

So, you want to be an MYP!

Campaign guide for candidates

Running your campaign

These tips are a guide to start thinking about how to run your election campaign.

- ❖ **Talk to your peers.** Since you will be representing them as your constituents, you need to figure out what they want and what issues matter to them. What problems are affecting them? Are there changes locally and nationally they want to see? What do they care about? Consult with them to find out what they think. Go to schools, youth groups, organisations, and colleges to meet young people where they often are.
- ❖ **Think about why you would be a good candidate.** What traits and skills do you have that will set you apart? What are you interested in and involved in? What are you passionate about? Why would you be a great MYP for Wiltshire? This way, you can tell others clearly and confidently why they should vote for you.
- ❖ **Come up with a slogan.** Be creative, and think of what you would like to see in someone who was elected to represent *your* views.
- ❖ **Advertise yourself.** Use a separate, dedicated social media profile, and other resources, to promote yourself as a candidate (as long as you are old enough and have parent/carer permission).
- ❖ **Target interested groups.** If you want to focus on improving local schools, is there a pupil council you can talk with to gain their support? If you are passionate about the environment, are there other groups in your area working on the same issue? If you want to work on improving safety, is there a local youth organisation that works on this? Try to convince them that you would be a great candidate to help them further their interests.

The dos and don'ts

As a candidate in this election process, you are expected to stick to the principles of Youth Parliament, and the rules of the campaign period.

Do

1. Let your school know that you are standing for election and ask for help to be seen and heard. Present in assemblies or in tutor groups.
2. Contact other schools, youth groups and organisations - send them your manifesto and arrange to visit.
3. Contact your Community Engagement Manager and/or Local Youth Facilitator (see below) to tell them what you are doing and ask how they can help.
4. Listen and respond to local young people to show that you are interested in them and their views.
5. Take the elections and the role seriously.
6. Keep your personal, party-political views to yourself.

Don't

1. Be party political. A separate social media account will keep your personal life separate from your public life. UK Youth Parliament is non-party political and personal party political views **should not** be a part of your campaign.
2. Encourage anyone other than those aged 11-18 to cast a ballot. **This is fraudulent.** Any reports of ballots being cast by parents, carers, grandparents, adults or children outside of the 11-18 age range, or outside of Wiltshire, will lead to disqualification from the election process.

Key message

This election is for
young people only
It is an opportunity for 11-18
years to make their own choice
and have say - it is not for
adults.

Useful contacts

Schools

These are most of the schools in each of the constituency areas in which students will be eligible to vote if they are between 11 and 18 during the election period. Why not get in touch with them, pay them a visit, or send them your video manifesto?

Wiltshire North

Abbeyfield, Bradon Forest, Corsham, Dauntsey's, Devizes, Downland, Hardenhuish, John Bentley, Lavington, Malmesbury, Rowdeford, Royal Wootton Bassett, St. Mary's, St. Nicholas', Springfield, Sheldon

Wiltshire East

Appleford, Avon Valley, Bishop Wordsworth, Exeter House, Marlborough College, Pewsey Vale, St. Edmund's, St. John's, St. Joseph's, Salisbury Cathedral School, South Wilts Grammar, Sarum Academy, Stonehenge, Trafalgar, Wellington Academy, Wiltshire UTC, Wyvern College

Wiltshire West

Clarendon, John of Gaunt, Larkrise, Kingdown, Matravers, Melksham Oak, St. Augustine's, St. Laurence, Warminster

Community Area Contacts

Wiltshire has 13 community areas which work to support local communities. Each Community Area has an Engagement Manager (CEM), and some also have Local Youth Facilitators (LYFs). These people could be very helpful to you during your campaign (and also if you are elected or join the Wiltshire Youth Union). It's a great idea to make contact with them. Wiltshire North, Wiltshire West and Wiltshire East Member of Youth Parliament constituencies have been identified for each Community Areas

- **Amesbury** – Jacqui Abbott - 01722 434 344 or jacqui.abbott@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire East)
- **Bradford on Avon and Corsham** – Ros Griffiths - 01225 718372 or ros.griffiths@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire West and North)
- **Calne and Marlborough** – Alexa Davies - 01249 706610 or alexa.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire East and North)
- **Chippenham** – Ollie Phipps - 01249 709404 or ollie.phipps@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire North)
- **Devizes** – Andrew Jack – 01225 713109 or andrew.jack@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire North)
- **Malmesbury** – Penny Bell - 01249 706613 penny.bell@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire North)
- **Melksham** – Peter Dunford - 01225 713060 or peter.dunford@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire West)
- **Pewsey and Tidworth** – Richard Rogers – 07771547522 or richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire East)
- **Royal Wootton Bassett** – Jane Vaughan - 01249 706447 or jane.vaughan@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire North)
- **Salisbury** – Marc Read - 01722 434557 or marc.read@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire East)
- **South West and Southern** – Karen Linaker – 01722 434697 or karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire East)
- **Trowbridge** – Liam Cripps - 01225 713143 or liam.cripps@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire West)
- **Warminster and Westbury** – Graeme Morrison - 01225 713573 or graeme.morrison@wiltshire.gov.uk (Wiltshire West)

Get campaigning and
good luck!