

Candidate Booklet



SYU Elections 2025

Make an informed decision,
you get 1 vote!

**Find out more about the
candidates in the elections**

Vote Online

Using this link

Staffordshire Youth Union
Elections 2025 – Fill out form

<https://forms.office.com/e/fQs4x9H7HJ>

Staffordshire Youth Union
Elections 2025



Max P, 17 - Cannock Chase



Naziha A, 16 - Newcastle

My 3 main priorities...

Opportunities for Young People / Youth Voice and representation / Safe spaces for young people

Introduce yourself

Hi, I'm Max from Cannock Chase. I'm a student studying for my A-Levels in Maths, Geography and History, with plans to go to University in the future. I'm passionate about music, creative projects and debating new ideas. Joining the Youth Union would be an amazing opportunity to collaborate and bring young voices across Staffordshire together.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

Opportunities for young people: Having access to skills, work experience and guidance is vital to help you prepare for your future. With support of SYU, I aim to help young people open these doors to help them grow, learn and succeed in their future.

Youth Voice and representation: I strongly believe that young people need to be heard in decisions that affect them. I want to ensure Staffordshire Youth can influence local projects by engaging in their community and contributing positively.

Safe Space for young people: Young people need places to meet safely and socialise. Through SYU, I hope to help identify these accessible spaces for young people to go to.

What I'd bring to SYU...

- Creative skills: Experience in music, video editing, and other creative projects, bringing fresh ideas
- Confident speaker: Able to listen to others and express my ideas clearly
- Debating and Discussion: Comfortable engaging in discussions, considering other people's views, and contributing to decisions.
- Community awareness: Interested in issues in our local area, understanding how to represent their voices effectively

Why vote for me...

You should vote for me because I care about young people's mental health and want to make sure everyone feels supported and heard. I also understand the challenges young people face and I want to use my voice to help create real change for the youth.

My 3 main priorities...

Effect of mental health on academics / Effect of peer pressure / young people's mental health

Introduce yourself

I want to represent Newcastle Under Lyme. I'm a very organised person and I love having a routine and schedule to keep on track with. My favourite subject is economics as it's really interesting and I like learning about world issues. In my spare time I like to watch movies and spend time with my family. In the future I would like to have a career in finance.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

In my opinion I think that mental health, peer pressure and constantly wanting to fit in can affect young people the most. I think that Staffordshire YU can help this by motivating young people to get the help they need and not be ashamed to ask.

What I'd bring to SYU...

- I'm good at organising things
- I am open-minded and will listen to others' opinions
- I'm understanding of others' situations as you never know what someone is going through

Why vote for me...

You should vote for me because I care about young people's mental health and want to make sure everyone feels supported and heard. I also understand the challenges young people face and I want to use my voice to help create real change for the youth.

Hanna K, 16 - Newcastle



Olivia C, 17 - Lichfield

My 3 main priorities...

Mental health / education / cost of living

Introduce yourself

My name is Hanna. I would like to represent the Newcastle under Lyme area, and my ambition for the future is, simply speaking, to make a difference. Whether that is for young people, or everybody, I wish to make some sort of difference in people's lives. I aspire to be a university teacher and to write a book franchise or novel, but I have also always been heavily interested in topics like politics and ethics, and I would love to be somebody people can look up to and somebody who can help them see hope for the future, whether that is as a politician or as an educator.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

The biggest issues affecting young people today include academic challenges, mental health problems, and lack of support services. Waiting lists for mental health services remain long when they are highly needed for young people, especially those sitting their exams, who feel intense pressure and stress. The cost of living crisis further affects young people, worsening stress as they watch their families struggle with rising prices, as well as it affecting students who are thinking about going to university, as it raises concern in terms of not only tuition fees, but also affordable housing and transport. Furthermore, overlooked discrimination and lack of awareness within school environments further adds to issues affecting young people, particularly in regards of SEN/D students or those with different religious beliefs. I believe further education on those topics should be implemented for both students and teachers. Young people are the future, and starting off their adult life with piled on stress and a lack of support is a poor starting point. They deserve higher quality financial, political, and social education, as well as more safe spaces and mental health support. These issues must be addressed in order for young people to feel empowered and secure about their future, as well as their present.

What I'd bring to SYU...

Head girl and prefect in high school, so great at problem solving and team work. Debate club experience, good at listening and communication, as well as critical thinking. Helped organise parents evenings, open evenings, and year 9 options evenings, so good organisation skills.

Why vote for me...

I will be a passionate voice for young people, and I will tackle the issues that truly matter. I'm committed to turning concerns into change, as there's no stable future without a stable present.

My 3 main priorities...

School / news in the world / the economy

Introduce yourself

I would like to further my experience with other people and also learn how to better help people. I already volunteer at a charity shop so I understand how important community is. I also want to learn how to better speak to people as well as create good communication and links within the community. I believe I can expand on my speaking skills to better help others while it would also allow me to build on my existing skills which could help me in future. Mostly I want to make a difference and allow everyone to have a say in how they want their life to be run.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

School supports

Money

The news

I think the SYU can help create support networks and allow everyone to have a chance to voice their opinions

What I'd bring to SYU...

Resilience

Responsibility

Kindness

Compassion

Previously worked in a charity shop

Why vote for me...

I believe that with your help I can help change the way you live for the better.

