

# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS THE UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT?

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better.

Run by young people for young people, UKYP provides opportunities for 11-18-year-olds to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change.

UKYP was launched at the House of Commons in July 1999, and held its first sitting in February 2001 in London. There are currently over 600 elected MYPs (Members of Youth Parliament) and DMYPs (Deputy Members of Youth Parliament).

Now in its tenth year, UKYP continues to get bigger and better. Decision makers are listening to what young people are saying. More and more young people are voting in UKYP elections. UKYP is making its mark!

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN MYP

Being an MYP is a very exciting opportunity. Throughout your term of office you will have the chance to get involved in a range of activities.

For example, MYPs meet with MPs and local councillors, organise events, run campaigns, make speeches, hold debates, and ensure the views of young people are listened to by decision makers.

But the most important aspect of any MYP's job is to make sure they represent the views of the young people in their constituency.

## HOW THIS HANDBOOK CAN HELP YOU

This handbook contains a wealth of vital information to help you during your term of office. Written by ex-MYPs and UKYP staff, this handbook includes information about the year ahead, tips on public



speaking and debating, a guide to campaigning, case studies of ex-MYPs, a calendar and much more!

Please take time to read all of the sections. We recommend that you carry it with you whenever you are doing UKYP work. Hopefully it will be an invaluable resource for you to use during your term of office.

## **THE FUTURE**

The future is bright for UKYP, as more young people hear about us, more decision makers meet and are inspired by MYPs, and more challenging projects demonstrate the real value of involving young people in decision making.