

MY MANIFESTO♡

I have chosen to focus my manifesto on poverty because it affects millions of young people across the UK. It limits their opportunities to learn, join in activities, travel, and maintain good mental health. I believe this is one of the most important issues facing young people today, and it is vital that we take action so that no child's future is held back by their background.

One of the ways I would tackle this is by campaigning for disused council buildings and community spaces to be reopened as youth clubs. These clubs would provide free, safe places where young people can meet friends, enjoy sport, and access support. These clubs and activities could be run by teenagers aged 15 and above as this would not only reduce costs but also give them valuable work experience and volunteering hours. Schools could then integrate participation into programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, ensuring participation is recognized and rewarding.

However, corporate companies could also be part of the solution. Many already commit time to community projects, and by working with them, youth clubs could host free workshops on skills such as CV writing, interview practice, and career confidence. This isn't simply a cost-saving idea but it creates genuine value for everyone involved. Young people gain skills and confidence, schools build stronger links with their communities, and businesses invest in the next generation of workers.

Moreover, poverty often increases stress and anxiety for young people, but support is not always easy to find. Therefore I would also campaign for more school-based mental health drop-ins and peer-support groups, closely connected with youth clubs. For example, clubs could host wellbeing sessions run by charities or trained volunteers, while schools provide regular drop-ins with counsellors or mentors. This combined approach would make mental health support accessible in safe, familiar places whilst also removing the stigmas that surround poverty, so young people feel comfortable seeking help when they need it the most.

As an MYP, I would campaign nationally for these practical and achievable steps: youth clubs that build skills and futures, corporate partnerships that benefit everyone, and joined-up mental health support in schools and communities. Together, these initiatives would give every young person the chance to thrive, no matter their background.