibility as you have to be able to think about things that could go wrong prior to them happening to try and avoid it. I also feel that this has given me a level of trust and ability to care for others which is another reason for wanting to run for head pupil as I want to make sure that everyone in school has access to the support that they need.

Proposals

Aim:

These proposals are aims and hopes that I will try my best to carry out, as I feel that they will all be of benefit to the school in different ways. As head pupil I want to be able to represent and improve certain aspects of the school in the best way possible and so I have tried to incorporate many things that hopefully include all year groups and have an overall positive effect. Communication within schools is key which is why these proposals are there to try and help everyone and bring up the main things that I feel as your head pupil I would have the power to change.

- **S1 transition-**
- **Mental health awareness-**
- **Two Christmas dances-**
- **Young carers-**

S1 transition:

- As the new S1's cannot have their transition days I think that it is important for them to have a post transition when we're back at school in order for them to feel like they are a part of the school as much as past years felt.
- So in order to help our new S1's to settle in, I propose that we introduce an S1 tour lead by the S6's after school which will give them the opportunity to go around and can have conversations with teachers in small groups while still keeping to social distancing.
- This would ensure that the students get a chance to ask any questions that they haven't felt comfortable asking in classes already and give the teachers a chance to talk with them as well.

Mental health awareness:

- Mental illness plays a big role in pupil attendance and ability to participate in lessons. I believe that it is important to find a way for all pupils to feel as though they have somewhere to go if they are feeling low or stressed, worried or anxious.

- I think that we should introduce a group of senior students who can become a support and a gateway to teachers when pupils don't feel like they can approach their friends or teachers themselves.
- By having a group of trusted senior pupils these students who are feeling like they may need some support, advice or help, can get contact or come and find them at breaks and lunches where the senior pupils can give them some advice and send off an email or a note to guidance for the pupil so that they don't have to do it themselves.

Two Christmas dances:

- Have two Christmas dances but have parents volunteer instead of just staff running it as I know that many staff have families of their own and wouldn't be able to do both and some staff prefer not to do any of them.
- I am hopeful that parents will be happy to get involved as last year there was a limit on the number of tickets sold which meant that many pupils missed out on it.
- So this would mean that every pupil will have the opportunity to attend the Christmas dances through their time at Knox and create a stronger link between school and the outside community, allowing parents to have more interaction with school events.

Young carers:

- I think that it is extremely important that we keep trying to be an all inclusive school by saying that I am not categorizing these students as different from any other pupil within our school, but my aim is to make these pupils feel that they have the support they need.
- There are many students that Knox Academy may not know are young carers as the majority of them have to approach the school themselves. This can lead to pupils falling behind in class or come across as unorganised and not willing to put the work into their classes just because they haven't been able to hand a piece of work into their teachers due to caring for a family member.

- So I feel it is extremely important for us to work hard to find new ways for these students to not feel as though they have to come up with excuses as to why a piece of work isn't completed and instead encourage them to approach a member of staff and make them aware of their situation. I understand that this is an incredibly difficult thing to be able to do which is why I feel that asking them is the priority and seeing where they feel there could be more support such as in learning environments or with homework that they aren't able to complete.

In conclusion using these policies and anything else I can, I will do my absolute best to help guide the students as head pupil in the most effective way possible, especially in this difficult and uncertain time as we need to show the school that we trust that the decisions made are all in the interest of the pupils. When we eventually go back to school things aren't going to be the same as they used to, things will have changed and we need to work together to make it as smooth and achievable and the best "new normal" we can have.