

Kirsty Dee:Manifesto

A little about me...

Hi there! I am Kirsty Dee, a current S6 pupil at Knox Academy and I'm running to be your head pupil for the 2022/23 session. I want to introduce myself, before getting into my ideas and policies, so here is a little about me. I'm 17 and have spent the last 5 years (great years!) at Knox Academy, creating new relationships with teachers and friends, but also working on strengthening the old ones that I've carried throughout my life, and I'm very passionate about making the school as wonderful as it can be in my final year. I've faced many challenges throughout my time at Knox Academy including being diagnosed with dyslexia, this really rocked my confidence, but the teachers and support base helped me through and I believe this has made me come out stronger than before. I have been, and still currently am, part of many extra-curricular activities both within and outwith the school, helping me to become the person I am today and the person, I believe, that would be perfect to be your next head pupil.



Why should you choose me for head pupil?

Why should you choose me? Well that's a difficult question. I believe you should choose me because I am determined to make positive changes for all the pupils who come after me at Knox Academy.

I've been part of the Knox Academy and Haddington Hockey teams for the last five years. Being part of these teams has encouraged me to create new friendships and pushed me out of my comfort zone, something I wasn't used to before coming to Knox. It has helped me to work better in team situations, which is definitely something I think will be vital for the role of head pupil, as you often need to come to compromises and work with big groups to come to decisions. Along with being a member of these teams, I have also been a coach for the last five years as part of my DofE bronze and silver awards and this has helped me to ensure I am a welcoming, friendly and approachable person, which I believe would be very handy if I'm elected to take on this role. My DofE awards have helped me to become more resilient as it's both a physical and mental challenge in which you need to motivate yourself to keep going and not give up. I believe this will be extremely helpful as it shows that I will try my best and not give up when it comes to helping the school and pupils. I was also very fortunate to be part of a team that won YPI this year and to be able to give £3000 to the charity we worked closely with, Muirfield Riding Therapy. This helped me to improve my public speaking because that's always been something that has scared me, again forcing me out of my comfort zone, as obviously you need an ability to speak publicly for this role - something I feel I am now confident in doing. It's also helped me to become more compassionate as it forced me to learn and adapt to new situations that I'm not used to. This has helped me to change my perceptions, as I now carefully consider the needs of different types of people and try and represent everyone effectively and positively.

Here are my ideas!

**Lunch time
Buddies**

**Introduction &
Regeneration of
social activities**

**Revision Tool
Portal**

**Increased
learning &
support for
LGBTQIA+**

**More support for girls
sports in school**

**Knox and The
Community
=
United**

HERE ARE MY IDEAS EXPLAINED...

LUNCH TIME BUDDIES

This would be a volunteer service that would run where those from younger years could come to a classroom on certain days at lunch and meet with someone older and they could eat together. This would help strengthen the bonds of the school community, as it would provide a safe space where younger and older pupils could meet for lunch, and a chat, if they don't have anyone else. This could result in more open conversations around mental health, and feeling isolated from their peers, as it would be a safe space for people to share how they are feeling, possibly meet other people their age or similar that are struggling with the same feelings, and they could build themselves and their friendships together.

LGBTQIA+ LEARNING

This idea is to run assemblies and possible lessons during the current PSE period about acceptance and with a focus on the teaching and recognition of pronouns. This is because it's becoming more common for people to use pronouns, other than she or he, and I believe that these aren't recognised and taught about in schools, enough. I believe the assemblies and lessons could shed a light on the different ways people can identify and help others that haven't heard of these before to be more accepting and to recognise the way others wish to be addressed, other than just she or he.

REVISION TOOL PORTAL

This idea would be a place on the school website in which you could access old revision notes and tools others have used in the past. For example, old mind maps that you've made that provide quality revision could be scanned in and uploaded for others to use in the future or even just to add a post to the page of helpful websites for certain sections of certain subjects. This would also help us to become more eco friendly as a school as less people would need to print out revision resources as they could all be accessed online. In addition, teachers could add old revision tools, like worksheets and questions, that could be accessed to better your understanding overall.

GIRLS SPORT SUPPORT

This is something that already exists within the school but I want to work to increase it. In recent years there has been an increase in girls being interested in things like football and hockey, but there has been limited support from the school in these areas. I want to work to increase this support, similar to the support that is currently present for boys rugby. This would be done by more social media presence for girls sports, perhaps a Knox Girls sport twitter page and tasters for all the different sports offered to girls. If these sports aren't being offered during PE, for example, they can become a second thought and this results in girls being less likely to get involved. It would be my hope to have everyone involved in some sport in some way.

KNOX & THE COMMUNITY

The idea is to strengthen the bonds between Knox Academy and the local community including Meadow Park and the local primary schools, Haddington and Letham Mains Primary Schools. This will be done by ensuring that the pupils of Knox Academy are seen as helpful, kind and courteous individuals in the community, instead of the current view of some who believe this not to be the case. The goal is to see some positive articles and comments passed back to the school from the community. I will try to create stronger bonds with Meadow Park especially by creating a programme in which people can use their free time, during study periods, to help out in the school. I believe that currently this part of our school feels isolated and I want to create an accepting and welcoming environment where the schools are seen as united.

MORE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

This idea is that we could try and introduce new activities and regenerate old ones back into the school to provide some much needed social healing after the pandemic. This would help to build bonds with younger years that have lacked these opportunities over the last few years because of Covid. These types of activities could be suggested by different years in the school and/or the teachers and everyone would work collaboratively to organise these activities in order to bring back some sense of normality into the school.

