

Youth Parliament Election 2019:

Andrew Speight's manifesto:

Summary:

The lives of young people are facing a crisis. Thankfully, this crisis can be solved at a national level. The politicians like to brag that they are "providing young people with the best start in life" but the truth is far from that.

With schools in a complete mess, due to exams and due to academy trusts, young people's jobs not paying sufficiently for no reason, and youth crime a cause for concern, there is no great start for us. But with the right campaigning, things can change.

As MYP for Blackpool, I would begin awareness campaigns of the activities currently going on within schools, question why young people are not being paid fair amounts, and think as to how we can lower youth crime, both on the ends of young victims and young criminals.

Key issues:

Education: The education system in the UK is currently undergoing reforms, but these reforms are taking us backwards, not forwards. This is because of exam-centric teaching and culture, that causes seriously unhealthy amounts of stress and can cause many mental health issues.

Also, the Government has started a change that schools turn to academies. Academies are funded by anyone who likes, instead of in the safe hands of the local authority. These trusts have been found to be stealing money from schools to pay for luxurious lifestyles for their bosses, as well as mistreating pupils and thinking only of exams.

As MYP, I would:

- Begin campaigns to bring this into higher awareness.
- Push to have this as an issue debated at the UK Youth Parliament's annual conferences.
- Create a culture that is less toxic around exams.
- Make the voice of pupils fed up with Academy Trust's stealing heard.

Work: Many young people see their next step on from school as going into work. An increasing amount of young people feel pressured to go into work at a young age. Therefore, we must cater for their needs.

It makes absolutely no sense to pay youths less for the same work. It is blatant discrimination that many claim to be against. I would ensure that the inequality that is the age pay gap is more publically known and therefore more campaigns can begin against it.

As MYP, I would:

- Bring the age pay gap into greater public knowledge by starting campaigns.
- Have unequal pay due to age recognised as a form of discrimination.

Crime: Many young people feel unsafe in Blackpool at night. And understandably so. Many shady figures walk the streets in an attempt to intimidate. A community of these is young people. It is a sad truth that youths feel the need to prove to themselves and others that they aren't afraid. My solution to this is more police officers actively patrolling at dark hours, as well as more security cameras that are durable to ensure criminals know they are being watched.

If young people feel in danger in their own community, do politicians really think that they'll boldly go forward into the future?

As MYP, I would:

- Work with MYP's from across the country to come up with a solution to the problem.
- Demand more night patrols from police.
- Create a youth voice of the dangers of poorly funding the police with an austerity budget.