

**Candidate name:** Summer Mahmoud

**Connection to the borough:** Residence

**Age:** 14

**Moving to Battersea was the best thing that could have happened to me. New to the borough, I arrived with very little English, and my whole life in one big suitcase. Despite the language barrier, I was able to find my place within the community. I quickly felt at home and made memories that would last me a lifetime. This was the community I moved into, a friendly, welcoming neighbourhood. I want every young person to feel the same as I did and still do about my community. If I am elected as your next Youth Mayor, I will listen carefully to your needs and work closely with the council decision makers, advocating on behalf of the young people of this borough, so that together we can strengthen the borough of Wandsworth and continue to bring the community together.**

### ***My Key Priorities***

#### *Youth Creativity festivals*

I would like to introduce a yearly “Youth Creativity Festival,” that would showcase young talent. This festival, which would be run like an open mic, will provide a platform for young people to present their creativity and uniqueness, through spoken word, poetry, and any other creative forms of expression. This event will be accessible to young people from all backgrounds, which will not only allow for youth expression, but will also provide a platform for young emerging artists to gain feedback, build confidence, and connect with others. Our borough is exploding with talent - we just need to create more spaces for it to shine.

#### *Borough Welcoming project*

As someone who knows what it’s like to move to a new country with little to no grounding in the language or culture, I would like to work with the council to build a “Borough- Welcoming Project” for new residents, whether they be new to the country or new to the borough, to ensure that they can easily integrate themselves into the community of Wandsworth. This program would involve youth community groups, where new, young residents can come together and socialise, cultural hotspots, which will allow them to feel represented, even in a new area. As youth mayor, I am committed to providing new residents the same welcome I was fortunate to received.

#### *No Cost Weekend*

Following on from some of the amazing events during the LBOC! I would also like to work with community groups, council leaders and services to organise a “No Cost Weekend Event.” Involving a range of community activities aimed at all age groups and families by organising an event like this, we can provide more accessibility within the borough, as all families deserve an enjoyable day out without worrying if they can afford it.

Recently, I was inspired by an event hosted at Providence House, where I watched a film on the history of Battersea. As the borough of Wandsworth, many people do not realise that even our borough has a hidden story. This event made me realise how much we should celebrate our heritage, If you put your trust in me as youth mayor, I am committed to working closely with the council and local residents to ensure my key priorities are met.