



Viraj Mehta – Alumni Development Officer

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

When I first set out to do EYP, I never knew I would meet many wonderful people from all over the UK and Europe. I never knew I would develop lifelong memories whilst picking up a plethora of skills. I never knew I would co-lead a two-day South East Regional Forum with a great team. All cheesiness aside, EYP has undoubtedly changed my life, and I am so proud to be an EYPUK alumnus, an organisation that embodies all in EYP that is good. However, it saddens me that other members have not had the same opportunities as I have been fortunate to experience. I strongly believe that if more consistent outreach was performed and a higher frequency of events were held, then we could make the EYPUK alumni community more tight-knit and improve member engagement in EYPUK.

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

1) Continual yet convivial outreach

- Quarterly EYPUK newsletter highlighting achievements of alumni, success/advertisement of regionals/nationals and broader EYP news. This can ensure that EYPUK alumni feel more involved and up to date with the rest of the community, promoting the goals of EYPUK to delegates and officials alike.
- Offer alumni the chance to feature in said newsletter to share stories of their journeys and how EYP and EYPUK has affected them – could also send this out to schools that participated in regionals to keep teachers informed and create hard-print publication at the end of the year to be distributed out at Alumni Training Weekend (ATW)

2) Expansion of the Alumni training weekend

- In light of recent events with COVID-19 and having not had the chance to attend the physical weekend event due to university applications, a second digital event in addition to the regular physical event would help to engage more alumni and provide a chance for those unable to attend the first to still learn crucial skills from other EYP members
- Extension in the Members Weekend (MW) to cover more topics and propel EYPUK'ers into the European spotlight, developing a wide bank of resources in addition to the current MW drive and attach this to the EYPUK website

3) EYPUK Alumni Online Portal

- Work with developers to develop a central EYPUK alumni page hosted on the website which could centralise all opportunities and information (maybe using an RSS feed) - GDrives full of application information, session hub with updated lists of ISSs, IIs and other EYP events across Europe as mentioned before, forums for discussion and alumni reunion events pages.
- This would help accumulate all alumni activities and make it easier for members to access the relevant information they need

4) Collaborations and Partnerships

- The outgoing ADO, Josh Conway, did a fantastic job and I hope to live up to his great success. One particular point he made regards introductory videos. This would be a great policy which, if coordinated well with the Communications Exec team, could target more members and EYPUK'ers from all across the country and across all social media platforms
- I would also work extensively with RFCs to coordinate alumni training workshops at Regional Fora, as I am strongly of the belief that the EYP experience should be shared by all participants, regardless of advancement to Nationals or not



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)

EYP has had a profound impact on my life, and has definitely been a highlight of my time in Sixth Form. I am so glad to have enjoyed EYPUK sessions both as a delegate and as an official. I truly understood the months of preparation taken to create the spectacular sessions as a Head Organiser, and developed a new appreciation for the hard-working Exec team. If elected, I hope to continue on their great work, maintaining their legacy but equally contributing new ideas to make EYPUK a better place.

As a Head Organiser, I've been able to learn many skills that would prove invaluable for the role of ADO. Notably, I have become more organised and experienced with event management, especially digital events having participated in the online MW and other digital EYP sessions, but equally in-person events such as the South East Regional Forum.

Time management and flexibility are also crucial as an ADO, as it is paramount to stay on top of deadlines and maintain a consistent outreach schedule whilst equally being very reliable. Having used productivity software such as Airtable, Notion, and Excel, I have been able to hone my time management skills, and this is something I would encourage other Execs to use!

Finally, to complete the trifecta, friendliness and approachability prove pivotal as an ADO to maintain good relations with alumni and make people feel welcome. During an ongoing job at Doorsteps, a company that prides themselves on good customer service, I've developed knowledge of how to make an inclusive and hospitable environment that can hopefully transpire to making EYPUK a better place for all members 😊.

Anything else you'd like to add?

From making plentiful memes in Discord during GA on media campaigns to being out of breath after "Hey, my name is Joe" and vigorous jazz hands, I've thoroughly enjoyed my entire EYP journey and I would wholly love continuing it in the future. Being part of the Alumni Exec would mean a lot to me, and if I elected, I would certainly love to work with EYPUK alumni to bring the community together more, continuing the great legacy of the outgoing Exec Team to hopefully improve the EYPUK experience not just for incoming delegates, but for all current alumni!

To summarise:

- Centralised digital portal with all available accessible information for alumni
- More events and outreach, expansion of the newsletter, MW and ATW
- Collaborating with all other Execs to strengthen EYPUK on the whole
- Continue the fantastic work of last year's committee and hopefully create a legacy for members

If anyone has any questions, feel free to message me on Facebook or email me at virajmehta08@hotmail.co.uk

I am really looking forward to these elections and want to quickly say best of luck to everyone running!