

# YOUTH COUNCIL

## Meet Havering's bright young political hopefuls

**Young people will be campaigning to earn a role representing the borough as a member of Youth Parliament.**

Six young people have opted in to become candidates and will soon start their election campaigns, speaking at their schools and other venues across the borough, highlighting their pledges to the youth in Havering.

This is said to be the first

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all-female election, which coincides with 100 years since Parliament passed a law allowing women to vote in 1918.

Havering's Youth Parliament elections take place at all secondary schools between January 29 - February 9.

The council is encouraging all

pupils to vote and have their say. Cabinet member for children's and learning, Councillor Robert Benham said: "We are very proud of all candidates campaigning to become a member of the Youth Parliament."

"This programme enables young people aged between 11-18 years old to use their drive and enthusiasm to create new ways to bring about social and economic change in the community."

**Name:** Daisie Stuart-Evans  
**Age:** 13  
**Education:** Bower Park Academy, Havering Road, Collier Row

**Pledges:**  
To get more young people involved with leisure and sport activities to keep them fit and healthy.  
To reduce stress and pressure levels in school. Daisie says she

will do this by "pestering" school headteachers for an easy accessible support and guidance group. She believes it is important, as it will help to reduce stress levels around tests and GCSEs. Help young people extend their skills and qualities by creating a programme that will help them gain independence, work experience and job opportunities, while also help-

ing out the community in different ways.

She said: "I have chosen to stand for youth elections as I am very passionate about debating and making mine and other voices and opinions heard."



**Name:** Emily Thompson  
**Age:** 16  
**Education:** Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School, St Mary's Lane, Upminster

**Pledges:**  
Introduce a structured curriculum that prepares us for the world outside the classroom. She thinks that when pupils leave school, they need to be knowledgeable on paying taxes, managing finances and understand

the political system. To make sport and leisure activities more affordable to increase participation, by working with local sporting, drama and musical organisations. Increase awareness of mental health and mental illnesses by focusing on removing the stigma attached to mental illnesses. Emily wants to ensure services are available within and outside school. She said: "I want to work for

young people in the borough to ensure that our voice is heard. "If I was elected, I would make sure that all of your concerns are heard at both local level at youth council meetings and on a national level through Make your Mark Campaign."



**Name:** Sila Ugurlu  
**Age:** 14  
**Education:** Southend High School for Girls

**Pledges:**  
Every young person should be informed on basic things that they are expected to know in adulthood.

We must be given the opportunity to train for work. Education to employment is a big transition. It is every 16 and 17-year-old's right to vote as it is an 18-year-old.

She said: "I want to be an MYP, because I want to be given the

chance to represent the young people in Havering. "I care about our borough and the young people within it."



**Name:** Katherine Wilson Smith  
**Age:** 14  
**Education:** Frances Bardsley Academy, Upper Brentwood Road, Romford



Raise awareness of mental health issues and particularly ways of coping with the everyday pressures pupils face at school.

**Pledges:**  
She will campaign for votes at 16 to engage young people in decisions impacting our future. Aim to tackle homophobia among pupils in the borough. Katherine says she's aware that many LGBT pupils hear homophobic slurs "frequently" and "often" during their school day.

She said: "I want to be an MYP as I am passionate about politics and creating change. "I would like to be a member of Youth Parliament to represent all young people in the borough, as I am concerned we aren't being listened to. "I aspire to be a voice for all young people in Havering."

**Name:** Emily Elkin  
**Age:** 11  
**Education:** Hall Mead School, Marlborough Gardens, Upminster



Crime - To make Havering a better place and to make young people feel safe. To make children aware that crime is dangerous and that they need to report it.

**Pledges:**  
Mental health - To help make people with mental health issues more confident. To raise more funds for clubs and charities in the borough.

Bullying - To help children and youths feel that they are not alone. To aim to make teachers aware that bullying has increased.

She said: "Even though I am the youngest candidate, I could still have as good ideas as an 18 year old, or even better. "I would like to be elected, because I want to prove what I am capable of achieving for Havering and I am passionate about politics and helping people."

**Name:** Victoria Porter  
**Age:** 15  
**Education:** Drapers' Academy, Settle Road, Harold Hill



She said: "I am standing for elections, as I am always challenging myself and always want to help people. "I understand the responsibility of being an MYP (Member of Youth Parliament) and I'd love to have the honourable experience of being a representative for the youth."

**Pledges:**  
Tackle mental health associated stigma and raise awareness. Provide a safe place for and to support LGBT+ community. Gain a curriculum for life in schools.