



CONNOR TOMLINSON #iwill



Connor Tomlinson, 17 years old

From: Cranleigh, England

CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Humility/Modesty | Leadership | Compassion, Resilience & Perseverance | Determination | Community Awareness

#iwill ... continue to fight for the voices of young people in our society, using social action to encourage them into local decision making and promote youth political engagement.

I started my social action journey at school, aged 13, where I became a PSHE Ambassador before later becoming Chair of Student Council. This experience inspired my campaigning work on compulsory first aid education and a curriculum to prepare young people for life outside the classroom, which I continued by volunteering with the British Red Cross.

I got involved in social action in order to make a positive difference to the young people in my community, and to represent their views in decision-making. In 2016, I joined the Surrey Youth Cabinet and was elected Member of Youth Parliament for Surrey the following year. This role allowed me to represent over 250,000 young people to local government and coordinate the county's role in the annual Make Your Mark campaign.

As a Student Governor at my sixth form college, I lobbied for increased youth voice on boards and committees in academy trusts. I'm currently a member of the NHS England Youth Forum representing the South of England, where I advocate for children and young people's rights in healthcare and the involvement of youth voice in the creation and shaping of services.

Balancing full-time education, a part-time job and volunteering can have its difficulties, especially when some events mean travelling long distances, but ultimately, I find it's worth it to give back and that you gain from it immeasurably.

I also hold a number of voluntary positions with various organisations, including the National Children's Bureau, StudentVoice UK and NSPCC.

"My social action has allowed me to develop my leadership skills and compassion, as well as building experience in campaigning and communications."

Organisations I've Participated With:

British Youth Council, UK Youth Parliament, NHS England Youth Forum, National Children's Bureau, British Red Cross, StudentVoice UK