Maxwell S, 13 - Lichfield



Courtney B, 17 - Newcastle

My 3 main priorities...

little multicultural understanding / small technical literacy / crime and bullying

Introduce yourself

Hello, I am Max. I am from the Lichfield District, my ambitions are to help with multicultural understanding and recognition, as well as a desire for all to have their voices heard, along with a reduction of crime and bullying, especially amongst secondary schools, it would also be lovely if we could achieve more technological literacy amongst secondary school and primary students as well. In my spare time i like to read, study, or play sports (my favorites including football, hockey, horse riding and taekwondo). My favorite subjects in school would have to be Math, PE and ICT.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

Not much understanding of other cultures, their views mostly come from social media, which tends to be biased and full of misinformation. I also believe that with the coming of more digital tasks and jobs, the large majority of the minority have little to no technical literacy and the majority are barely proficient enough to get by.

What I'd bring to SYU...

For my first issue, i have lived all around the world, experiencing different cultures firsthand.

I also spend a lot of time online doing coding organisation and presentation, which is useful to my second point, but also if i were to be in the SYU i have experience in those areas to be of good use,

I have been an antibullying ambassador for 3 years now and had multiple training sessions and phycology lessons on the matter

For almost 6 years in a row, including primary, i have held a student leadership position in and out of school

I am good at public speaking and have a good amount of confidence due to me in and out of school drama and plays, doing assemblies for my secondary school and presenting to parents

Why vote for me...

I will make your views heard. Together, we can make great changes.

My 3 main priorities...

Young people been listened to /more awareness of issues that young people could be dealing with / the systems for young people (schools ,social services, foster care and many more)

Introduce yourself

Hi my name is Courtney Buxton and I'm 17 and I'm from Stoke on Trent I'm an extremely passionate person when it comes to things I believe in I'm very independent and try my hardest in everything I do I aspire to me a family Solicitor so I can help children get their voice heard why also respecting rules that haft to be followed I am currently doing functional skills and college witch included communication I would like to represent Newcastle under Lyme if I got this opportunity in my spare time I have a horse and a dog that I spend everyday with and love doing

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

I think one of the biggest issues young people deal with today is not bene heard and having to fit in to certain categories I think this because over the years of growing up and doing a lot of work with different people including the voice of a young person conference I did it came to my attention that lots of young people feel mis heard and I strongly think syu could make a big difference to get more young people to feel listened to I would hope to achieve that more young people could live a more happy life knowing their voice has been heard their is many other strong beliefs I have but this is a very big passion of mine

What I'd bring to SYU...

I have done a voice for children conference in front of judges solicitors social services and more to get more people to listen you young people's voice .

I have also had experience with children with global delay adhd and autism and also people who struggles to regulate their emotions.

I have first had experience in many of these things and struggles and have a strong understanding of how children want their voices heard

Why vote for me...

I think voting for me could bring some new and strong ideas to the table that could really make an impact. Voting for me you have my word that I will try my best to make a difference .

Anson L, 16 - Lichfield



Catia N, 12 - Lichfield

My 3 main priorities...

Responsibility / Education / Transport

Introduce yourself

I would like to represent for SYU in Lichfield because I believe that politics constitutes the bedrock of our society, and it also links closely not only with my potential future career options, but also my future studies. I have immigrated from Hong Kong almost 3 years ago due to policies that eroded freedom of speech and human rights, which gave me the epiphany of the importance of young people's voices to be heard by both the public and government. As the next generation, we have the potential to drive meaningful change, thus I consider that being apart of SYU is an invaluable opportunity for me to contribute to society positively, ameliorate my leadership skills through experience, and remain actively engaged with current affairs as someone who values this country's liberty and prosperity.

Besides, I am currently a private tutor for GCSE students - with this close interaction with young people, it has helped me to comprehend the challenges and perspectives of young people deeply.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

One issue that I feel particularly passionate about is the idea of responsibility, where I have witnessed a multitude of young people and students indulge in social media rather than focusing on real life opportunity, which I believe that it can not only have profound negative impact on their education but also limit their future career paths, and led to their indifference to current affairs. I believe that young people ought to take initiative to change, contribute to our society, and take pride of our nation.

Linking to responsibility, I believe that education is another paramount issue. Education - the threshold of knowledge and civilisation, is needed to support every students. For example, in PSHE, which stands for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education, with a multitude of students considered it as tedious and undervalued, and some schools fail to thoroughly cover vital topics such as politics and economics. This often leads to a lack of understanding of our contemporary society and elicits young people vulnerable to misinformation on social media.

What I'd bring to SYU...

'- Leadership - Comprehension - Creativity - Problem-solver - Organisation - Writer

- Various Experiences:

Young Enterprise IT director / Private secondary GCSE tutor / Head Developer/Founder of Circle Game

Roblox community working worldwide (generated thousands of pounds of revenues) Community

Manager, Instructor, and Writer in large scale Roblox British Army/Military Roleplay communities.

Young Writer merit "Talented for writing" 2024, 2025

Why vote for me...

Shape the future—before it shapes you.

"Whoever controls the present controls the future."

My 3 main priorities...

mental health / gender equality / improving society impact on mental health

Introduce yourself

I'm Catia as you guys will know and i think i would be a great person and wise person for my age to represent my district. I love debating to make sure my opinions are heard however i do still make sure to listen to ideas. Me as a person i really like art and design technology as it allows me to express my creativity.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

i think one of the most important issues for young people today are mental health issues as over 200 teens die a year from mental health / illnesses. Did you know over 3/4 of deaths are young males who don't have the same support as women.

