

Head Boy/Head Girl Application Form

Please tell us why you would like to be a Student Leader (Head Boy or Head Girl)

Ever since I was young, I always had the natural desire to lead, and always wanted to be an active member of our community. I fell in love with the English school community, from the 1st day I walked into this school on September 5th, 2017. The welcoming speech of that year's head girl inspired me and gave me the confidence to be an active member of our school.

Running for class representative in year 1, was just the first steppingstone to the 6-year long journey of student voice that followed it. Representing the student body has always been a passion of mine. I am a person one can talk to and relate to, someone who is approachable, open minded and willing to listen to your problems and always try to find the best solutions.

I am proud to belong to the English School community, and always will be, unfortunately this is not the case for many of us, as the endless struggle for academic success has drained the school spirit and passion of the students. Our school should be a team; a team of teachers, management, students who view each other as equals. A team which is united, and cares for one another. A team which brings out the best in each other. What will we remember from our 7 years in this school? What is our legacy? Is our legacy our year 2 transcript? Academic success is of outmost importance, but it shouldn't be more important than students' wellbeing.

Our school has amazing foundations and countless opportunities, with some areas lacking and others we simply need to build upon. All we need is realistic, adaptable change to make our school what it should be; a haven we can express ourselves freely and thrive no matter our interests. The position of a head girl is not one to be taken lightly. It is challenging and full of responsibility, but so rewarding; especially as it entails doing what I love the most.

I strongly believe that my motivation, vision and hard work are the perfect recipe for breaching the gap between students and the management and creating a more united and accepting student body; one where all of us belong in, one where we unite our differences and make them our strengths, one where we are not drowning in stress. For as long as I can remember I have wanted to be your voice, the person you trust, **your head girl**. My optimistic, positive attitude inspires people to come together and work as one, delivering the English School's second century of excellence. 'Non-Sibi Sed Scholae' has guided my passion over the years in representing this body; not for me but for the school, not for me but for each and every one of you!

If you are successful, what would you like to achieve in the post of Head Boy or Head Girl?

ACADEMIC:

- A-levels:

Making the 4th A-level option in year 6 a choice gives us more time to focus on our 3 subject choices.

- Widening IGCSE and A-level options:

Introducing a greater variety of IGCSE and A-level options to the school such as accounting, psychology, and law.

- Standardisation of grades:

Using the external exam result system to standardise grades for IGCSEs and A-Levels to ensure fair representation of marks is given on reports.

- Enhancing the PSICHE curriculum:

- 1) making PSICHE lessons relevant to the year groups they are targeted towards to make them effective:
lower school = introduction to school, time management, stress
middle school= how to handle IGCSEs and study effectively
upper school = applying to university, how to deal with life post-high school (finances, cooking, cleaning)
- 2) Opportunity to year 5 and 7 to guide the younger students on what IGCSE and A-Level options they should pick.

- **Creating a digital note sharing, past papers and mark schemes site, and second-hand book sharing account:**

Students can interact by exchanging notes and second-hand books for IGCSEs and A-levels which tend to be expensive. This is an eco-friendlier approach to education and can easily be implemented as a tab on the school's website for easy access.

- **Educational field trips:**

Allows students to explore their lessons beyond the classroom through field trips, to broaden their learning experiences.

- **Inviting more variety in overseas universities:**

Expanding the school's academic reach beyond the UK universities

THE ARTS AND SPORTS:

- **Annual 'Rock Night':**

Show our support for in-school bands and giving students a sense of collectivity by creating fun events to bond the school community further.

- **Bringing back traditions: reviving sports' day & Founder's Day:**

Celebrating our traditions is important, we need to take pride in who we are as a school community and showcase that by involving all year groups in these events.

- **ESOBGA vs Students and Teachers vs Students sporting games:**

End of term before Christmas, the ESOBGA community and teachers can arrange sporting games against the students, uniting the wider English school body.

MENTAL HEALTH:

- **Involve the newly created Mental Health Committee (MHC) in related events:**

Organising events and workshops talking openly about mental health problems and eliminating the taboo around the subject, promoting inclusivity.

