

# **Young Parliament 2015**

## **St Mark's School**



## **Me, Myself, My School**

# YOUNG PARLIAMENT June 25th 2015

## Me, Myself, My School

This was the 3rd Young parliament to be held in B&NES and for this year's event St Mark's School, Bath was chosen as the host school. There was a core group of pupils from St Mark's, who under the direction of Ms Stella Pakeman, Student Leadership, helped with the coordination and running of the day. Sarah McCluskey, Strategic Commissioning Officer and Claire Gueye, Personal Assistant spent time in the weeks leading up to the Parliament, planning the event with the team from St Mark's and the workshop leaders.

Following a short spiritual reflection, an opening address was given by St Mark's Head Teacher, Mr. Ash and then Ed Joseph, member of the Youth Parliament gave an inspired speech about democracy and his role as a member of the National Youth Parliament and the local Youth Forum.

Over 11 schools and 55 pupils then came together to debate and participate in four themed workshops under the generic theme of Me, Myself, My School.

Four separate workshops were run by students in collaboration with an adult leader. Young people vigorously debated their selected theme within their workshop, in order to produce a compelling presentation for the whole parliament to vote on.

### Workshops

#### A. Curriculum for Life

Lisa Mukherjee – Participation Project worker, Ed Joseph MYP, Beccy

#### B. Preparing for the Next Steps

Jamie Luck – Project Director Mentoring Plus, Sam Maggs, Steve Gogulein, Steve Newcombe University of Bath (Widening Participation)

#### C. Ways to Well Being, Mind, Body and Soul

Barry Grimes – Your care, Your Way, Dee Chaddha – Strategic Planning Office, St Mark's Pupils - Moyra, Billy, Maria, Donna

#### D. Power to the Pupils - how far should pupils be involved in the running of the school?

Kate Murphy PSHE lead, Holly Dando, Equalities Champion, Chew Valley School, St Mark's Pupils - Freddie, Kiera



What Young People said on the day...?

***“We need broader PSHE lessons; we need people from outside to come and talk to us about real jobs”.***

***“There needs to be change in the way the curriculum is planned - by helping to change your curriculum, you can change your life. GCSE’s need to be changed”.***

***“There needs to be a change in the way we are taught. Not everyone can learn in the same way”.***

## Workshop A

### Curriculum for Life

Report written by Ed Joseph MYP & Lisa Mukherjee, Participation Development worker at Off the Record

We focused on PSHE because at the time, there was no statutory curriculum and thus the young people's say would be more meaningful because there is a chance of them helping shape the curriculum. The young people's ideas are being used to inform the B&NES Youth Forum Curriculum for Life campaign. B&NES Youth Forum and the Senior in Care Council (SICC) will be inviting Kate Murphy, Council PSHE lead to a meeting to inform her of what young people want. Furthermore, Ed Joseph, Member of Youth Parliament will be taking this forward with head teachers also.

We would also like to highlight that the Norton Hill PSHE teacher was present and actively involved with the debate and discussion at our workshop - having an invaluable contribution and allowing the young people to see both sides of the coin, as well as her being able to hear what was important to the young people. The young people were informed about the PSHE CPD course funded by Public Health, which teachers can take part in to improve their practise and have been asked to promote it at their school.

Below are all of the topics which young people felt should be in a curriculum for life.

The top three topics chosen and which formed the content of the presentation are highlighted in bold:

- **First Aid** e.g. Knowing how to help someone in an emergency, when to dial 999 and the recovery position
- **Politics** e.g. Getting young people involved, engaged and educated.
- **Mental Health** e.g. Knowing different disorders, challenging stigma and understanding which services to access and when.

These were the topics which young people felt should also be considered for discussions in PSHE:

- Finance skills including how to apply for a mortgage and managing pensions
- Careers Advice / Further Education Advice
- Sexual Health and healthy relationship education
- Sustainable Living / Independent living e.g. knowing how to cook
- Citizenship e.g. giving to the community

## Workshop B

### Next Steps - Does school and college prepare us all for what we want to do when we leave?

POSITIVES OF SCHOOL	NEGATIVES OF SCHOOL
Free education	Inappropriate curriculum
Equality	Not modern
Freedom	Irrelevant
Safety	Designed by wrong people - government out of touch with schools
Balance	Sexist
Work and Life	Too much push for University
Encourages social life	Competitive (grades)
Careers	Wrong skills
PSHE	Not enough options
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
<p>More appropriate ideas and a curriculum which prepares you for life to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Much more guidance</li><li>• More useful PSHE on life skills rather than sex and relationships</li><li>• Better careers guidance</li><li>• More people from outside to talk to us about real jobs</li><li>• How do we prepare to pay bills or pay rent</li><li>• How much will it really cost at Uni</li><li>• More choices about sports and arts jobs</li><li>• More information about politics and what is happening in the world</li><li>• More vocational choices - not everyone can do exams well</li><li>• Better access and lower costs for young people wanting to access facilities e.g. swimming pools, community spaces</li></ul>	

## Workshop B Presentation

Students talked about themselves and what they need, working in pairs and talking about each other's needs and aspirations – values and importance of individuals

School does a good job overall in preparing young people academically, but it doesn't allow time for wider discussions about life skills.