What I'd bring to SYU...

- i used to be a mental health champion in my old primary school (someone who helped little kids deal with their emotions)
- i can be a leader as i was house leader in primary school
- i often put myself out there for new experiences
- i signed up for the young writers competition

Why vote for me...

We support your mental health. And i want to advocate for that.

Nathan R, 16 - Lichfield



Oli B, 18 - Cannock Chase

My 3 main priorities...

Drugs among the youth / gang violence involving young people / making environments safe for our youth

Introduce yourself

I'm in Y12 currently and I wish to represent the Lichfield district. My favourite subjects at A-Levels are Geography and History. In my free time I enjoy Trainspotting and planespotting as well as a spot of golf every now and then. I'm very interested in politics especially around the world and how it all differs, I wish to explore more about UK politics at the SYU.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

I believe the most important issues for young people today are the issues involving: violence within organisations like gangs as it plagues our youth and leads to disadvantaged futures amongst our youth, another issue I believe is important is the issues surrounding drug use and vaping in particular with young people, especially in schools. This is because it can lead to poor health in the future and a large financial hit later on in life if someone chooses to spend a lot on it. Lastly I believe another important issue is an unsafe environment for young people, this is important as no-one deserves to feel unsafe in the place they live in and it's becoming increasingly more common for young people to say they feel unsafe walking around certain areas of cities and towns.

What I'd bring to SYU...

I have excellent listening skills and will always listen and take on important details from discussions or conversations to use in the future, I am also very creative and harbour good up-to-date knowledge on current political issues and information in parliament and around the globe. These would be great at helping the SYU as taking on important information from other members or even directly from the youth is vital in creating movements and driving change for our generations. Additionally good knowledge of current political situations is key for knowing when certain items are appropriate to discuss at the time.

Why vote for me...

People should vote for me because I'm determined to drive change forward for our youth. I will listen and speak up on behalf of our community and spark change for the young people of Staffordshire.

My 3 main priorities...

Fast fashion / political education / equal minimum wage

Introduce yourself

I'm Oli B and I've been a member of Staffordshire Youth Union for the past two years and a Member of the UK Youth Parliament since March since March 2024. I'm 6'3 and will always wear flamboyant outfits because when life becomes so dark and depressing, you've got to provide your own light. My main focus has been talking the conspicuous consumption that impacts both Cannock locally but everyone globally. I'll only be allowed to do a year but I want to help guide the future for the next generation of Staffordshire Youth Union to keep its legacy and impact that has already been recognised!

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

Despite my personal passion for fast fashion, I only have that drive because I am politicised. When 16 year olds are beginning to get the right to vote - a decision I played a part in as chair of the UK Youth Parliament's Campaign Committee- we need to now focus on a fair and unbiased political education so that the democracy of our politics is secured. We must also promote the understanding that youth groups like Staffordshire Youth Union are vital for our political process. It should be important to emphasise that politics isn't just for Londoners. Politics should be for everyone. Everyone to have a voice in a strong and powerful way! We need to provide the future generations with the tools that tackle corruption and political information. But most importantly, when little 16 year old young adult votes - that vote is utilised to reflect their beliefs not because the media skewed them to vote in a certain way.

Only then, once the UK is politicised, we can tackle the fast fashion crisis.

What I'd bring to SYU...

Height
Passion
Personality
Communication
Compassion
Personable

Why vote for me...

Vote me Oli B for I will represent Staffordshire and Cannock in the only way I know how too and somehow it's working - got me on ITV and recognised throughout the local and national community. I will become the older brother of Staffordshire Youth Union and will help guide the future towards making the change that is well and truly needed!

Jacember A, 16 - Stafford



Rory C, 15 - Stafford

My 3 main priorities...

Peer pressure / mental health / social media comparisons

Introduce yourself

I'm Jacember and 16 years of age. I'm a very ambitious young lady whose life is shaped by her experiences. Growing up, I have always wanted to be heard, and to listen to other people as well. I pay attention to the problems that young children and even adults are facing and try to help solve it. I find an exquisite pleasure in helping people to be heard, their concerns are also mine. I believe we can create a peaceful and better community if everyone had the chance to be heard and listened to. I saw SYU as a great opportunity to help create a better community. I believe with SYU, our voice can be heard, mine voice will be heard and so as my concerns.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

I personally believe that peer pressure is an issue in our modern day world. I have once been a victims of peer pressure. I thought I needed to change in other to fit in, I couldn't be myself because I was scared to lose friends and even family. With SYU, I know we can help young people like me who feels the need to change or become who they are not in other to fit in or to meet societal standards. Academic pressure causing a bad mental health. I know with SYU we can normalise open conversations about mental health, establish counselling and mental health support system in schools.

What I'd bring to SYU...

- * I'm very confident which makes it easier for me to speak in public
- * I'm a great listener because I believe that problems heard is half solved
- * I enjoy writing
- * patience

Why vote for me...

Vote for me for a change, for your voices and concerns to be heard. Together we can raise awareness of issues concerning young people.

My 3 main priorities...

