

Belicia Ashford – Camden Youth MP Election 2020

My name is Belicia. I am 15 years old and I am running to be your Camden Youth MP.

I have lived in Camden my whole life. I understand the struggles and challenges of living in this borough but also the joys of it. I am here to listen to you, to be someone who will share your thoughts and campaign on your ideas.

Address our mental health crisis

I am campaigning to improve our mental wellbeing by finding solutions to problems that are in the current system which cause huge amounts of stress for us all.

Less homework

Young people are drowning in homework. We spend hours upon hours trying to complete deadlines, on top of ensuring we pass exams. This leaves us little to no time to focus on our mental and physical health.

Why will having less homework help?

1. More time to improve mental wellbeing by spending time on activities other than formal education.
2. More time to improve life skills, such as networking, money and conflict management.

Increase the minimum wage for under 18s

Young people are impacted by poverty in more ways than are recognised by the government and businesses. To help young people and their families to come out of poverty and reduce crime rates, I am suggesting that the minimum wage for under 18s should be increased.

Why will this help?

1. More young people will want to work legally rather than taking the path of crime, therefore helping to reduce criminal activity.
2. This will give young people a chance to spend money on other activities, helping to improve their quality of life and mental health.

Free cab rides to GCSE exams

GCSE exams cause tonnes of stress for all Year 11s, as they're seen as a 'make or break' stage of their lives. It is hard to find a way to completely reduce this stress but making cab rides free could at least take one worry off their minds.

Why will this help?

1. Taking a cab to school would mean they have more space, privacy and concentration to revise on the way to exams (as most students do).
2. Travelling via public transport can be really stressful on a normal day – travelling via a cab to exams will reduce anxiety and stress levels.

If elected as your Camden Youth MP, I will do everything in my power to bring about these changes to create a more stress-free life for the youth, improving their mental wellbeing.

- **For more details about the Camden Youth MP Election 2020, please visit camdenrise.co.uk/get-involved**