



## Jessica Jayne Smith – EurVoice Coordinator

### Why are you applying for the Alumni Association Executive? (150 words)

I am considerably drawn to the role of EurVoice Coordinator because I passionately believe in equal opportunities for all teenagers. Intellectual discussions about local, national and international issues are a great way to engage young people and build a sense of community and determination. As part of the Alumni Association Executive, I would have the incredible chance to bring about real change and help pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

I care deeply about the importance of outreach, meaning that this would be an extremely rewarding experience for myself. This position would allow me to grow into a more experienced and skilled advocate for equal opportunities and outreach. Lastly, through my experiences with EYP, I have met the friendliest people EVER and I would cherish the chance to work alongside such wonderful, inspirational people!

### What would your aims and priorities be in this role? How would you pursue them? (250 words)

- 1) I will endeavour to hold even more EurVoice events all over the UK. I would like to team up with fellow EYPers to create and share a high-quality video that advertises EurVoice to EYP Alumni, explaining why it is such a good initiative to be involved in. A similar video could also be sent to schools in order to encourage them to participate in EurVoice events.
- 2) I would like to create a yearlong EurVoice Alumni initiative. The aim is that we maintain contact with all pupils by providing post-session information packs summarising the session's workshops and discussions. Additionally, we would keep in touch every second month or so by sending an email summarising recent political events and supplying pupils with resources on how they can get more involved with these issues.
- 3) I would like to advocate for EurVoice participants to have their own space on the EYPUK Blog in order to give them the opportunity to further share their ideas post-session.
- 4) Many teenagers sadly lack confidence in themselves and I will ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to be heard. I plan on creating a system where participants can digitally and anonymously send in questions/voice opinions while their self-belief is still growing.
- 5) Most importantly, I will ensure that guest panellists represent a wide range of economic backgrounds, cultures, sexual orientation and ethnicities in order for them to be more relatable and inspiring to the participants. Issues such as racism and inequality, particularly within politics, are of utmost importance to discuss at EurVoice sessions.



What skills and experience (within or without EYP) do you have that will help you in this role?  
How will you use these skills for the benefit of EYPUK? (250 words)

At the age of 10, I single-handedly organised a charity football tournament which raised hundreds of pounds. My love for organising meaningful events ignited from then on. I currently work as a Hospitality Assistant which has given me unique insights into the complexities of organising events from a professional point of view. One major lesson I have learnt is that a healthy working environment is essential to success. The health, wellbeing and feelings of my fellow EYPers will always be of vital importance to me. I am definitely a people person, meaning that whether one of my HO's is stressed about Uni work or devastated about the ending of a Netflix show, I can guarantee that my shoulder will always be a place to cry on.

I am confident in my ability to remain calm when faced with bumps along the road. If I had to describe myself in one word, I would pick enthusiastic. I am a huge believer that positivity, resilience and a big, friendly smile can be extremely powerful. I know this to be true through my leadership roles as Deputy Head Girl and School Football Captain. Not only have these roles greatly enhanced my communication skills, ability to promote events and encourage participation, but I have also learnt a considerable amount about teamwork. A good leader is a trusted equal who can unite and empower their team, whilst working very hard in the background to support them.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I pledge to continue Andy's excellent work and I will ensure that EurVoice remains a relaxed and friendly environment for all. These sessions should never be intimidating, particularly for those who are new to the world of politics. Therefore, I can guarantee that lots of energy and fun (and memes) will be encouraged!

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my manifesto and if you have any questions then I would be delighted to answer them. Goodluck to all the other candidates!