Youth Representation/ Local Cultural Identity/ Individual Economic Prosperity

Introduce yourself

My name is Rory Cairns, and I'm standing to represent Stafford Borough at the SYU because I'm passionate about creating a fairer, more inclusive society for young people. I'm driven by the belief that collaboration and open discussion can tackle real challenges and make lasting change. I'm fascinated by humanities and economics, studying how history, culture, and politics shape our future. Outside school, I'm actively involved in local volunteering, giving back to the community that supports me. In my spare time, I enjoy online gaming and board games that build teamwork and strategy—qualities I aim to bring to youth representation.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

Youth Representation. SYU can empower young people by strengthening youth democracy, championing equality and inclusion, and ensuring youth voices shape local decisions. By promoting understanding, respect, and active participation, we can build a fairer society where every young person is heard, represented, and able to create meaningful change.

Local Cultural Identity. Empowering young people with a strong local cultural identity builds belonging, connection, and pride in their community. By celebrating who they are and where they come from, we can reduce isolation, strengthen positive values, and guide young people toward meaningful, healthy, and purposeful lives.

Individual Economic Prosperity. For young people, economic prosperity means feeling secure about their future and confident in their ability to succeed. It's about fair access to opportunity—education, apprenticeships, or training—without financial burden or being weighted down by today's economic legacy. Every young person deserves the chance to invest, grow, and thrive.

What I'd bring to SYU...

Qualities and experience I would bring to SYU:

- Active member of the school council, helping to organise and negotiate key projects, including creating a new constitution.
- Contributor to the school newspaper, developing strong research and communication skills through writing articles on current events.
- Gained teamwork and leadership experience through the Duke of Edinburgh Award, building resilience and commitment to shared goals.
- Bring enthusiasm, collaboration, and a proactive attitude to every opportunity—ready to make a positive impact within SYU.

Why vote for me...

Vote for me to help drive real social, economic, and cultural progress for all young people. Together, we'll shine the torch of liberty and strengthen the unbreakable Staffordshire knot—uniting our community with pride, purpose, and opportunity for all.

Harper K, 11 - Lichfield



George E, 16 - Stafford

My 3 main priorities...

Young voices being heard / self confidence / safety awareness

Introduce yourself

Hi! My name is Harper! 😊 I would love to be a SYU representative because I'm passionate about gathering and voicing other people's views and opinions and putting them into action.

I would like to represent the Lichfield District!

I perform at the Garrick Theatre, I love presenting art and drawing, and I enjoy public speaking.

In my spare time I like looking after my pets, Rodney the dog, and Bob and Trixie the cats.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

I think the most important issues are;

1) How young people's voices aren't heard enough. This means that things that happen in our world are not representative of young people. SYU can help because they are readily setup to help young people.

I would hope to raise the voices of many young people.

2) That self confidence is a key issue for young people. Without self confidence, a lot of people can't do a lot of things, such as going on trips without family, public speaking and general independence. SYU could help build this confidence. I would hope to make a difference to even a single young person by increasing their confidence.

3) Ensuring that Lichfield District is a litter free place. SYU can help meet people that can make a difference. I hope to make the Lichfield feel like an environmentally clean.

What I'd bring to SYU...

- Very organised, I used to be a librarian
- Very keen listener
- I volunteer for many things, like helping at discos, helping at libraries
- I am very creative and enjoy music (I play the piano)
- I love to write in a positive way
- I am culturally aware and understand current trends. 6 7.

Why vote for me...

If you vote for me, I will do my best for you. I really want to make a difference, thank you.

My 3 main priorities...

Job Opportunities for Young People/Youth Image within a community/Youth Clubs

Introduce yourself

Hi,

I'm George. I am 17 years old and from Stafford. My main hobbies are that for the last 3 seasons I have been a season ticket holder at West Bromwich Albion (however difficult that can be), Over 2 years streak on Duolingo learning Spanish, I am a very keen reader from a wide variety of authors, I watch a lot of news as very interested in Politics (long term ambition is to become an MP) and have a lot of Lego.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

1. Job Opportunities for Young People

With the current financial situation the UK's job vacancies are at a 4 year low meaning that young people including myself are applying for the few available jobs without avail. This means that young people are going without the opportunities previous generations have of getting a job while studying something that earns you money but gives you valuable experience in the workplace.

2. Youth Image within a community

Within any group there are a few bad apples but that doesn't mean all young people are. The views of the older generation that young people are an issue isn't true they are the present and future and I want the older generations to spend time with younger people and realise the few bad apples don't represent us.

3. Youth Clubs

Following on from Youth Image I think that Youth Clubs would massively benefit any community. Young People what are they meant to do? They get criticised for being on screens, then criticised for going to the park, then criticised for standing at the shops. I think that youth image would be improved and young people would benefit from more youth clubs as you get to learn new things, socialise and meet new people.

I understand it is slightly more than 150 words however I believe they are all beneficial.

What I'd bring to SYU...

1. I am a member of the Know Your Place Steering Group where these points I have made previously as my priorities have been issues that have come up and we are all looking at ways already to try and rectify the issues especially on the points of Youth Image and Youth Clubs

2. I am a good listener as when I disagree with People (at the Walton sixth form youth parliament this happens) I listen and debate my point of view in a fair way respecting what others think.

3. I think outside the box. Anyone who knows me knows I don't do things the conventional way and I have my own way of thinking that I think brings something different and works

4. Passionate. These 3 main issues I stated previously I am very passionate about as I want a society where everyone whatever age you are feels included and feels like they have a real stake in their community and isn't looked down upon by anyone else.