- **Counsellor:**

The counsellor should be available for meetings with the students throughout the day, without needing to communicate with student's form teacher, head of year, or parents (unless an emergency), allowing students to feel that they are in a safe environment.

- **Mental health week:**

Dedicate a week where professionals can deliver seminars and workshops on mental health during students' PSHE lessons.

- **Reduce the workload of students:**

Minimise CAs for lower school from maximum 3 to maximum 2 per week, and for the middle/upper school from maximum 4 to maximum 3.

Set a maximum of no more than 2 CAs per day, to reduce the pressure off students and optimise results.

COMMUNICATION, TRANSPARENCY, & INCLUSIVITY:

- **Student Council Instagram:**

Although it exists, it is not heavily used. The instagram page could be used to:

- 1) upload Student Council and Advisory council minutes
- 2) important updates regarding the student body
- 3) offer advice from older students regarding students' IGCSE and A-Level choices
- 4) create short videos of how to cope with stress
- 5) post short interviews of the management
- 6) share advice from ESL Students on university choices and any other topic

Through this, students will feel that information is shared openly and transparently to them, from the students to the students; adapting the school to the 21st century.

- **Careers fair:**

A night in September parents and students can explore university choices and degrees where alumni from UK and European universities can also be invited to share their experiences with the students and keep in contact with them.

- **Culture day:**

Celebrating different cultures through bake sales, assemblies, music played.

- **Extra-curricular activities' platform:**

A booking platform for all available ECA activities which also allows students to create their own clubs monitored by a teacher of their choice, increasing the variety of ECA clubs in the school.

- **Student's confessions box:**

Digitally and anonymously students can write their suggestions and/or complaints.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

- **Work more closely with the eco-school's club:**

Arrange regular meetings for greener action.

- **Annual tree planting:**

Annual year-group tree planting to promote ecological responsibility.

- **Annual year-group cleanups:**

Annual year-group cleanup during PSCE lessons.

- **Price discounts:**

Canteen discounts to students who bring their own cups and straws for drinks.

- **Recycling bins:**

Increase the number of recycling bins in the school.

COMMUNITY – our students and school life:

- **Term review program:**

Anonymous feedback form from selected students on their teachers' performance.

- **Annual year group trips:**

Scheduled in the school's program from the end of the previous year so as to not be cancelled. This will not only encourage students to have a year group activity to look forward to but will also enhance the sense of unity and community within the school environment.

- **Casual Fridays:**

Once every 2 Fridays established themed non-uniform days for solidarity for current affairs.

- **One method of communication:**

It is vital to only receive important information from only one platform to avoid miscommunication.

- **Annual standard year group events:**

Each year group or cluster (lower, middle, upper) will be responsible on organising an event, allowing them to collaborate and create their school memories. These events are but are not limited to:

- 1) BBQ night
- 2) Rock night
- 3) Karaoke night
- 4) Tsiknopempti
- 5) TEDxEnglishSchool

- **The 'Buddy' system:**

Selected students from the middle and upper school will be partnered to a lower-school student as 'mentor' or 'buddy', acting as their support system.

- **Digitalise the school's map:**

Creating a tab on the school's website outlining the key areas of the school. This will make it especially easier for new students to familiarise with the school's facilities.

- **The ES student discount card:**

Advantages for ES students in shops we like (discounts, offers, services)

What personal qualities do you have that would make you suitable for the post?

Over the course of my 6 years at the school, I have become a very active, aspirational student. A student who has immersed herself fully into every activity the school had to offer, trying to gain as much and learn as much as possible from everything I ever did. My experience in extra-curricular activities and clubs have helped me develop essential qualities a leader should possess, something that I call 'the Head Girl starter-pack'.

Each m&m in my campaign is coloured differently, highlighting the 12 key, different qualities I have acquired over the past 6 years.

Organisation, time management, teamwork and leadership are skills I have developed through activities such as EYP, MEDIMUN, THIMUN, the Student Council, Talent night, and the debate club in school. As a member of the student council for 5 years I had to use my communication and persuasion skills to be able to communicate our ideas and persuade the management on different matters. Also working with groups has helped me develop **patience, adaptability** and **teamwork** and has made me a better listener. I have become a more **empathetic** individual, compassionate and understanding to what people may need. I have come to realise that together we are much more powerful than we are apart, and teams make wonders when they bond and work together.

