

**Candidate Name: Sophia Dyson**

**Age: 16**

**Connection to the Borough: Residence**

My name is Sophia Dyson, and I am thrilled to be running to be your next Wandsworth Youth Mayor. I've had the privilege of growing up in this borough, and I know just how much talent, ambition, and creativity young people here have. However, I also understand that too many of us feel like our voices don't matter in the decisions shaping our future. Politics feels distant, opportunities can seem out of reach, and the spaces meant for us don't always reflect our needs – but I am the candidate who will fight to change that.

**My key priorities are:**

- **Making politics and government more accessible for young people** – I will create a free fortnightly Wandsworth Youth Newsletter with the Youth Council, breaking down key local and national decisions so young people understand how they impact us—and how we can influence them.
- **Embracing Wandsworth's vibrant cultures** – I will push for youth-led cultural festivals, better representation of different cultures in youth spaces, and a 'Culture Pass' to give young people free or discounted access to 2025 Borough of Culture events.
- **Enhancing green spaces and promoting outdoor activities** – I will work to create more youth-centred outdoor spaces, like skateparks and sports facilities, and encourage outdoor activities that support both mental and physical well-being.

Youth clubs are the heart of our community, uniting people, fostering opportunities, and providing young people with a vital space to flourish. But too often, the voices of youths in these spaces do not get the attention they deserve. That's why I need your vote, because as Youth Mayor, I can promise you that the concerns of youth clubs, their members, and young people across Wandsworth aren't just heard, but acted on.

We know that change isn't always easy. Political disengagement is real, and many young people feel like their opinions won't make a difference. Cultural events, youth projects, and outdoor spaces often face funding cuts or bureaucratic hurdles. But I believe that by working together—through creativity, persistence, and strong youth representation—we can and will push for meaningful change. With the right leadership, we can ensure that young people in Wandsworth don't just adapt to the borough's future, but help to mould it.

Thank you for reading, for supporting youth representation, and for believing in what young people can achieve.

If you put your trust and vote in me, together we will build a Wandsworth where every young person has the chance to thrive.