



Katie Breeds – Regional Coordinator

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

The Alumni Association Executive is the body that works most closely and has the most influence with EYPUK's newest champions. As someone who believes that young people are far greater leaders and have far greater insight and initiative than we are often given credit for, I am passionate about providing a platform for other young people to grow their confidence and develop themselves as team-players and community leaders, and also recognise this as an opportunity to progress my own skills and experience.

This is an exciting time to be part of the EYP family. The global pandemic and the changes that the organisation has embraced throughout the summer open up different possibilities for any participant in the network. The outgoing team has taken some fantastic first steps in expanding participation in EYPUK and I hope to continue with their outreach work and innovate further as part of the next Executive.

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

Before regionals - diversity and inclusion in EYPUK

- EYP should be open to everyone and as Regional Coordinator, I don't want the cost of attending sessions to prevent participation. In particular, I aim to increase the number of comprehensive schools involved in the organisation by:
 - Providing Head Organisers with resources to give support and financial advice to applicable schools,
 - Waiving the participation fee for some qualifying schools,
 - Holding a digital regional session for schools and delegates unable to attend a physical session.

At regionals - instilling confidence in participants

- Trying out new experiences and roles can be stressful for anyone. I want participants to be able to put their best foot forward and feel welcomed. This is especially important for dismantling any disadvantage that schools new to the organisation may face. Communication and offering support are therefore key: what is EYP, what can they expect on the day, what preparation can be done and how can they get the most out of their experience?

After regionals - preventing dropout from the organisation

- I don't want the regional to be the last experience a participant has in the network. Not advancing to nationals shouldn't be the end of someone's EYP career, and the rest of the organisation loses out on their talents when it is. I aim to undo this idea of 'failure' and ensure that Head Organisers communicate at every stage of the process the other opportunities that are open to delegates and how they can get involved.



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)

I believe that the most important quality to have to successfully fulfil this position is to be an enabler. Over the past 6 years, I have been growing my experience in this role in different organisations and industries, working quietly behind the scenes to champion the work and growth of others. I know how and when to provide guidance, how to balance multiple responsibilities and help others organise themselves.

The experience that's most valuable to me stepping into this role was working for a political organisation over a 2-year period. I organised events from Portsmouth to Newcastle, represented the organisation to those that weren't familiar with it and supported the development of young community leaders. EYPUK is enriched by the talents of its members and the different perspectives they can provide it with, and for me I will be able to integrate what I've learnt from my long-term commitment to youth leadership into this role.

However, there's also no greater reason than being a delegate, organiser and head organiser, loving every one of those roles and wanting to develop them so that the next person can gain even more from the experience and organisation. EYP has given me a lot of room to grow and blossom, and I know that that journey continues in other roles and as part of other teams, such as being on the Alumni Association Executive. In this position, I want to give room for others to grow throughout what will be quite an uncertain time.

Anything else you'd like to add?

650 words certainly isn't enough for me to put forward everything that I want to say. If you would like me to develop on any of the points I've made or have any other questions for me, you're very welcome to contact me at katiebreeds@hotmail.co.uk. And also, thank you for reading this far. I really appreciate the time you've taken to look through my manifesto and hope you can see just how passionate I am about this role and organisation.