

Update from Chloe Lintern:

Hi everyone, Sorry I couldn't make tonight but it's a rather busy week and so I've asked Alan to read this out on my behalf to update you all on what happening in UK Youth Parliament and my other ventures in Youth Democracy.

On Friday the 25th UK Youth Parliament members will meet for the biggest event of the year, the annual sitting. This is where the Members (I'm currently a deputy) across the UK come together for a weekend to plan our next consultation of the year called Make your mark and listen to key speakers. Make your mark is a national consultation in which just under half a million young people took part in last year in order to find the 5 key topics to be debated in the house of commons this year. From this one of these topics becomes the next campaign which we will campaign on in for the next year. Wiltshire has been working hard in order to get schools signed up to this consultation in order to help us reach our 7000 ballot paper target. I know in North Wiltshire we have all schools signed up apart from one in Calne and the private schools didn't seem to want to be involved as well as 10 youth groups on board. Hopefully a few more will sign up to be on board within the next few weeks for when Make your mark goes live in August 12th. In October the results of this consultation will be launched and I can update you at the Area board meeting afterwards. We have also been working hard on votes at 16 and lobbying lords to support this for when it does eventually get to the House of Lords. I was given the task of lobbying two lords and so far as I write this one lord has pledged her full support yet the other lord hasn't but hopefully should reply soon.

On a local level we have been hard working on the wording and planning of our agenda for action which is what we want to do over the next 4 years focusing on, money, bullying, the media and educational support. I'm quite excited for what we have planned over the next few years and think it will be really beneficial to young people in Wiltshire.

I have two opportunities I have experienced over the last two months at a national level as well in voicing young people and youth democracy. Model Westminster is a policy making organisation for under 25's they work alongside government. They have held one event as of yet, with another one planned for the 12th August looking at digital democracy. In September/October time they'll launch their annual competition where schools in London (for the time being) have the chance to run their own constituency for two days and compete against each other. I was lucky enough to be selected as 1 of 2 out of 35 to be a national ambassador for them meaning I'll be working closely with them to get more young people helping influence policies in the future and supporting their events.

My last updated was my most recent, and to me this is something I'm really passionate about. Student Voice is an organisation working to be an elected representative for students and their views on education. On Monday the 7th July they held their first conference in London, in which I was invited to attend; we participated in two workshops and a policy cafe which helps influence their work over the next year again. At the end of the day there was the chance to stand to become a regional national executive member, and being the outgoing person I am stood in this election. I was lucky enough to be elected as the South West National executive member for the next year meaning I represent the whole of the South West and their views on education. This is still in early stages of planning with training residential next week, but we're hoping to have representatives from each area which can feedback to me to help me out a bit. I'm really excited about all this work and hope you are as well!

Since I last updated (and was put on the spot) it's been a really jam packed couple of months and I hope that you find these updates valuable. If you have any questions or comments don't hesitate to contact me at @DMYPChloeL or pinkchloe98@live.co.uk it would be great to hear comments on how you think everything's going in terms of young people and representation.