

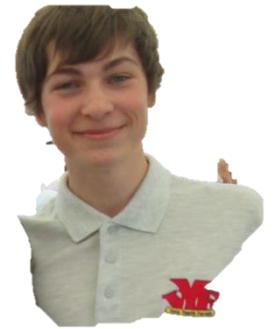


# What's been going on? September – December 2015 Created by VYF members



### Message from the Vale Youth Forum Chair – Erin Jay Jennings

My name is Erin Jay Jennings, I am 17 years old and I am the new Chair of the Vale Youth Forum. An election was held at the beginning of the term and Ellis Rosser from Cowbridge Comprehensive was elected Vice Chair. So far I have enjoyed settling in and I am delighted to welcome all of our new members. As Chair I feel I am trustworthy and helpful and I hope my fellow members feel like they can approach me with any questions or queries. It's not going to be the same without our previous Chair Kathryn but I'm going to give it my best shot! Until next time ..... ☺



### Make Your Mark

Throughout September VYF members worked hard to encourage young people throughout the Vale to take part in the 'Make Your Mark' UK-wide campaign where all young people can vote on what they think Members of UK Youth Parliament should campaign about for the year ahead. With the support of local Youth Action Groups, members collected 1536 ballot papers, a record for the Vale! The results will help the VYF focus on the main issues for young people living in the Vale. Please see breakdown of the results for more information.

### A new Youth Mayor

This is the second year the VYF have supported the Youth Mayor Election campaign and during Local Democracy Week (12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October), 3802 votes were cast by young people living in the Vale of Glamorgan, aged 11-25. Three Youth Cabinet members stood for election and filmed manifestos, which were played to young people in schools, at training providers, youth organisations and youth clubs. On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October, the Leader of the Council announced Daniel Marshall as Youth Mayor and Bronwen Lloyd as Deputy Youth Mayor. Congratulations both!

	<b>Make Your Mark Issue</b>	<b>No. of votes</b>
1	Living Wage	301
2	A Curriculum to prepare us for life	295
3	Transport	168
4	Votes at 16	163
5	Mental Health	142
6	Tackling Racism	134
7	Extending Special Educational Needs support	120
8	The end of austerity & child poverty	99
9	Climate Change	63
10	Fund our youth services, don't cut them	51



### CAFCASS

Hi I'm Eden Johnston-White and on behalf of the VYF I attended the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) Cymru event. I took part in a variety of workshops and activities to learn more about CAFCASS, how they work with children, young people and their families and along with other young people suggested ways to improve how they engage with young people.

## Anti-bullying Work

Members of the VYF attended an All Wales Anti-bullying workshop run by Children in Wales and met young people from different forums who have an interest in anti-bullying. We worked together to develop an Anti-bullying Week #ABW campaign including a thunderclap and social media campaign #SayNo #BullyingMustGo. The VYF showed their support during #ABW by spreading the message. The VYF will continue to work nationally and locally to raise awareness of anti-bullying and ensure young people being bullied have the support they need.



## Thank you

The VYF would like to thank Sgt Jones - South Wales Police, Cllr Nic Hodges & VOGC Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer Karen Bowen for attending VYF meetings this term and helping them in their role of Youth Councillors for the Vale of Glamorgan.



## Having Our Say

Members have taken part in several consultations this term to ensure the voices of young people influence different levels of decision making.



We completed the Children's Commissioner for Wales' Beth Nesa? What's next? consultation suggesting different areas of work Sally Holland could focus on.



We took part in the Vale Youth Service Youth Offer survey, giving our opinions on the different ways the Youth Service could work with young people locally.



We contributed to the Welsh Government Harmonising School Term Dates consultation giving our views on the proposed term dates for 2017-2018.

## Fforwm Ieuentid y Fro

Mae hi wedi bod yn dymor brysur arall am aelodau'r Fforwm, ac maent wedi bod yn gweithio'n galed dros lawer o brosiectau amrywiol. Cafodd Daniel Marshall a Bronwen Lloyd eu hethol fel maer a dirprwy-faer Ieuentid y Fro. Cafodd miloedd o bobl ifanc y cyfle i bleidleisio. Cymerwn ran yn yr Wythnos Gwrth-Fwlio, a chafwn y cyfle i weithredu yn erbyn y grym direidus sy'n peri gofid i lawer o bobl ifanc yn ein cymdeithas heddiw. Rydym wedi cymryd rhan mewn amrywiaeth eang o ymgynghoriadau hefyd. Wrth wneud yr un o'r enw 'Make Your Mark' gwelwyd fod pobl ifanc yn pryderu'r fwyaf amdano'r Tâl Byw, Cwrriciwlwm am Fywyd, a Thrafnidiaeth. Rydym yn barod am gyfnod prysur a dwys o waith ar ôl y gwyliau Nadolig. Mae gennym aelodau newydd, a pharheun i geisio adnewyddu'r aelodau'n aml. Golygwn parhau â'n gwaith galed i mewn i'r flwyddyn newydd, a bwriadwn gweithredu'n gadarn ar y dri thestun llosg a ddewiswyd gan bobl ifanc fel darnau mawr o waith y fyddwn yn eu cyflawni.

## UK Youth Parliament

VYF members elected Bronwen Lloyd as the Deputy Member of UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) to support our current Member of UKYP, Emily Peters in her role. Both attended the UKYP training day along with VYF members Michael Conway and Tomas Gamecho. They learnt about effective public speaking and debating techniques in preparation for the UKYP annual November sitting at the House of Commons. Emily attended the sitting on the 13<sup>th</sup> November which marked the launch of Parliament Week and MYPs debated and voted on the UKYP campaign priorities for 2016. Tackling racism and religious discrimination, particularly against people who are Muslim or Jewish was voted as the national campaign. Both Emily and Bronwen, with the support of VYF will work on this campaign in 2016.

For more detail please contact [valeyouthforum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:valeyouthforum@hotmail.co.uk)  
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