Too much push from Year 10 onwards for University. There needs to be thought given to apprenticeships, internships, volunteering, opportunities abroad post 18.

Many factors outside school / college influence and impact on young people, schools need to take this into account more.

Young people don't know enough about how they can influence politicians.



## **Workshop C**

### **Ways to Wellbeing – Mind, Body and Soul**

The workshop identified main priorities for the Presentation

- Anxiety and worry
- Healthy eating
- Exercise
- Body image
- Access to services

#### **Workshop C Presentation**

Anxiety and Worry - There needs to be:

- More education around self-harm
- Young people to share experience of mental health
- PSHE to focus more on mental health

Healthy eating - There needs to be:

- Price of healthy food cheaper
- Make posters promoting healthy food
- Make healthy food more attractive

Exercise - There needs to be:

- More positive media presentation
- Less age restrictions on gym equipment
- Fitness videos available to students

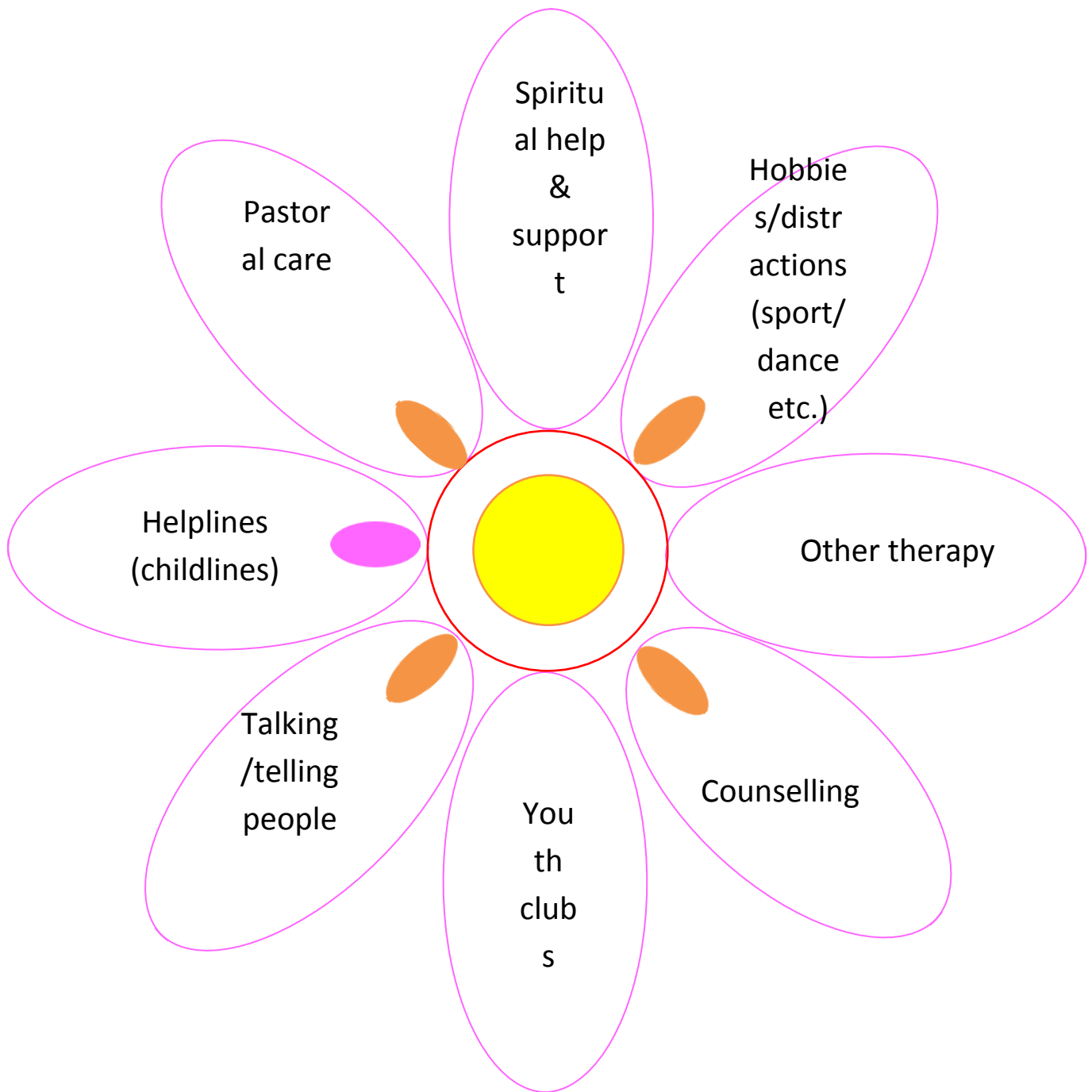
Body image - There needs to be:

