

# Jocelyn McKnight



## Knox Academy

Ambition. | Respect. | Community.

“I don’t just speak the change. I make the change”



## About me

My name is Jocelyn McKnight. Since joining Knox Academy I have been given many **opportunities** that have developed me into the person I am today. I started Knox with very little confidence and would never have dreamed of going for head pupil. However, I feel it is now time to give something back to Knox and the community. Head pupil would give me the opportunity to build upon the **positive changes** I have already made to the school but would also allow me to help people build the confidence that I lacked in my first few years of school.

## What could I bring to the role of head pupil?

I believe that a strong head pupil should be **committed** to the school and the community. I have demonstrated commitment through the work I have done in leading the **pupil learning team**. This has allowed me to influence positive change within the school but also to learn how to be **outcome focused**, a quality I believe is essential to being a head pupil.

The pupil learning team has taught me how to be **confident** when **speaking** about ideas but equally **sensitive** when **listening** to them. Overall this has enabled me to participate in challenging conversations with peers, teachers and the parent council, a task I will be able to carry out as head pupil. As well as organising regular meetings with different members of staff and the community.

As part of my Gold Duke of Edinburgh award, I have been involved in the running of my local scout's group. This has allowed me to develop key **leadership skills** as I have had to learn how to **communicate** well with both adults and young people. This symbolises my ambition for the community and also my **determination** to follow through with any task.

## Manifesto policies/What do these policies actually mean?

In the run-up to the election, I **compiled a survey** asking key questions to both pupils and teachers about our school and how we could improve it. From the survey,

I **carefully** selected 6 commonalities. These key points have become the centre of my manifesto policies:

**Further support for young people who face challenges from learning difficulties eg dyslexia**

This means that I will be working **closely** with the learning support base to ensure they have all the **support** from pupils they need. This will include an **increase** in one to one paired reading but also offering one to one support in classes. I feel as pupils we should support those who are struggling. This will also **strengthen** our **community** within the school.

**Strengthen our relationship with our community, for example, the primary school.**

68% of pupils in the school said they felt our relationship with the **community** outside of school could be **strengthened**. I will work closely with the local primary schools to set up paired reading between students from our school and theirs.

- Pupils from Knox who have recently finished paired reading will go down to the primary school and help children who struggle with reading.
- This will **increase reading ages** for children coming up to Knox but also ensure that young people who have finished paired reading continue to use the skill.
- This will benefit Knox in the **long term** as well as the **short term**.

**Strengthen our relationship with Meadow Park**

I will work **closely** with the staff and pupils at Meadow Park to make sure that they have all the **support** from Knox academy pupils. This will include a rotational buddying system where pupils from our school go over to Meadow Park or invite Meadow Park pupils to take part in activities that already take place in Knox, for example, S3 electives.

### **Improve the way that mental health is talked about within our school**

Although, as a school, we can't eliminate mental ill health completely, we can **talk about** it regularly. I propose we form a 'Mental Health Committee'

- This will give pupils an opportunity to talk openly about mental health in a **safe environment**
- This will give pupils the opportunity to raise awareness by organising an 'awareness week' where charities are invited to talk to us about mental health etc.
- The mental health committee will also contribute to pupil parliament.

### **Celebrate and learn about the LGBTQ+ community more within our school.**

I wish to **build upon** the work begun by the LGBTQ+ group to support young people who are part of the LGBTQ+ community. I propose:

- We **celebrate** Pride month more within our school by basing SE lessons on LGTBQ+ experiences.
- **Expand** the LGBTQ+ support group by offering the **support** of the staff. (I have consulted with Mr Edwards already)

### **Introduce a junior leadership team to ensure pupil voice is heard in every year**

It should not be only those in the senior years who feel they have full representation in the school. The pupil learning team has allowed me to **listen** to students in S1-3 voice. Their voices have been extremely influential in decision making. I propose we introduce a junior leadership team to ensure that S1-3 voices are heard **equally**.

- The junior leadership team will help the senior leadership team with things such as leading the pupil parliament whilst ensuring that pupil voice is heard throughout the **whole school**.
- The junior leadership team will be pupils selected by teachers who are hard workers but would also benefit from leadership.

**Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto, I hope it represents your views as a pupil/teacher. I believe my policies are realistic to achieve and will not only impact the school now but for years to come. Your vote would allow me impact the school positively. If you have any questions please come and talk to me or email me at; ka14jmcknight@edubzz.org. Don't forget to vote Jos!**