Why vote for me...

I will work hard to achieve these goals set out and can be someone to reach out to if you have any other concerns and will be happy to raise these. I am contactable and someone who is ready to make a positive difference.

Zain A S, 16 - Newcastle



Tom C, 16 - Cannock Chase

My 3 main priorities...

Lack of opportunities / limited support for mental health / lack of voice for the youth

Introduce yourself

Hi, my name is Zain Al Shater and I'm from the Newcastle-under-Lyme area. I aspire to become a lawyer in the future. I enjoy taking part in discussions about current issues and getting involved in projects that help my community. My favourite subject in sixth form is Politics, as I find it fascinating to see how laws and decisions shape people's lives. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, spending time with friends, and exploring new interests. I'm excited to be part of SYU to meet new people, share ideas, and learn from others with different perspectives.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

Given the current circumstances, I believe that the three most important issues for young people today in our area are, firstly, the lack of opportunity to progress, either through work experience or career guidance; secondly, the mental health challenges that affect young people and the limited support available for those struggling; and lastly, the lack of voice for the youth in our area. This adds to the growing mental health challenges, as many young people start to feel that their opinions and ideas don't matter. Through SYU, I want to raise awareness of mental health issues, improve access to support, and help create more opportunities for young people to develop and be heard in our community.

What I'd bring to SYU...

Public speaking and debating- gained through active participation in debate club. Regularly made points of information and presented arguments in a clear and confident way
Critical thinking and research- developed by analysing complex issues and understanding multiple perspectives of an issue
Teamwork- strengthened through robotics outreach partnerships to achieve shared goals between team members and local businesses
Community awareness- learned through outreach work, engaging with youth through workshops
Organisation- built from managing time effectively through the robotics group.

Why vote for me...

To all the youth of our region, vote for me if you want someone who listens to your problems and actions and someone who truly stands up for young peoples voices and mental health in our community. I will work to create better opportunities and bring real, positive change for all of us.

My 3 main priorities...

Impartial political education / Real-world skills taught in school / Encourage constructive and sustainable use of AI in education

Introduce yourself

Two years ago, I first joined SYU with a passion to make a difference. Since then, I've had incredible opportunities, including representing Staffordshire in the House of Commons as a Member of Youth Parliament and serving on the steering group for the Know Your Place Staffordshire community research project. Outside of SYU, I'm passionate about science and technology, and currently study Maths, Further Maths, and Computer Science. I hope to combine the skills I've developed in my previous term with my enthusiasm for innovation and problem-solving, working with a new SYU cohort to create meaningful change in Cannock Chase.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

The introduction of voting for 16 and 17-year-olds has remodelled the political landscape and the dynamic of elections. Regardless of your views, it is undeniable that this change needs to be coupled with clear, impartial education, especially with the rise of biased reporting and deepfakes. Political education should be a standardised component of PSHE, and also accessible to those in home education, to empower every young person to make informed choices at the ballot box. I also believe a lack of opportunities to learn real-world skills in the education system is leaving young people unprepared for future life. Often, vital topics such as financial basics are missed or skimmed over, while less practical concepts take priority. I'd like to use my knowledge and experience from my time chairing SYU to raise awareness of the importance of these topics, and encourage more schools nationally to embed them into their curriculum.

What I'd bring to SYU...

I'm particularly knowledgeable about technology and research and would bring these strengths to the table when planning campaigns and action. My strong organisation skills allow me to work effectively within a team, as I've demonstrated in my time in SYU so far. My roles in UK Youth Parliament committees and as a SCVYS Trustee have also made me more open-minded and receptive to differing opinions. I hope to represent Cannock Chase impactfully by ensuring all voices are heard and valued.

Why vote for me...

I will combine my experience, determination and strong teamwork skills to improve Staffordshire for all young people. A vote for me is a vote for your voice.

Olivia P, 15 - Stafford



Anakha P, 12 - Stafford

My 3 main priorities...

Academic pressure / impact of extra curricular activities / social media influence

Introduce yourself

I am a 15-year-old student passionate about making a positive impact in my community. I would like to join the Youth Council to represent young people's voices and help create meaningful change. As a member of the RAF Cadets, I've developed teamwork, discipline, communication, and leadership skills. At school, I represent environmental and social issues, promoting sustainability and inclusivity. I have also served on the School Council, contributing ideas to improve student life and safety. I am enthusiastic, responsible, and eager to work with others to make our community a better place for everyone.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

One of the most important issues young people face today is the increasing pressure from exam-focused assessments. While exams can measure academic ability, they could overlook creativity, communication, and practical skills that are just as important for our future. Students can feel stressed and judged only by grades, which can affect confidence and wellbeing. I think that extracurricular activities like sports, and community projects help students develop teamwork, leadership, and resilient qualities. These activities support mental health and encourage growth beyond the classroom. Education should balance academic achievement with opportunities for students to explore their interests and talents.

What I'd bring to SYU...

I am confident leader.
A clear communicator.
Reliable.
Strong time management skills.
Experience working on behalf of young people at the RAF Cadets and school volunteering.

Why vote for me...

I am very passionate about making young lives better and promise to actively contribute to issues important to me. I would bring ideas, and a good sense of humour while working hard to make our community a place where young people can thrive.

My 3 main priorities...