Kindness and **sociability** have helped me a lot in building and maintaining relationships and connections and also developing strong friendships (both with students and the management) which help in pushing the team forward.

It is essential for a good leader to possess exceptional public speaking skills. Through immense experience in debating and public speaking, I am the one who can deliver what you ask for. I am very confident in myself, and my decisions. Becoming head girl would mean tough decisions need to be made, and as always, I intend to stand by the council's choices no matter how tough they are.

My strong sense of personal accountability, responsibility and commitment to doing what is right even when the decision is tough, is definitely a quality necessary for a head girl. Not being a populist and preferring to do what is best rather than what will please the crowds is very important.

I am **reliable** and **trustworthy**. I will not promise anything that I cannot deliver, rather I will work hard to improve the "Status Quo".

So, if you ask yourselves today, 'who can I talk to for something that bothers me?', 'who can make sure that what I ask for will be truly heard?', the answer to those questions is simple: **Marisa**.

I am **ambitious, enthusiastic, energetic, and hardworking** and have a clear vision of what I want to achieve: making this school as enjoyable as possible for all of us, so that we can all have precious memories at the English School.

Our school promotes **loyalty, integrity** and leadership, characteristics evident in who I am. During the past 6 years, this school has given me countless opportunities to grow, develop, and flourish in that environment. It has shaped me into a strong leader, a confident speaker, a young, restless mind, an active citizen; but most importantly it has taught me to be a human; a person with passion and compassion for others, a person who cares and will work hard to improve things for all of us. ***After 6 long years of gaining from the school, it's time to give back to it, by representing you!***

Do you have any relevant experiences that would help in the post?

Public Speaking, Communication, Persuasion & Debating skills:

EYP:

1. ES EYP Club delegate (year 4 and year 5)
2. ES EYP Club chair 2022-23 (year 6)
3. EYP Day 2021 Delegate
4. 15th National Session of EYP Cyprus 2021 Delegate
5. Pre-Selection Days of EYP Cyprus 2022 Delegate
6. 16th National Session of EYP Cyprus 2022 Delegate
7. 96th International Session of EYP 2022 Delegate
8. Pre-Selection Days of EYP Cyprus 2023 Chair
9. Days of EYP Cyprus 2023 Chair

MEDIMUN:

1. MEDIMUN XVII (2022) delegate (won best delegate)
2. MEDIMUN XVIII (2023) delegate (won best delegate)
3. THIMUN 2023 (international medimun conference selected) delegate (won best delegate)

DEBATE CLUB:

1. Chairperson of junior debate club (2019, year 3)
2. Debater for English senior debate club (2020-2022, years 4-6)
3. Debater for Greek senior debate club (2021-22, years 5-6)

Organisation:

1. Talent Night organising committee (year 3-present)
2. Bake sales, non-uniform days organising committee (year 1 – present)
3. Barbecue night organising committee (year 6)
4. Rock night organising committee (year 2)
5. School events photographer (year 4-present)
6. Member of the MHC committee (2022, year 6)

Leadership:

1. DOE bronze team leader
2. DOE silver vice team leader
3. DOE gold team leader
4. F1 in schools team leader
5. Talent night organising committee
6. EYP Chairperson
7. The Phoenix magazine section leader (2020-present)
8. Kitchener house captain for lower-school girls (2019-20)

Student Voice/Student council:

1. Student council 2017-19 (years 1-3) member
2. Chairperson of Lower School Advisory council (2019, year 3)
3. Member of middle school advisory council & student council (2021-22, years 4-5)
4. Deputy chair of middle school advisory council 2021-22 (year 5)
5. Primary school president (2016-17)
6. Member of the MHC committee (2022, year 6)

Teamwork:

1. Student council
2. EYP positions
3. THIMUN
4. MEDIMUN
5. DOE
6. Dance
7. Talent Night Organising committee
8. School parade team (2022-23)

Discipline:

1. Competitive dancing (2010-present)
2. The Phoenix Writer and Section Leader (2019-present)
3. Polydynamo centre Cyprus teaching assistant volunteer (2020-present)
4. French A level and B2
5. School parade team (2022-present)

