



Head Pupil 2025

Manifesto

Tilly Darby

About me

Hi, I'm Tilly and I could be one of your next head pupils this year.

I have only been at Knox for a year, but throughout this year I have not only grown as a person but I have also learnt so much about this school and its community. Before the first day of school last year I was incredibly nervous but went in with an open mind, knowing not one person and not one teacher. The people and teachers who make up Knox invited me into their community and not only were but continue to be so welcoming and kind. The students were very welcoming and always made sure to include me and throughout the first few days at school I met someone of the nicest teachers and student, most of whom have become my close friends.

Throughout my time at Knox, I have tried to take as many opportunities as possible to help out within the schools community when I can, whether that is p7 nights, or helping those who need it in my classes. I have learnt that even if you don't know anyone, you can always help them and make a difference in their day. This welcoming environment and the opportunities I have had and continue to have mean that I get up each morning, put on my Knox uniform and am proud to be a student at this school. This pride has not only allowed me to push myself out of my comfort zone within school but also outside of school such as using my public speaking skills learned within Knox.

I am proud to be a Knox student as they welcome not only students moving up through Haddington education but students from around the globe with community warmth and respect for each individual student. This is something I have also carried out into the world with me, the respect and warmth towards others, whether you know them or not.



Why you should vote for me

As head pupil, I will not only strive to get the policies stated in my manifesto implemented, but I'll also take into consideration the student's own suggestions. School should not only be a place where students feel welcomed, but teachers should feel like they have a strong bond and COMMUNITY with the pupils.

Even though I've only been at this school for a year, I believe that fresh perspectives can bring a powerful change. I am deeply committed to our school's values of AMBITION, RESPECT, and COMMUNITY. All the time I have spent and seen at Knox has been a learning experience; everyone comes together and makes a COMMUNITY, which makes our school strong.

Last year, when I was in S5, I spent a lot of time in various departments, not only catching up on work but also offering help to those who needed it. I learnt throughout this time that the relationship built between the students and teachers is what helps the COMMUNITY grow and stay strong. The bond created by some of these teachers helped push me to strive to be more AMBITIOUS throughout my studies and classes.

We should aim high in everything we do, treat others with kindness and fairness, and continue to always look for ways to bring people together. In just one year, I've worked hard to get involved, listen, and make a positive impact. With your vote, I will bring energy, new ideas, and a strong sense of unity to the role of Head Pupil. Like a plant pot, build the structure and the COMMUNITY will flourish.

Policies

1. Community Policy: "Make every day more successful than the last."

As Head Pupil, I will focus on building a stronger sense of unity across year groups. I'll work to create more opportunities for collaboration through house activities, and mentoring systems – so that every student feels connected, valued, and supported within our school **community**, – along with **House Spirit days** – i.e., wear your house colour or dress as a certain theme days, increasing the sense of pride within our school. I want school to be a place where no one feels left out or unheard by anyone. School should be a place where people feel like they have a **community** outside of their family, and that they belong.

Throughout the year, we have a couple of days where we get to "dress down", Through my policies, I would like to implement a few more days throughout the year where the different houses come together and dress up. An example of this would be **dressing in your house colours, i.e., yellow, red, and green**. This is a great way to not only bring the different houses together but also bring the whole school together because it's a friendly, **ambitious** competition on which house is dressed best. Another school spirit day that would be fun and bring the whole school together would be to **wear school colours on the days before break**. These school spirit days would not only help the school **community** come together but also give something fun for the different years to plan and look forward to, either at the start, the middle, or the end of the year. The aim of these "**spirit days**" is to bring back the sense of pride and **community** to the school population – I'm proud and thankful to be at Knox, and I want others to feel the same.



T



L



G

Policies

2. Inclusivity Policy: “Everyone is welcomed, respected, and valued here.”

Diversity and equality are essential in a school. If elected, I will continue to develop **Knox Academy into a place where everyone, regardless of background, ability, or identity, feels respected and seen.** I’ll take initiatives that highlight cultural differences, tackle bias about cultural backgrounds, and ensure equal access to school opportunities and clubs. My goal is to make sure every student knows that they belong here.

In this policy, **I will try and implement and push the need for more people to join the already existing LGBTQ+ club.** Although it is an ongoing club, there are only a few people in it who consistently go. The foundations of the club are strong, but opportunity has presented itself to build the profile and connect with the school community. **I believe that the club should not only speak about the different sexualities of people from Knox, but also the different cultural backgrounds of the members.**

In addition, I'd like to spearhead a new “**Multi-cultural club**” which would embrace all cultural, religious, and financial backgrounds that encompass the Knox **community.** This will **not only help bring more awareness to the differences in our school community but also to future generations at Knox.** I will try and push both these important clubs in more assemblies so they become fully embedded in the school's philosophies of **ambition, respect and community.**



3. Mental Health Policy: “Every Voice is heard and matters.”

Mental health matters as much as academic success. I will campaign for **more available support systems and regular awareness days that promote open conversations around mental well-being.** From quiet spaces to peer support programs, and a confidential drop box for students who can share things they may be struggling with. I’ll advocate for **an environment where asking for help is encouraged—and never judged, – especially at stressful times of the year.**

In this policy, **I will create a drop box where students who are having a hard time with mental health but don't feel comfortable talking about it, can leave a written note requesting support or guidance on specific concerns.** Then throughout Thursday, the pupil support leaders and the head pupils can sit down and create some ideas on how to help the people with different ways, i.e., fidget toys for anxiety, talking to a teacher or trusted adult, or lining up some peer support from a **respectful, ambitious** senior pupil group. If appropriate, if these topics are broad and potentially impacting numerous students, **the suggested supports could be included on the weekly HT Report,** where the whole school population (parents and carers included) can read and implement these in their everyday lives. During exam season, a stressful time for a lot of students, I will try and arrange **a day where classes and revision are paused for the day, and the students can have a day of mental health activities.** **Some of these activities will include: meditative colouring, walking around the field, rounders (if the weather is good), football, and more.** This is a way for students to not only come together as a **community** for fun, but also a way for students to take a break from all the stress that exams cause, because they are so **ambitious** to get good results.