Phone addiction/ Education/ family relationship

Introduce yourself

My name is Anakha Paul and I am 12 years old. I am studying in year 8 and I am from Stafford. My hobbies are singing, writing and dancing. I would like to join the SYU because I want help youngsters who are struggling a lot. Something that I am really interested in doing is listening to music or doing some kind of writing so I can improve. One of my favorite subject is science because it has lot of experiments. I really like to write in my diary about my journeys so that I can keep go back to enjoy some of my beautiful memories.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

The most important issues for young people is that they are always on their phones, not spending time with their family and they are addicted to social media which makes some of them lose their focus and get exposed to high standards in things like beauty, personality etc.. Some might think they are worth nothing and sometimes because of some fake beauty influencers, they might have low self-esteem making them lose their confidence. It is not true because in God's eyes we all are equally beautiful to him. I hope to see a world where everyone thinks they are beautiful enough and not just see the outward appearance of beauty but beauty within.

What I'd bring to SYU...

This is my first time in this field. Generally I am good at listening to various issues and if possible I will take action. I would help the organization with any type of raising issues. I would support my organization with all their decision.

Why vote for me...

I would like you all to vote for me because I will be able to represent everyone of you.

Nina G, 11 - Lichfield



Demarni H, 16 - Stafford

My 3 main priorities...

Mental health and Wellbeing / Safety Online and in the Community / Access to Sports and Music Activities.

Introduce yourself

Hello, my name is Nina. I am a caring and responsible leader and want to help and support everyone in Staffordshire. I love meeting new people, trying new things and inspiring others. I'm passionate about sport: taking part in hockey, badminton, netball, swimming and cross country; I want to encourage more girls to get involved. I also enjoy art, especially sketching and drawing, and play the flute at Grade 2 level. I was a house captain in primary school and am now a form representative. I believe young people deserve a voice and I hope to represent Lichfield youth proudly.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Young people struggle with different mental health issues. My suggestion is for SYU to raise awareness of the local support groups and resources available to help young people. No child should face mental health issues alone.

Safety Online and in the Community

No child should be scared in their home or online!

SYU could educate local communities about recommended ages for certain apps. This could be through posters, visits to schools and messages to parents.

We should ensure paths are well lit and safe.

Access to Sports and Music Activities.

Every young person should have equal access to learning sports and music. There are already amazing opportunities available locally which many young people are not aware of. We can share information and encourage young people to attend.

What I'd bring to SYU...

- Excellent organisational skills
- * Very creative
- * Great team member - encouraging everyone to contribute to discussions
- * Good listener
- * Very positive and have a growth mindset
- * Not afraid to work hard
- * Being in Scouts has taught me how to work alongside different types of people and get the best from the team.

Why vote for me...

You should vote for me because I care about young people's mental health and want to make sure everyone feels supported and heard. I also understand the challenges young people face and I want to use my voice to help create real change for the youth.

My 3 main priorities...

Social media / physical health / antisocial behaviour

Introduce yourself

Im a 16 year old from Gnosall and have been a fan of politics for the last 2 years. One of my friends are a part of SYU and recommended it to join, I'd like to join to have my voice heard and help others to have their voice heard that may not be as confident to convey their thoughts and feelings I'm studying plumbing at collage and in my spare time I like to play rugby for Stafford and go to the gym.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

Firstly a big problem for young people in recent years is most definitely the over use of social media and technology. young people largely over indulge in this and it leads to procrastination social anxiety and other mental health issues. this also leads to another problem physical health, especially in girls unrealistic body / beauty standards which makes young girls feel under valued and can lead to affect in physical health. Thirdly another problem in passionate about is ASB young people turn to anti social behaviour when there is a lack of stimulating activity these usually cost lots of money and for under privileged kids it can lead them astray.

What I'd bring to SYU...

Leading groups

Organisation

Speaking in crowds

Legalisation research

Listening to people

Helping people

Pro active

Why vote for me...

I'll be a voice for you a voice for us

A fresh pro-active change

Sam S, 16 - Tamworth



Liam L, 16 - Lichfield

My 3 main priorities...

Antisocial behaviour / growth of poverty / lack of things to do for young people

Introduce yourself

Hello my name is Sam from Tamworth. I'd like to join SYU again because I'm ambitious to progress in youth politics and build relationships with many young people with the same interests a bit more about myself personally I really like subjects about space and music in my spare time I listen to a lot of music as well and I like going on bike rides and long walks.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

My main 3 issues I have with the youth in Staffordshire specifically Tamworth is there aren't much things for young people to do that could benefit their future in forms of skills or social aspects. My second issue is the growth of more concerning issues like antisocial behaviour and the growth of the behaviour and how to stop it. 3rd is the growth of young people in poverty or not getting enough food ect.

What I'd bring to SYU...

- I'm good at organising things
- I am open-minded and will listen to others' opinions
- I'm understanding of others situations as you never know what someone is going through

Why vote for me...

You should vote for me because I care about young people's mental health and want to make sure everyone feels supported and heard. I also understand the challenges young people face and I want to use my voice to help create real change for the youth.

My 3 main priorities...

