

Hugo Elder
Head Pupil Manifesto
Knox Academy
2020-2021



Helping you,

- Choose your future**
- Express your views**
- Get involved**
- Reconnect**

Ambition

Respect

Community

Why am I running ?

Our school is facing numerous challenges in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and I want to be involved in leading the school community through these challenges and help pupils adapt and to come to terms not only with the disappointment of missing out but to help celebrate our achievements in spite of this adversity. We have to adapt, share our resources and support each other in these times.

I will be a strong link between staff and pupils to help us as all adapt and still continue to enjoy school and all it has to offer.

Why me ?

I have the qualities and experience to create a stronger bond between pupils and staff as head pupil. I am friendly, confident and approachable. Many people already know me through my volunteering with Haddington Rugby Club Minis and the School of Rugby as a coach. Being a coach has improved my skills in leadership but I have also learned to be diplomatic. As a former Captain of the rugby team I have also learned how important teamship is, not just competing on the field but also in supporting each other outwith the physical aspect of the game. It's key to growing each other's confidence and being there as teammates.

Throughout my years at Knox I have learned to be adaptable and know that discipline and commitment can earn respect but being engaged and having a good sense of humour is also vital.

As a Deputy House Captain for Garleton in S5 I was introduced to the workings of the Pupil Parliament. The importance of the pupil voice has motivated me to further highlight the views of every pupil in our school.

My Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) volunteering has helped me to get involved in our community in various ways - eg. Haddington Rotary, Haddington Rugby, Gifford Community groups and Haddington Show. I can create stronger links with these groups especially in this time of need. Furthermore completing my DofE awards has taught me to recognise the skill sets of each individual in a team in order to utilise them in the most effective way possible.

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Choosing your future

As head pupil, I would ensure that pupils are aware of the various opportunities beyond school, as I recognise that every student's experience is unique. We receive in depth and important information regarding modern apprenticeships, academies and colleges from the end of S3 onwards, as college qualifications are often completed between S3 and S5 which can mean that university information isn't focused on until S6. I feel it is important to further promote information about attending university during these earlier years to make sure that pupils are fully prepared for what they can achieve in S5 and S6.

I would fulfil this by ensuring that S4's and S5's have a regular feed of university information, focusing particularly on those in S5 due to the importance of Highers . I suggest that a part of their core classes would be dedicated to looking into qualifications that must be attained in order to get into university such as the subjects they must take for admission into certain careers. By having students thoroughly research the University requirements at the beginning of S5 allows pupils to see just what is needed to achieve their end goals and how much work is needed to succeed.

Furthermore, I would create a @knoxUCAS twitter account and post information for guidance e.g. admission dates, funding, UCAS videos and open days . This would be especially relevant given the changes to the system in light of the pandemic. Given the likely changes to the school environment and home learning I would work with the career staff and guidance teachers to ensure the @knoxUCAS twitter page would be an essential learning tool for those in S5 and S6 concerned about University. In addition It would allow pupils at any stage of their school career to find a permanent information bank throughout the academic year.

Expressing your views

If elected as head pupil I would introduce a quarterly survey system to canvas the views of all pupils. Currently we are sent out surveys that we answer as a class in registration. I propose that alongside these whole class surveys we send out surveys to each pupil to answer individually, the questions that are asked in the survey would be relevant to that term of the year and would be decided by the pupil parliament, clubs and committees. These surveys would be an essential form of communication when adapting to the changes brought by the corona virus pandemic. This allows clubs and committees to gain information from a large number of people across all year groups, which they are currently unable to do so on a regular basis.

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The questions in the survey would also be determined by on going events, for example the christmas dance, the survey could be used to gain an estimate on how many people actually want to attend which can then be passed on to senior management and staff to attempt to accommodate and prepare for all. As the questions will be asked by pupils it will create a stronger connection with those who perhaps are not confident enough to approach a member of the pupil parliament in person it also creates a stronger link between all pupils and staff allowing stronger communication.

The survey will not only contain a variety of questions, set by the pupil parliament, committees and clubs but also questions asked by staff further making the bond between pupils and staff stronger. Yet the survey will still be sent from a pupils' perspective. The survey will allow a range of questions to be answered, broad and specific. It will give direction to the many vibrant groups of our school community and allow them to set short and long term targets for their year.

Getting involved

My next policy would be to create a stronger link between younger years and clubs that are offered throughout the school year. Many opportunities to join clubs and committees can often be missed when the bulletin is read out, this means students are unaware of clubs that exist throughout the school or how to join the clubs. As head pupil I would create a club and all committee fair for those in S1 to S3 to attend which I understand that in the current circumstances this may have to be moved into an online format . As a member of Knox Rugby, I am aware of the importance and belongingness that joining a club has to offer.

The fair would be interactive as it is often difficult for young people to speak to new clubs without prompting. I want to create a more comfortable setting in these fairs so that they are effective for everyone involved with them.

If this were unable to happen in school i would like to organise a google classroom, KnoxClubs for all those in S1 to S3 where every club/committee would upload information on regards to their activities this allows pupil to still join clubs and still feel apart our bustling school community even if we are unable to attend school full time.

This gives pupils the opportunity to participate in KnoxClub activities as a way to not only stay connected but to feel engaged and have fun.

Reconnecting

As highlighted in all my policies, reconnecting all stakeholders of the school will be a priority for the leadership team this year. That is why I would guarantee that if elected

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I would concentrate my efforts on ensuring that clear and precise communication of essential information is broadcasted directly to all involved and that their concerns are relayed to the senior management team.

Although these are unique circumstances for us all, it is a challenge I am confident that I can commit to. As head pupil I will have an open ear to the pupil voice and act as a bridge of communication between the groups within our school.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto.



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