- More out of school opportunities (youth clubs)
- More education about body image – PSHE
- More money to schools for out of school clubs

Access to services - There needs to be:

- More youth and sports clubs in and out of school
- Facilities to be promoted more widely
- More support / praise for well-behaved children

## Wellbeing





## **Workshop D Power to the Pupils**

**“How can pupils be more involved in the running of the school?”**

### **Organisation**

- Pupils to attend staff meetings / part of leadership team meetings to raise issues and get feedback about what has happened as a result
- Student are on interview panels for recruitment of staff , are able to choose questions and receive training to do this
- A system is in place for pupils to be involved in the review / assessment of staff

### **Equalities**

- All pupils should have the opportunity to be involved in leadership / school council activities (including younger pupils and “naughty pupils” )
- Pupils should be involved in helping stamp out racism, homophobia etc.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

- Pupils should have a say in the types of trips, clubs, activities being offered

### **Curriculum**

- Pupils should be more involved in planning , development and delivery of lessons
- Staff should outline the relevance of topics to life outside school
- More lessons on financial education (bills, taxes)
- More outdoor education

### **Workshop D Presentation**

- The curriculum needs a broader skills base
- Pupils need to be more involved in the recruitment and ongoing assessment of staff
- Pupils should be able to attend staff meetings
- More extra-curricular activities
- Better use of school facilities
- Look at streaming some classes as some pupils really struggle



## **EQUALITY IS LIKE CAKE!!!**

Not everyone gets the same size piece - Some people do not get the same opportunities.

Some people get the decorations - Some people get perks or can easily get things others can't.

Birthday person always gets the first slice - Some people get priorities to certain opportunities. Sometimes favouritism takes place.

Everyone likes cake but not everyone gets a fair slice!!!

### **Voting**

Following the presentations, delegates were asked to cast their votes to select the presentation that had the most impact on them. The workshop 'Power to the Pupils' received the highest number of votes.

### **Plenary**

Mike Bowden gave his thanks to everyone for their contributions to the day and for the range, depth and content of the presentations. In particular he highlighted the importance of Wellbeing and how we all needed to be aware of how we and others are feeling. The chairman also gave his overview of the presentations and reflected on how politics impacts on us all. The final address was given by Freddie – a St Mark’s Pupil.

### **Next Steps for schools during 2015 - 2016**

- Ed Joseph to visit School Leadership Teams early in the Autumn Term to discuss how pupils could be more involved in the running of schools.
- PSHE to be more reflective of next steps in life post 16 and well-being.
- This report will be presented to the Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel (in September), Schools Forum and will be circulated to all schools.

Grateful thanks to St Mark’s’ School for their excellent hosting of the day and in particular, Ms Stella Pakeman - Student Leadership. Additional thanks to all pupils, teachers, helpers, and to everyone who attended and contributed to this very enjoyable and successful event.

We look forward to welcoming you back in 2016 to the next Young Parliament.



## **Schools in Attendance**

1. Chew Valley School
2. Three Ways School
3. Fosseyway School
4. Writhlington School
5. Prior Park School
6. Oldfield Academy
7. St Mark's School
8. Norton Hill School
9. Broadlands School
10. St Gregory's School
11. Wellsway School

## **Other Attendees**

Chairman of the Council - Cllr Ian Gilchrist

Deputy Chairman of the Council - Cllr Martin veal

Leader of the Council - Cllr Tim Warren

Lead Member for Children's Services - Cllr Michael Evans

Director Children and Young People, Strategy and Commissioning - Mike Bowden

Senior Commissioning Manager, Specialist Services - Mary Kearney-Knowles

MC for the afternoon - Shyam Sawhney- Equalities Champion Norton Hill School