Mental Health /Improved Confidence /Better access to vital work and volunteering opportunities

Introduce yourself

Hi, my names Liam, I am currently in year 12 studying 3 A-Levels: Psychology, Geography, design Technology as well as 2AS levels, Core maths and an EPQ. I am an independent confident individual who loves to get involved in the school community through enjoying supporting younger students. I have a musical interest in playing piano as well as having high levels of creativity shown in my projects in Design technology. I am interested in joining to represent many views and concerns and make a difference within my local community

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

I strongly recognise how many young people are struggling with various mental health issues casued by many things often out of their control. This has had a massive effect on their education, home life and their own futures. I also recognise how many young people struggle with confidence often not feeling confident enough to reach out to people when they need help as well as not feeling confident enough to get involved in great opportunities outside and inside of school. Finally, I recognise the importance in ensuring that all young people have a fair chance at gaining vital work experience and volunteering opportunities to help them secure a better future for themselves

What I'd bring to SYU...

- 1) I have thoroughly researched the effects of technology on the mental health of young people when I made a speech for my English gcse. This allowed me to understand how big of a problem mental health is for young people and how it can negatively effect their current and future opportunities
- 2)I am preparing an EPQ related to the effects of social media on the mental health of young people in which I will gain sufficient information that can greatly aid me.
- 3)I am part of a debating society in my school which has been boosting my confidence in public speaking and improved my listening skills
- 4)I am supporting many young students through various mentorship opportunities at my school which has given me experience in working with and listening to young people

Why vote for me...

By voting for me, I can ensure that your voice will be heard, your views will be raised and I will have your best interest at heart.

Talitha C, 12 - Stafford



Husayn A R, 14 - East Staffs

My 3 main priorities...

Regeneration / SEND / Sustainability

Introduce yourself

Hi my name is Talitha. I have just started secondary school in Stafford. I love to learn, help people and performing on stage! In the future I hope to make a difference to the world around me. Making change not just a word or thought but an action.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

I believe it is imperative to focus on change that does not just have a temporary fix but a fix for the future. For example, I would strive for achieving regeneration of the town centre allowing more retail and independent hubs for shopping and socialising with a focus on the needs of young people. This would allow the young people of today, in our town, to feel that they have a place where they have been thought about. I also am passionate about allowing for all the needs for children to be met in our school systems with a particular focus on SEND. This would allow all children to have equal opportunity for success in life and not let down our most vulnerable members of our community. I would also want to see a visible change on recycling and sustainability in our public spaces. This could include more bins to encourage recycling and a strive (especially in schools) to embed recycling practises from a young age so that we grow a community in Stafford of young people who care about our environment and its future.

What I'd bring to SYU...

I am a passionate advocate for change. I am confident in public speaking - I have been a finalist in public speaking competitions 2 years in a row. I have been involved in multiple theatre productions - I am not afraid to stand up in front of a large audience. I am a good listener. I am a quick learner. I have been voted as a SALT (Student Action Leadership Team) representative in my school I am very organised (I led a charity group at primary school from the age of 8) I have represented my school at many different events including a sustainability project at Perkins in Stafford. I have a 'can do' attitude I am a problem solver. I have very high standards for myself and the things I stand for.

Why vote for me...

A vote for me will be a vote for YOU- because I will stand up for you and the things YOU care about. I believe CHANGE is not just a word or a thought, but an ACTION.

My 3 main priorities...

Attention and information overload / mental health / peer pressure

Introduce yourself

Hi! I'm a motivated and community-minded person from East Staffordshire with a strong interest in politics and public service. I recently attended an event honouring an actor for his contribution to diversity and inclusion, where I met several MPs and Lords and toured the House of Lords. In December, I'll be completing a day of work experience in the Houses of Parliament, which I'm really excited about. These experiences have deepened my ambition to become a councillor and, one day, an MP. In my spare time, I enjoy learning about current affairs and spending time with friends and family.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

I think some of the most important issues for young people today are mental health, peer pressure, and information overload. Many young people feel constant pressure to fit in, succeed academically, and present a perfect version of themselves online, which can lead to stress, anxiety, or isolation. Peer pressure—from friends or social media trends—can make it hard to make positive choices and feel confident in ourselves. At the same time, the constant flow of news, notifications, and online content often shortens our attention spans, making it difficult to focus, reflect, or switch off, which adds extra strain on mental wellbeing. I believe more open conversations about mental health, managing pressure, and digital wellbeing in schools and communities would help young people feel supported, build resilience, and develop confidence in making choices that are right for them.

What I'd bring to SYU...

- Strong interest in politics and public service, with experience meeting MPs and Lords.
- Work experience lined up in the Houses of Parliament, gaining insight into government and policy.
- Passionate about mental health, peer pressure, and supporting young people to feel heard.
- Good listener — able to understand different perspectives and represent diverse voices.
- Confident communicator — experience speaking in events and engaging with adults and peers.
- Organised and reliable — can manage tasks, events, and responsibilities efficiently.
- Creative problem solver — able to think of ideas to engage young people in local communities.
- Ambition to become a councillor and MP, bringing dedication and commitment to SYU projects.
- Motivated to inspire other young people to get involved and make a difference.

Why vote for me...

Vote for me because I'm passionate about mental health, supporting young people, and making sure every voice in East Staffordshire is heard. I'll work hard to listen, represent, and make a real difference for our community.

