



BEN (BENJAMIN) FLEMING

AGE: 19 years old FROM: England - North West

“We shouldn’t listen to young people merely because they’re the ‘adults of tomorrow’, but because they provide a unique and valuable perspective on important issues, free from established or preconceived dogmas.”

My earliest significant involvement in social action began when I started volunteering in local primary and secondary schools, aged 15. I offered literacy coaching for pupils whose first language wasn’t English, as well as academic help and exam advice to those who found their school-work challenging. Later, I went on to curate a workshop which provided GCSE students with a five-step process for exam success.

I’m currently Chief Operating Officer of YouthPolitics UK, an award-winning non-profit organisation dedicated to engaging and empowering young people in politics. Through training workshops, campaigns, events and articles, we enhance the voices of young people in public affairs, helping to bridge the gap between politicians and the youth.

I joined YouthPolitics in 2017 as Head of Events, going on to organise our inaugural conference in March 2018. This brought together over 500 young people for a day of speeches, debates, workshops and more, and featured

keynote speeches by Alastair Campbell, Michael Crick and Andy Burnham. Later that year I became COO, and now play a major role in the management and operations of the organisation, including overseeing 30 volunteers.

Meanwhile, as Vice President of the Edinburgh Political Union, I’m leading an initiative to unlock the union to the wider community outside of Edinburgh University, engaging with local schools and improving political literacy in the city.

It’s vital for the future of our society that the youth remain politically vigilant, and my work with YouthPolitics has helped to engage and empower young people across the country in this vein.

The best part of my social action has been witnessing bright young people demonstrating a ferocious passion for political issues that had previously gone untapped. Watching them debate, campaign for, and write about the topics that matter most to them has been incredibly rewarding.



ORGANISATIONS I’VE WORKED WITH

YOUTHPOLITICS UK

CHARACTER STRENGTHS

LEADERSHIP, CONFIDENCE, COMMUNICATION, RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE AND DETERMINATION, PROBLEM-SOLVING

