

My name is Anest James, and I am hoping to express my keen interest in the role of Lead Student. Although I have only been a part of Whitchurch High School for the past nine months, the sense of community, support, and kindness I have received from both staff and students has made a significant impact on me. I would now really like to give back to the community that welcomed me so openly by going for this position. Applying for this role is not just a personal step for me but it is also a way of saying thank you. I want to play an active part in continuing to shape a Sixth Form environment that is inclusive, inspiring, and empowering for every student as demonstrated towards myself.

Prior to joining Whitchurch, I served as a year group representative at my previous school, where I contributed to assemblies and represented student voices. That experience gave me a solid foundation in leadership—developing communication, cooperation, and a clear sense of responsibility. Since joining Whitchurch, I have taken every opportunity to get involved. I played a lead role in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, worked with Tŷ Calon choreographing inclusive dance routines, and mentored younger students through the Young Playwrights Festival. I am currently leading choreography for School of Rock, supporting and encouraging younger students to gain confidence and find their voice.

One initiative I would like to propose is organising Sixth Form charity walks, where students raise money for causes, we collectively choose. A portion can also be set aside into improving our own experiences whether that is through events, wellbeing initiatives, or resources in the sixth form block. More than just fundraising, these walks would help bring Year 12 and 13 together more often, outside of academic pressures, to build community and shared purpose.

In addition, I believe we could make assemblies more meaningful by inviting alumni and professionals, people who have been where we are and can speak from genuine experiences. Talks on career paths, creative industries, mental health, or life after school could resonate more deeply and reflect the diverse interests within our year groups. I want to create spaces where students feel genuinely inspired and included, no matter what direction they are heading in.

As a fluent Welsh speaker, and passionate about my own culture I recognise the importance of also celebrating individual cultures that play a large part in our identities. I also feel strongly about promoting the Welsh language and culture in school life. This shared culture is a part of who we are and something that can unite us, celebrating it in accessible and inclusive ways only strengthens our shared identity.

Leadership is about listening, lifting others up, taking initiative and leading with purpose. I would be honoured to represent you as Lead Student and do my best to help make our Sixth Form years both meaningful and memorable.

Thank you and Diolch for your consideration.