



EYPUK Alumni Association Executive Elections 2018/19

Matthew Caine - President

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

It will come of no surprise to anyone that I have a thoroughly fantastic time engaging with the wonderful world of EYP. Whether it be keeping up to date with our 2018 crop of Regional Head Organisers, or taking part in our annual alumni training weekend, I always feel that we are all part of a special, unique venture within EYPUK.

However, some of our current practices are undoubtedly damaging for the welfare of our organisation, which I will elaborate on shortly. Tackling these issues will require everyone across the Executive to contribute. As such, I am keen to utilise my previous experience as Regional Forum Co-ordinator to help both contribute and facilitate collaboration across the 2018/2019 Alumni Executive as President. I hope you approve of my agenda; it is designed to stimulate positive growth for our organisation in three crucial areas: **Engagement**, **Retainment** and **Accessibility**.

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

My chief aim is to modernise our alumnus eligibility process. Our current method of alumni acquisition, through attendance at UK Nationals, is painfully restrictive and creates immense difficulties. To keep it snappy, I'll leave elaborating on those difficulties to the hustings process. Essentially though, our current alumnus eligibility rules put individuals under immense pressure, leave us with an unsustainable lack of manpower, and foster little diversity in our organisation. To tackle this, I would introduce an EYP Spain-style 'letter of motivation' process available to a.) all those who have attended an EYPUK session, b.) 18+ UK residents with an interest in EYP. In the short term, this allows us to keep exceptional individuals at regionals/IF's engaged. In the long term, this would allow us to expand EYPUK through ways such as hosting non-'GA Day' regionals, or further specialisation on the Exec such as a dedicated diversities officer.

I also want to make the Exec transparent, through the introduction of brief monthly reports on key affairs of EYPUK to be published on the Alumni Association page. This would improve general understanding around what the Exec does; this would foster greater engagement with Exec elections and understaffed sessions like EurVoice.

I'd also push for an additional page in our Nationals Resolution Booklets with further details on how to remain involved with EYPUK, with links to the relevant channels.

To respect the word-count, I'll leave those as my three main policies, but do quiz me for more on areas you think are key!

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)

Having worked as Regional Forum Coordinator for 2017/2018, I think it is reasonable for me to say that I am able to sustain constant open lines of communication between myself and my team, offering a helping hand where needed over the year. I also think that my experience as Regional Forum Coordinator has familiarised me with what goes on within the Alumni Exec and how best to communicate affairs across the Exec; given the policy change I propose is a fairly radical one, I think constant communication will be key over this year.

I also have extensive ties with DebateMate, one of the largest educational charities in Britain, having worked over the previous two years with them. Indeed, in the coming year I will be taking on a more advanced role with their organisation, where I will be in direct contact with their Regional Programme Directors (think our own RFCs but for underprivileged schools, and with greater specialisation for each region). This position could easily be leveraged to improve our engagement with schools at Regionals. Both my role within DebateMate and my previous Exec experience have given me immense experience with handling legitimate teacher grievances as well, so I know that I could handle issues as they arise on that front effectively. Fingers crossed I won't need those skills!

Anything else you'd like to add?

Let me wish all the candidates the best of luck in the Exec elections this year! It really is a great opportunity to quiz the future Exec and what they hope to achieve over the year, so I encourage all alumni, young or old, to take advantage of that. No matter what happens though, I have no doubt that we will once again have yet another stellar Exec.