

Mara Popa | Head Pupil 2022/23

About Me

Hi, my name is Mara and I am running to be one of your head pupils for the year 2022/23. I have been calling Knox Academy my home for the last 5 years and it is where I have learned so much academically and socially that I would love as many other pupils at Knox to have similar experiences. Through my years here I have made strong relationships with staff and pupils as well as making positive memories. Knox has helped me to overcome challenges and made me the best I can be. I have a few policies which I think would make a great start to help thrive our school community and I am open to listen and give support to any new ideas from other staff or pupils within the school.



ME!



ME!



Why I would like to be your Head Pupil

As a head pupil, I want what is best for the school community. I am **motivated** and **resilient** to take on any challenges that being a head pupil could give me as I know what will come out of it is rewarding to everyone in the school community. Living in a small village, **community** is a big part of my life and through this, I have taken on lots of **volunteering** (such as being a young leader for our girl-guide group) and **commitments** (such as attending litter picks) which I would love to transfer over to our school community. Being a **YPI Finalist** has helped me strengthen my **organisation** skills as well as **time management** which are skills that a head pupil needs. Taking part in the **Duke of Edinburgh** award has also strengthened my **teamwork** skills and has faced me with many challenges which I was able to face. Being your head pupil and part of the pupil leadership team is important to me as I believe it is not just the pupil leadership team that decides what to do - it is the whole school community and I will use skills that Knox has taught me and use them to follow on from past head pupils to build on and strengthen past and active policies as well as implement our own to make life at Knox an amazing and unforgettable experience for everyone.

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AMBITION | RESPECT | COMMUNITY

**Introducing
More Clubs**

**Looking after
our
environment**

**Work closer
with local
charities**

As a school, we need more available clubs with a variety of activities that can run during lunchtimes by S6s. After a discussion with Ms Cook regarding a google form, the most popular clubs that pupils want are a debating club, crime club, cake making, history club, photography club, dance club, book club and art club. These clubs could let pupils to explore interests that they never knew they had and can promote ambition by letting pupils try new things. This can reduce the numbers of conflicts and vandalism and produce a nice and welcoming school environment.

As a school, we need to have a better conscious when looking after our school environment. By promoting and encouraging pupils to join the Eco group, it will help us to recycle plastic properly and maintain a rubbish-free school. I will work together with staff to get more available bins around the school inside and outside so that pupils are less likely to just throw their litter on the ground. The Eco group can also help to make sure bins aren't always overflowing and hold activities, assemblies and competitions in our school to keep our focus on making Knox litter-free.

As a school, we need to work closer with charities and with the local community to support them. This could include fundraisers as well as dress down days which will bring us as a school closer as well as making bonds with our Haddington community. Charities such as New Horizons, East Lothian Foodbank and my YPI charity Childrens 1st are just some of the local charities which we can support. This could help pupils to gain volunteering experience and skills which is extremely useful for life out of Knox.