

Camden Youth MP Election 2016

Candidate Pack

Thank you for your interest in being elected as a member of the UK Youth Parliament to represent Camden. It is with great pleasure that we enclose the information and forms that you will need to complete to stand as a candidate.

In this pack you will find:

- 'Steps to being a successful candidate' guide
- A candidate's application form which you need to complete
- A parent / guardian consent form to be completed by your parents or guardian
- The ideal election statement guidance and an election statement form for you to fill in. This is your opportunity to say why you want to stand and what you would do for young people in Camden if you were elected. You have just 200 words and will need to consider carefully what you wish to write.

So what do you have to do now?

First, read this pack!

Then, if you decide you want to stand, please let us know. You can email or call us on the number below to confirm that you are planning to stand as a candidate. This will ensure that we are able to provide you with all the information and help that you will need.

Then you need to get all of the other forms completed and sent back to us (by email) by 5pm on **Friday 15 January 2016** at the very latest. Our details are on the bottom of this letter.

Any questions

If you want more information about the Camden Youth MP election, standing as a candidate or what to expect once you are elected then you can contact us by phone or email and we will be happy to help you.

Good luck! And we look forward to receiving your forms.

For more information, please contact:
Rashid Ali
Phone: 020 7974 6812
Email: rashid.ali@camden.gov.uk
Web: www.camden.gov.uk/youthcouncil

Steps to being a successful candidate - guide

This is an easy guide to help you become a successful candidate for this year's election for the Camden Youth MP.

STEP 1

Read this guide very carefully!

STEP 2

You need to meet the rules to stand as Youth MP

Rule 1:

Are you between 13 and 19 years old?

Rule 2:

Do you live in the borough of **Camden**?

Rule 3:

Do you go to school/college in **Camden** or work in **Camden**?

If your answers are **YES** to **Rule 1** and **YES** to **Rule 2** or **Rule 3** then you **CAN** stand to be our Youth MP.

If you meet these rules and you want to stand then **email us** (details below) to let us know.

STEP 3

Look at the candidate application form

Complete the sections very carefully.

Please give us all your contact details, so that we can let you know that we've received your forms. Don't forget to sign the declaration.

Please email this form back to us by **Friday 15 January 2016** at the latest.

STEP 4

Look at the parent /guardian consent form

Please pass this on to a parent or guardian.

They must give the form back to you when they have completed it.

Please email this form back to us by **Friday 15 January 2016** at the latest.

STEP 5

Look at the personal election statement form and read the guidance

As a candidate you will have to produce a personal election statement that will be given to all those who can vote in the election (that's thousands of young people who live in Camden or go to school in Camden!). To be able to stand you need to write up to 200 words on what you would do for young people if you were elected. This will form the basis of your final election statement. We have a sheet giving you tips on what to write and you can also get in touch with us if you want some help or advice.

STEP 6

Start filling in the forms

Don't forget that you can contact us if you have any questions about any of this. No question is too silly, so don't feel embarrassed.

STEP 7

Start thinking ahead

OK, you've just completed the forms and sent them in - there's nothing else to do is there?

WRONG!

We will contact you to say that all your forms have been completed properly then you will have to switch into 'campaign mode' - What does this mean?

This means that you will have to:

- start thinking about what your 'message' is (i.e. what you stand for in this election)
- start identifying young people to be part of your campaign team - these will be people who can help you with publicity, people who have lots of contacts, and people who can help you persuade as many people as possible to vote for you
- start telling people you're standing and to vote for you.

Do not worry too much about these tasks. We will go through them on your candidate training sessions. But you do have to start thinking about them now.

STEP 8

So what are you waiting for?

Call us to let us know you are standing and give us your forms. Good luck!

Candidate application form

Election of Youth MP 2016

My name is.....
and I would like to stand as a candidate for the Camden Youth MP Election 2016.

(Tick as appropriate)
I can confirm that:

a) I live in the London Borough of Camden

My address is.....

My postcode is.....

b) I am between the ages of 13 and 19

My date of birth is.....

c) I am educated within the London Borough of Camden

My secondary school or college is.....

OR

I work within the London Borough of Camden

My place of work is.....
(If you do not live in Camden or go to school in Camden, you can still apply to be Youth MP if you work in Camden)

My contact details are as follows:

Home telephone number.....

Mobile phone number.....

Email address.....

We will be organising training events to help candidates and provide them with the necessary skills to run a positive and successful campaign. We will also be organising **promotional events** to publicise the elections and encourage young people in the borough to vote for their preferred candidate.

All training/promotional events will be held outside school hours and ALL candidates are expected to attend.

If there are an overwhelming number of candidates, a shortlisting process will be put in place which may include interviews and a preliminary election.

Lunch will be provided and we will pay back reasonable travel costs.

Candidate declaration

I declare that the information that I have given is true and that I meet the conditions for being Young MP for Camden.

Signed.....

Date.....

Parent / guardian's consent

I have read the guidance and support the application of.....(Name of candidate)

I can confirm that this candidate is:

- aged 13 to 19
- lives in the London Borough of Camden OR
- attends school/college or works in the London Borough of Camden.

I provide my consent for my child / young person in my care to stand as a candidate for the 2016 election of Young MP for Camden.

Signed.....

Name (in capitals).....

Address.....
.....

Postcode.....

Daytime contact details.....

Evening contact.....

The ideal election statement

- Your election statement needs to spell out **why you are standing as a youth MP**.
- It also needs to answer the following:
 - **What you will do for the young people of Camden**
 - **How you will feedback to the young people of Camden**
 - **Why you are the best person for the job.**
- It needs to be written in plain English with simple language and short, sharp sentences.
- Use examples and stories to explain why you are doing things (for example, you want a skate park because your neighbour got knocked over in the street because there was nowhere for her to skate).
- Be creative but realistic. Don't promise things you won't be able to do.
- Be honest about yourself.
- Be different - you need to stand out from the others.

Get in touch with us (by email) if you want help with this or if you want to run your final version by us first. At the candidate training sessions, you will have help to finalise your election statement.

For more information, please contact:
Rashid Ali
Tel: **020 7974 6812**
Email: rashid.ali@camden.gov.uk
Web: www.camden.gov.uk/youthcouncil