

US Embassy Exchange

Sylvia was selected, by the US embassy, to attend a 2 weeks cultural exchange in America with a focus on social cohesion. During the trip they visited Virginia, Washington DC and Philadelphia and attended meetings with a variety of different organisations and people who were working to bring American's together despite cultural differences.

Community work, and to mix with such a diverse group taught Sylvia how brilliantly unique the U.K. is and also how much there is to be learnt from listening to others. Sylvia is grateful for her time in America, it was fun but also completely humbling to meet with such influential figures and try to work together to bring communities together both in America and the U.K.



Samuel, Harry, Sylvia & Arqam
Members of Youth Parliament for Leeds

The UK Youth Parliament represents the voices of young people from across the UK at a national level and enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better.

Regional Conventions

Since elected as Members of Youth Parliament in February 2018 we have attended two regional gatherings. The first one, a weekend residential, proved very useful in getting to know other MYPs and other youth campaigners; this proved has very helpful as it has allowed us to work together more closely on campaigns. This also gave us time to plan our campaigns and share our experience of effective methods. We then attended the regional convention, we attend 3 conventions a year with youth voice representatives from across Yorkshire and Humber, the convention proved extremely useful for catching up with people and planning the rest of the campaigns.

Curriculum for Life

Curriculum for Life is the 2017/18 national campaign for the UKYP. Youth Parliament has been an excellent vanguard, laudably focused on introducing a Curriculum which prepares young people for adult life by providing lessons in aspects of life not always experienced until maturity or adult life: for example Sex and Relationships as well as Politics (to name a couple).

The task of achieving such a goal is, of course, immense, but due to the dedication of previous Members of Youth Parliament much work had already been completed to lay the foundations for the project - namely the decision not to attempt to alter school curriculum to provide these lessons but rather find some other medium by which to distribute the information universally. When we arrived we immediately realised the appeal of proving the service via the Internet, and this was only further consolidated when we attempted to create a website of our own with a Google engineer. Therefore we decided (after consulting with other members of the Youth Parliament) to contact the Children's Commissioner to inquire about funding, then using the information collated from our consultations Harry Small (MYP) and I wrote a letter; which has now led to the prospect of a meeting in the near future in which we can discuss the possibility of such a site.

Additionally we have, since writing the letter, conducted some research of our own into student satisfaction. We have found that students overwhelmingly find the current curriculum woefully inadequate when providing a curriculum that will support a young person through life.

Annual Sitting & Make Your Mark

Over the last 3 months we have been busy preparing for the 2018 Make Your Mark ballot. Make Your Mark is the largest youth consultation in the UK, young people aged 11 to 18 years old are asked to read a list of ten issues and vote for the one issue that is most important to them. On the 9th November 2018 we will be going to the House of Commons to debate the top five issues before voting on the new national campaign for 2018/19.

Schools, youth groups and youth councillors have all signed up to support us with Make Your Mark, and all received their voting packs last week. We are really hoping we can get as many young people as possible in Leeds voting!

In July we attended the annual sitting along with MYP's from all over the UK. We spent a weekend at Nottingham University looking through all the manifestos the UK Youth Parliament support, debating them and then voting on the ten issues that will feature on the Make Your Mark ballot. The annual sitting was great preparation for the House of Commons.