

Muskaan Mohammed's Manifesto

My name is Muskaan Mohammed, I am 15 years old and currently studying at Outwood Academy Acklam. I aspire to be the next Member of Youth Parliament for Middlesbrough and below is why I believe you should choose me.

I am a reliable, supportive and passionate member of my Academy. I have taken on the role of Student President at my Academy and the skills I obtained are skills that I know are familiar to the MYP role. I am an active member of the Mental Health Club that works alongside HeadStarters and I am also part of my Academy's Student Council.

My priorities for Middlesbrough are:

- Mental Health awareness in schools,
- to provide easier and cheaper travel for school children,
- to introduce recycling in schools and,
- to provide more sport pitches around Middlesbrough.

Mental Health awareness

I am an important member of the 'Mental Health Ambassadors' at my school which work with HeadStarters to embed a culture of mental health awareness among staff and students. We help students by supporting them and encouraging them through their school and home stress therefore, if elected, I will raise the profile of mental health across all schools in Middlesbrough. So many children and teenagers struggle with their mental health and need someone to talk to, a place to feel safe. This will be my primary objective because this is the most important aim on my agenda. I believe that at the current time, mental health is a large crisis and needs to be addressed. Most schools lack support for their pupils and focus entirely on exam performance. However, in order to exceed academically, they need to be supported with their mental health as this can affect how well they perform. I believe that it should be mandatory for all schools to have a mental health facility for their pupils to access and get the support they may need. All schools should have a dedicated teacher or group supporting those children who struggle. I will do this by working with children welfare groups, such as HeadStarters and M.I.N.D to not only provide the much-needed help inside schools but also outside. We will work together to create new schemes and methods for children within Middlesbrough to cater and support the children because mental health is important.

Easy and cheap travel

Going to and getting from school can be tough and often expensive, especially those with families who struggle to make ends meet. Most schools no longer offer free buses so lots of students are stranded or struggle to get home. I would resolve this by hopefully making bus tickets cheaper to afford and easier to catch, by working with schools and bus companies in Middlesbrough to adjust prices and routes.

Recycling in schools

I believe in our current setting that many children and teenagers are concerned for the wellbeing of the environment therefore I want to introduce a recycling system in all schools. I would start off with aiming to get all schools and social clubs to have a recycling system and reduce their carbon footprint. During my time as president, I introduced recycling in the academy and implemented bins for recycling in all classrooms. It made a huge difference and made children want to recycle and rethink before wasting. So much paper and plastic are wasted, dumped and reproduced causing more pollution. The children of Middlesbrough should take the first step and encourage others. We as the next generation should act accordingly and make all schools eco-friendly.

Sport pitches

Lastly, I want to get more sport pitches in Middlesbrough. I think that there aren't enough public sport pitches for the youth to utilise and enjoy. Children should be able to practise sports and exercise as it has many benefits. Firstly, it helps with their mental health as it reduces stress, anger and helps with depression. Secondly, it provides children with a form of entertainment and improves confidence. Thirdly, it gives students a place to blow off steam and to hang with friends therefore, I will try to get more pitches spread around Middlesbrough.

I think that all the changes that I'm working towards will have a positive impact in Middlesbrough because they will benefit not only the youth in Middlesbrough but also the parents and carers. Mental health is a large issue

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which is always ignored, so we should try and resolve this. It can affect all of us and our daily lives so this should be listened to and supported, inside and outside of schools: which I hope to make happen. Furthermore, getting to and from school is difficult for some people which affects their academic performance and causes problems so this should be addressed. It should be easier and cheaper for children to travel in Middlesbrough. In addition, each school wastes on average 250,000 sheets of paper yearly. This is expensive and adding to the pollution we are suffering from today, so implementing these systems in schools will benefit us all. Lastly, all children should enjoy sports, exercise and have fun. Therefore, by electing me as your Youth Minister of Parliament, I will strive to make all of this possible and many more ideas I have to improve children's lives.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto, I hope to be your elected MYP.