ROSA SCOTT FOR MK YOUTH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

I am very excited to be running for the position of a MK youth council representative. I'm so proud and ready to represent our school, St Pauls, and all young people around the city, and I'm even more committed to make sure that all young voices are heard and taken seriously to make things better for all.

One issue particularly important to me is youth poverty. In a 2021 survey, it was found that 18,000 children living in Milton Keynes live in poverty – and due to the recent cost of living crisis, I can only imagine that this number has risen severely. Steps like reducing bus fares for under 18s, universal free school meals and getting rid of the two-child benefit cap, which may seem small, can make an incredible difference to the levels of poverty that today's children experience.

Another important issue to me is teenagers' mental health. As a council representative, I will prioritise mental health issues by implementing initiatives that promote awareness and support within our school community and making sure that resources are readily available for those seeking comfort when they need it. This can be achieved by fostering a culture of openness surrounding mental health, reducing the stigma and encouraging students to take care of their well-being, as it could be a massive influence on their school/day to day life.

With my prior work as a chaplaincy rep at both primary/secondary school, sixth-form level debates against Thornton college and a love and passion for the world of politics, I believe that the skills I've developed over the years will help me in completing this role to the best of my ability and getting things done for your best interests. I wholeheartedly believe that the voices of our generation are one of, if not, the most important. If we want to grow up one day and inherit the world, it's essential that we make our voices heard so that the world is truly ours to own. I promise to be the mouthpiece that gets your great ideas heard and get important changes made.

Thank you for listening to what I have to say. If you have any questions at all or ideas that you think should be pushed forward, I would be more than happy to answer them. But most of all, I would be absolutely honoured to have your vote. Thank you!!