



# Introduction and Welcome Pack

# What is the Medway Youth Council?

- Medway Youth Council is a youth organisation that works on the issues facing young people aged 11-18, and in Years 7-13.
- We are based at Gun Wharf, Chatham which is the home of Medway Council.
- We work with youth groups across Medway to ensure our young people can have their voices heard, and we regularly consult with decision makers where we can express the voice of young people.

# What do members do?

- Members represent the young people of Medway within their schools and other youth organisations.
- Members work on a vast range of different projects being undertaken by MYC, such as our annual conference and more.
- Members bring a variety of different interests and talents to support the work of MYC, such as marketing, campaigning, and digital skills.
- If members want to campaign on a particular issue, they can bring their idea to the Campaign Lead who will support the member in developing a successful project.
- Members frequently have opportunities to gain qualifications such as the Asdan Youth Representation Award, and invaluable voluntary experience which can be included in a CV, personal statement, future careers and more.
- We regularly attend events (e.g. Medway Mile) in support of Medway, representing young people to our wider community.

# What is the Cabinet?

Medway Youth Council has an inclusive cabinet. We are active members who have been elected by the other members of the youth council and schools/organisations across Medway. Each of us have a specific role to play in the running of our organisation. We take the lead in representing MYC to the public and support other members in doing this.

## **Chair**

Responsible for the strategic leadership of the organisation. Chair of full youth council meetings and Cabinet. Figurehead to local community. Responsible for day to day running alongside Youth Worker.

## **Vice Chair**

Vice-Chair supports the Chair in the running of the organisation. Member relations, co-ordinator and public outreach. Lead on membership recruitment and partnerships with organisation across Medway.

# What is the cabinet?

## **Health Engagement Lead**

This member is responsible for all issues in relation to health, and young people who are affected by this. This role is responsible for our work with Medway NHS Foundation Trust NELFT, Healthwatch, community health groups and any other groups associated with health. They are a spokesperson for young people health issues, consultation and focus groups, and they run their own campaign tackling a health issue for young people in the community.

## **Digital Engagement Lead**

Responsible for managing new platforms to reach out to the young people in Medway and ensure they are included in our organisation. Administrates the Discord server and other platforms.

## **2x UKYP MYP**

Members of the UK Youth Parliament are responsible for representing Medway nationally, they work closely with MYC to run their campaigns and lead on Make Your Mark.

# What is the cabinet?

## **Campaign Lead**

The Campaign Lead is responsible for our chosen campaign, taking a lead role in our Annual Conference. This role is also responsible for approving and presenting sub-campaigns to the cabinet. The Campaign Lead supports other members who are conducting campaigns, ensuring that they are well prepared for effective campaigning.

## **Democracy and Engagement Lead**

This member will keep relationships and networks between our partners. This member is responsible for ensuring we have representation from all groups of young people. They are responsible for engagement within Medway Youth Centres.

The role also entails ensuring our organisation is meeting its requirement to be democratic, this ranges from ensuring our constitution is democratic to supporting the cabinet with consultation from young people.

# Non-cabinet roles

## **Youth Workers**

Member co-ordinator, administrative support including; emails, phone, letters, youth service liaison and setting up meetings. Day to day finance and operations.

## **Treasurer**

Overview of financial status of the Medway Youth Council, presenting quarterly and annual reports to cabinet. Manages financial relations with partners. Noncabinet or voting role. Advises cabinet on financial matters. Produces receipts and expense forms.

# Overview & Scrutiny

- Medway Council has a Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This is a body that meets to report and advise on matters affecting young people.
- Medway Youth Council have two (non-voting) cabinet members who sit on this committee. This position is taken by the Chair and any other cabinet member. We can ask questions and directly challenge decision makers on matters which affect young people.



# What are Members of Youth Parliament?

- Members of Youth Parliament are young people who use their elected voice to bring about social change in the community through meaningful representation and campaigning. Any young person aged 11-18 can stand or vote.
- In the past two years, one million young people have voted in UK Youth Parliament elections. Once elected, Members of Youth Parliament organise events and projects, run campaigns and influence decision makers on the issues which matter most to young people.
- Every year, MYPs sit in the House of Commons to debate the UK Youth Parliament's 'Make Your Mark' topics.

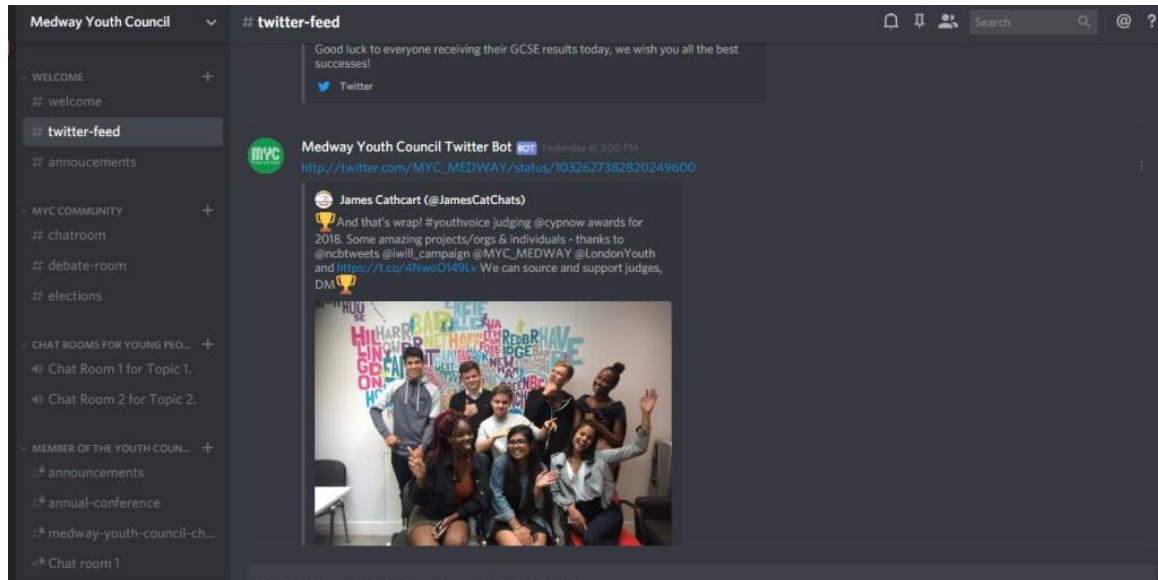
# What I can I get from joining?

If you aren't sold already, our members can gain a variety of positive benefits from their time here.

- Improvements in confidence and self-esteem
- New friends
- New knowledge about their community
- Engaging learning about local and national government
- Opportunities such as trips and qualifications
- Meet and question community decision makers
- Platform to campaign and share ideas
- Looks great on your CV and Personal Statement!

# Discord

- The Medway Youth Council has a Discord Server, which is an online platform where we communicate with all of our members.
- Please find our Discord Joining Tutorial on the website to help set you up to join in with MYC wherever you are!



# How do I join?

Contact us on our website to get in touch:

<https://www.medwayyouthcouncil.co.uk/how-to-join>

We run training days for prospective members with interactive workshops to help prepare members for their role. Please contact us or visit the join page for more information.

If you aren't able to attend a training day then please check our meeting dates and attend any Full Council Meeting. There you will be able to sign up and become a member of MYC.