



Introduction and Welcome Pack

Welcome from Chair

Hello! If you are reading this it probably means you are curious to learn about MYC and may be considering becoming a member.

I joined because I felt society for young people has never been more pressured. I also felt that for our society to work for everyone, young people need to have their voices heard by decision-makers.

MYC is an environment where I know my ideas can be heard and debated, we can campaign on a whole range of issues. I've made some great friendships in my time so far at MYC. It's great to be around like-minded passionate individuals. You don't have to be interested in politics to make a big impact here, just bring a desire to help others in our community.

I hope to welcome you to the Youth Council soon.

Thomas Baldock (Chair and MYP 2018-19)

What is the Medway Youth Council?

Medway Youth Council is a youth organisation that works on the issues facing young people aged 11-18. 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, we regularly consult with decision makers where we can express the voice of young people.

What do members do?

Members give a wide representation of Medway by representing schools and other youth organisations. Members bring a variety of talents and interests from marketing to campaigning and help support the work of MYC.

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 often have opportunities to gain qualifications such as the Asdan Youth Representation Award. We also regularly attend events, e.g. Medway Mile, where we support the local community and can represent 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.

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 person is responsible for our work with Medway NHS Foundation Trust (the hospital), NELFT (who provide mental health services), Healthwatch, community health groups and any other groups associated with health. Spokesperson for young people health issues and consultation – focus groups.

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

This person will lead and be responsible for our chosen campaign and conference. This will be the campaign that we chose for the Annual Conference. This role also is responsible for approving and presenting sub-campaigns to the cabinet. Ensure members 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. Non-cabinet or voting role. Advises cabinet on financial matters. Produces receipts and expense forms.

Overview & Scrutiny

Medway Council has the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this is a committee 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 can directly challenge decision makers on matters which affect young people.

What are Members of Youth Parliament?

Members of Youth Parliament are aged 11-18.

Members of Youth Parliament are elected in annual youth elections throughout the UK. 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 Make Your Mark topics.

What I can I get from joining?

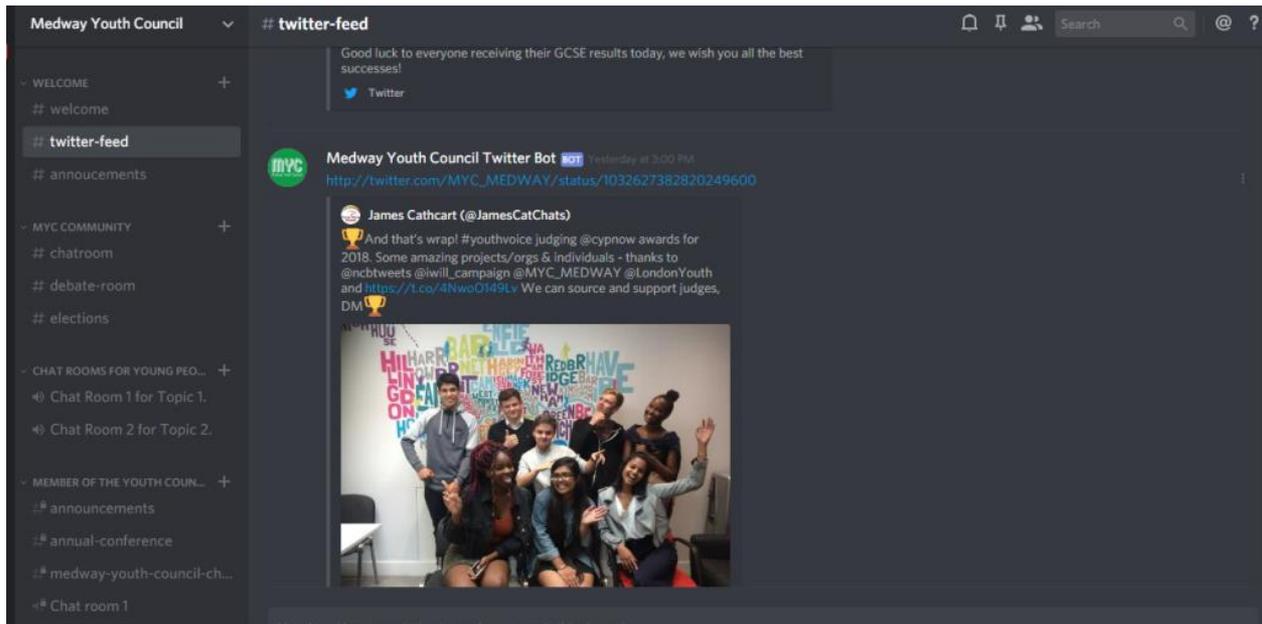
If you aren't sold already, our members can gain a variety of positive benefits from their time here.

- 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, this is an online platform where we communicate with all members and community.

Please find our Discord Joining Tutorial on the website to help set you up to join in with MYC wherever you are!



Our Social Media

- We have a presence on most social media, we welcome all members to engage with us there.



<https://www.facebook.com/medwayyouthcouncil>



https://twitter.com/myc_medway



https://www.instagram.com/medway_youth_council

How do I join?

Contact us on our website to get in touch:

<http://www.medwayyouthcouncil.co.uk/>

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.