

Dear whom it may concern,

We would like to introduce you to the new Knaresborough Youth Council and have attached more information for you on how to get involved.

➤ **What is a Youth Council:**

The Youth Council was a proposal made by Year 6 students from last July who were taking part in the Young Leaders initiative at Knaresborough St. John's Primary School, and we have been working with the support of North Yorkshire Council since then to ensure their ambition was realised.

Youth Councils across the county give young people the opportunity and support to work on the issues that matter the most in their own neighbourhoods.

"Our local Youth Councils enable young people to get involved in local decisions, and influence change in their own communities. We support you to come together both virtually and in person, amplify your voices, and to have a say in the issues which affect you in your own neighbourhoods. By joining your local youth council you will meet other passionate, innovative young people, and have the opportunity to become actively involved in democracy." (North Yorkshire Council)

Watch this video to find out more about Local Youth Councils:

<https://youtu.be/gC8UdDi0Dt4>

➤ **What have other Youth Councils got involved in?**

Skipton Youth Council concluded their anti-social behaviour campaign with funding secured for Inspire Youth to run a longer-term outreach service from their mobile youth bus! They continue to meet with their Community Safety Working Group on this. They're moving onto their Keep Skipton Tidy campaign, running a litter picking competition in schools and youth organisations, and working with the Tobacco and Substances team at North Yorkshire Council to look at the vaping issue.

Harrogate Youth Council have secured a collaborative project with Fearless, the anonymous reporting service for young people from Crimestoppers UK, to help increase reporting of harassment, without the concerns of being known to have called it out. They are also working with the Mental Health Support Teams for North Yorkshire Schools, to collaborate in finding better ways to support young people. They had a shout out from Roman Kemp during his campaign to get schools to sign a Mental Health Declaration (like the declaration for physical support if a pupil has an injury from a school activity).

➤ **How you can get involved:**

Our aim is to have two Year 6 representatives from each primary school in Knaresborough, and two representatives from each year group at King James Secondary School & Sixth Form, 2 representatives from the Forest School and 2 representatives who are home educated.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like more information about the Youth Council.

Thank you & best wishes,

Jess Ward & Rowena Lloyd

P.S. We are also running a competition to design a logo for the new Youth Council and information on how to enter is also included in the letter.