Evelyn P, 13 - Lichfield



My 3 main priorities...

mental health issues caused by bullying (physical and mental) / vaping / Safe spaces for young children to play together

Introduce yourself

Hi , I'm Evelyn and I represent the Lichfield district. I like to play netball and a lot of various of sports. Also , I am very creatives so i always do crafts in my spare time.my most favorite crafts projects are clay projects. I want to join the staffordshire youth union because I want to help improve the place we live in and build a better future.

I think the most important issues for young people today are...

suffering depression or mental issues but afraid or unable to speak out and reach for help

What I'd bring to SYU...

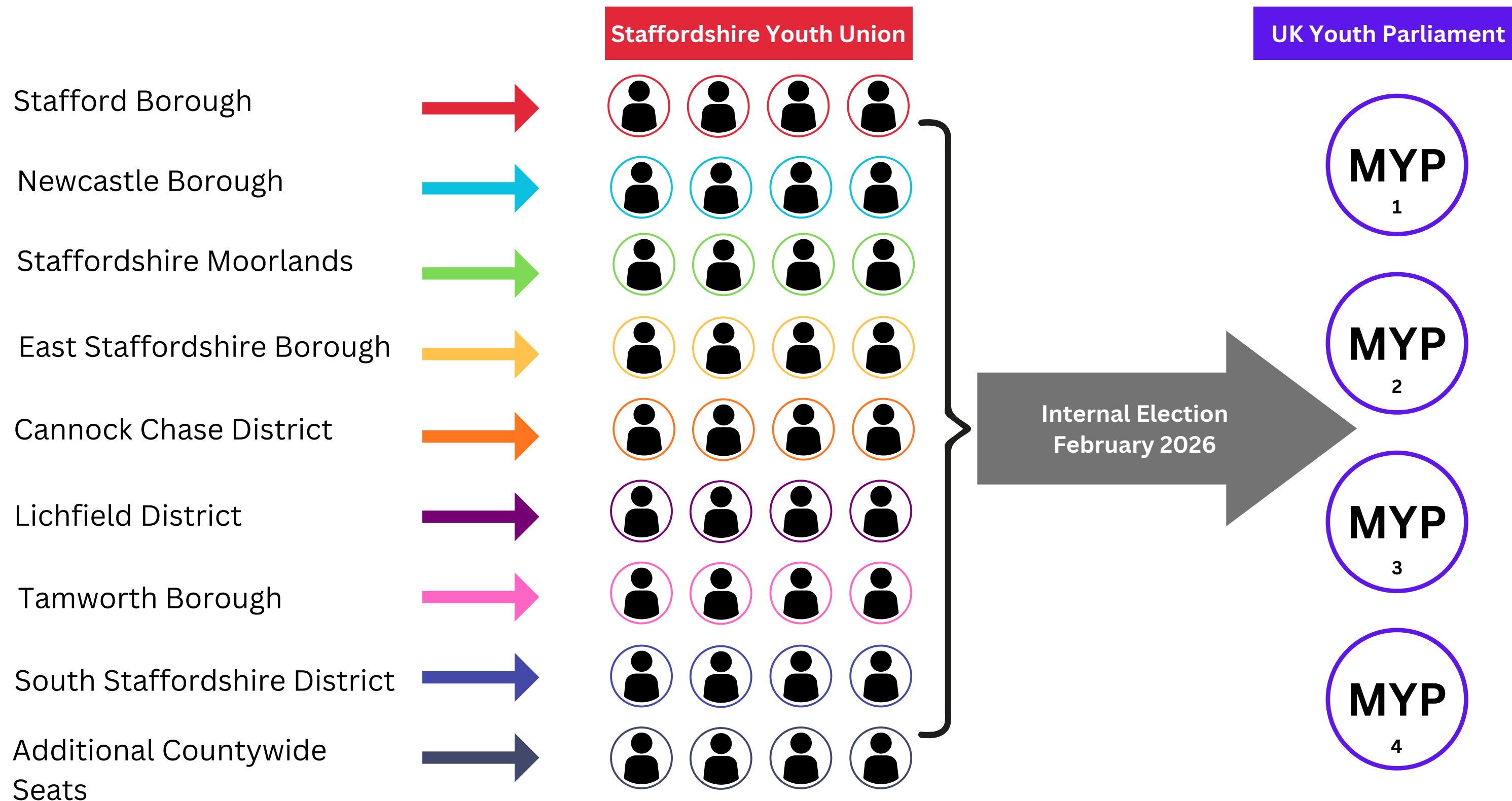
I've previously held roles of sports captain including netball and volleyball, school house captain. I always take my responsibility to the fullest , i show leadership skills and confidence during speeches and I never back down during challenges and guide the team to go through every challenge ahead of us.

Why vote for me...

i am passionate of building a great future for our community!

**Voting closes 9pm,
Wednesday 26th
November 2025**

Membership Structure



(Maximum total SYU membership = 36 young people)

youthvoice
youthpower
youthmatters

staffordshire youth union

will
ek 2024

WE RISE
EK 18-22 NOVEMBER 2024
PERSONALITY WIDE

WE RAISED
YOUTH VOICE
OUR
HOME-
TOWN



If you are a Staffordshire young person
aged 11-18,
please visit [this link](#) to register your interest
in the next SYU Elections, due to take place
in Autumn 2026 - scan the QR below.



SCVYS



STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Engagement Coordinator, Sean Turner,
pictured with MYP's Oliver Bracebridge-
Henderson & Thomas Craddock at the 2025 UK
Youth Parliament Annual Conference, Brighton.

