

I'm really excited about the opportunity to become one of this year's lead students, and I'd love to explain why.

One of the main things I'd like to focus on is improving how students can voice their opinions and suggest changes within the school. Right now, we rely on form reps to pass on our feedback, which works, but it can sometimes lead to miscommunication or even missed opportunities. I'd love to reintroduce a more direct and anonymous system; like the one we had in lower school, where students could drop notes into a box at the pastoral office. Something simple like that could help students feel more comfortable sharing their thoughts and allow their voices to be heard without pressure. I believe that by hearing directly from students, we'll get clearer insights and more honest suggestions, which will allow more personal and improvements wanted by a majority.

Another area I'd love to improve is confidence within subject choices. When I was picking my GCSEs, and even more so with A levels, I really wished I could've heard more from older students who had actually taken the subjects I was considering. We got great support from teachers and advisors, but sometimes, it's easier to understand what a subject is really like by speaking to someone who's just been through it. Open days are great but they're limited and don't really offer more personal information. For example, I chose GCSE Art thinking I'd enjoy it, but I found it wasn't what I expected, and I think hearing from someone who had already taken it might've helped me make a more informed decision. I'd love to set up opportunities like mentoring sessions or even email lists where students can connect with others who've been in their shoes.

On top of that, I want to help strengthen the support we already have around education choices. Our school does a great job guiding us through our options, especially after GCSEs, but I feel there's still a gap when it comes to understanding A level subjects before choosing them. Personally, I struggled with choosing Law; I wasn't sure what it would be like, or if it was right for me. I want to make sure future students don't feel that uncertainty. Whether it's through better overviews, subject taster sessions, or peer advice, I want students to feel confident about the paths they're choosing.

Lastly, I want to see some encouragement within extra curricular groups for sixth formers. I think that A level students should be encouraged to create societies and clubs; run by and solely for 6th formers. I understand there's clubs but they often are for both GCSE and A level students. I feel as though 6th formers would be more inclined to join, or even create clubs if they knew only

6th formers could/would attend. I know it's a small difference in terms of age, but in terms of school life – GCSE students and A level students are very different.