

Jessica Thomson



Head Pupil Manifesto

2019-2020

Why am I running?

I have been a pupil at Knox Academy for over 5 years now and I have been able to see positive changes and growth over that time. Throughout these years, my passion and appreciation for our school and everybody within it has only grown. Knox Academy has provided me with many opportunities to better myself and I want to make sure that everybody who attends has the same positive experience. Our core values of ambition, respect, and community have always been a major part of me as a student and as a person. I feel that I can use them as a strong foundation for our school environment and its development. I am excited to be able to give back to our school and help to give everybody in our community a voice.

My qualities

- My positivity and open-mindedness are useful skills for a head pupil. In Knox Academy, I see a school that is constantly changing and evolving. Not only would I be able to help our school to continue to flourish but I would also be open to new ideas and points of view from everybody in our school. I will always be there to talk to, whatever the situation.
- Once I put my mind to something, I will work my hardest to finish it to the highest standard. I will listen to and take on any possible issues or concerns and take action. Everybody in our school deserves an experience personal to them. I recognise that everybody's school experience is different and no pupil is the same. I will see that the individuality of our school is celebrated and developed at every stage of learning.
- Resilience and motivation are qualities on which I pride myself. Through sporting activities, coaching trampolining, and working for exams, these traits have often been tested. But through difficulty comes strength, and this will allow me to be strong for the pupils of our school when difficult decisions have to be made. I will also continue to motivate myself and the other students I will be working with, allowing me to work as part of a secure team whilst also being an independent and compassionate thinker.

My Promises

1. To **encourage** a reinforced school spirit and connection between every individual in our school

2. To **create** an environmentally friendly school ethos and a clean school environment
3. To **ensure** that there is stable and effective communication within the school
4. To **maintain** support for students during each school year as well as the transition between
5. To **improve** the school's relationships with the wider community and selected charities

1. To encourage a reinforced school spirit and connection between every individual in our school

With a large and constantly growing community within our school, togetherness is key. Our current house system is a very effective way to bring together our students and I believe that developing this would create an even stronger and supportive foundation for Knox Academy as a whole. As a previous Vice House Captain of Lammerlaw, I have always been there to take part in supporting my house, as well as working with many others from Traprain and Garleton to reach positive common goals.

Seeing the positive and lasting impact that this support has created, I propose a number of organised activities throughout the year (house games as well as fully inclusive activities for each area of our school community such as music, languages, sport, science, technology and mathematics and more), and a Spirit Week to build this up. This would include many house-centred activities as well as events to bring our school community together, such as themed days, contests in houses, and activities to engage both teachers and pupils. Through bringing everyone in Knox Academy together, every aspect of our learning will be improved through positivity and enjoyment.

2. To create an environmentally friendly school ethos and a clean school environment

As a dedicated member of the Eco Committee, I have a passion and commitment to the environment and its protection. We have recently made great strides in creating a greener school and have gained our first green flag. I want to continue this and lead us forward. The environment is a pressing issue in our society and a topic that will follow our students as they move forward in their lives. By developing a respect

and appreciation for our it now will ensure we make positive and impactful change in the future.

We may not be able to fix everything right away but making small but meaningful changes in our everyday lives, especially in school can make a massive difference. I have submitted a funding request for 3 trio-style (paper, plastic, and general waste) recycling bins to be placed around key areas of the school. Ideally the management and emptying of these bins would allow for the junior school to take on a leadership role and give them opportunities to volunteer. These would allow for people to recycle their waste easily and would encourage a cleaner school space overall.

3. To ensure that there is stable and effective communication within the school

For the Knox community to feel fully listened to and valued, they must be able to see the full results of their feedback and ideas in action. That is why I propose that, as head pupil, I would have termly updates in the form of a physical board on the progress and achievements accomplished by my senior management team, as well as upcoming events. This would allow for our school to be able to see how the issues affecting them are being dealt with and can strengthen the trust between our community and pupil leadership, as well as allowing pupils to be a part of the decision making that impacts their school lives.

4. To maintain support for students during each school year as well as the transition between

Every year in Knox Academy is different and each comes with a new set of expectations and challenges. I want to make these transitions as simple and stress free as possible. Informing pupils of the expectations and the challenges that they may face (as well as the exciting opportunities and enjoyment that they will gain) during their upcoming school year, we can make sure that nobody feels like they can't achieve the best that they can. Knox Academy is a school for everyone. Inclusivity and ambition is at our heart. So, by guiding and aiding our students from the very beginning until the very end, they will be able to reach levels that they never thought they could and go on to achieve their dreams for their futures, whatever that may be.

5. To improve the school's relationships with the wider community and selected charities

During my time working on YPI, I developed a true appreciation for the importance of the relationship between Knox Academy and the charities that we help support. In order for us to give back to our community and the charities within it, I believe that more emphasis must be put on fundraising continuously and consistently throughout

the year, as well as raising the awareness within individual houses on their chosen charity.

I would work closely with the charities committee as well as House Captains to create two large events. One at the start of the year to explain each house's chosen charity, what they do, and proposals for fundraising; the other at the end which will recap on the previous event's information as well as showing how much money was raised, and (most importantly) the impact that this will have on the charity.

I would be honoured to be chosen as your next head pupil. These promises are not made to be used for one year and then removed, they would be for us as current students as well as benefit future generations at Knox. I will commit myself fully to the role of head pupil and hold myself to the standard that our school deserves. Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto.

