

Lamin Savage – Oakgrove School

I am **angry**, and frustrated and incited to action by the injustice and grief woven into the fibres of my home - our home - Milton Keynes. I see young people grappling with mental health issues under a failing CAMHS service. I believe you see it too. I see detached teenagers with nothing to do, lacking a sense of community or direction. I believe you see it too. I see adolescents experiencing obstacles because of race, class, gender and more, held back by discriminatory beliefs. I believe you see it too.

Too often throughout my life, I've been pushed to rebellion amongst inequality, and too often, I've spoken up for the silent voices. In 2023, I wrote an article for [Cambridge International about climate change and sustainability in Latin American schools](#), advocating for sustainable development. This academic year, I gave assemblies to Years 7, 8 and 10, and wrote a piece for the [October edition of the school newsletter about Black History Month](#), giving a platform to unseen black voices. Whether it's co-founding the Oakgrove School Debate Society, or representing views at my 6th Form Student Council, I've continuously strived to represent everyone authentically and outstandingly.

I was 8 when my grandmother died and left me struggling with depression caused by bereavement. 11 when I realised I didn't really have anyone to have lunch with. 12 when a boy got in my face and called me a racial slur. Navigating my youth while experiencing mental health issues, social isolation and racial discrimination was like sandpaper against metal - it made me into who I am today. It lit my fire towards righting society's wrongs, and actually, it led me to what I'd do as a councillor.

Much of my focus would be on investing into the youth - I believe we deserve young interests to be taken seriously. I want to provide safe spaces to discuss mental health, alliances against discrimination and ensure there are more youth-focused activities around MK to give young people a sense of community and experiences relevant to their CV, UCAS, personal statements and more.

What you need in a councillor is someone with teeth-grinding grit who's willing to fight the fight necessary to improve both my life and your life. I see my background and experience as a driver for why I am the ideal candidate for your councillor. I believe you see it too.