

Candidate Name: Abigail Akindeko

Age: 16

Connection to the Borough: Residence and school

My name is Abigail Akindeko, and I am proud to be running to be your next Wandsworth Youth Mayor. I have had the privilege of growing up and schooling in this borough, and I have seen first-hand the culture, diversity and community that make Wandsworth so special. However, I also understand that too often young people feel unheard, our ideas overlooked, our concerns dismissed, and our voices missing from decisions that directly affect our future. That is why I am running to ensure that youth representation in Wandsworth is not symbolic, but meaningful and impactful.

My key priorities are:

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Conversations around mental health are becoming more open, but stigma still exists within our generation. Too many young people are unsure of where to turn for support. I will work closely with local organisations, youth clubs and schools to better promote existing mental health services so that young people know exactly what support is available. I will also use Youth Council platforms to advocate for safe youth spaces and encourage honest, stigma free discussions about wellbeing.

Education, Careers & Opportunities

Opportunities should feel accessible, not distant. I will host a Youth Opportunities Fair to connect young people with employers, training providers and further education institutions. I will push for mentoring and work shadowing partnerships with local businesses, regularly promote apprenticeships, internships and volunteering roles, and champion alternative and creative career pathways including entrepreneurship, so that every young person feels confident exploring a future that suits them.

Strengthening Youth Clubs & Community Engagement

Youth clubs are at the heart of our communities, providing safe spaces, support and opportunity. Yet not every young person feels connected to them. I will work directly with youth clubs across Wandsworth to understand why some attend and others do not, ensuring these spaces are welcoming, relevant and accessible to all.

Change requires commitment, collaboration and strong leadership. Political disengagement is real, but I believe that with determination and genuine youth representation, we can create meaningful and lasting impact.

If you put your trust in me, together we will build a Wandsworth where young people are not just included but truly heard and empowered to thrive.

Thank you for taking time to read and believing in the potential of every young person. With your vote we can shape a Wandsworth where every young person has the opportunity to grow, succeed and feel confident as well as proud about their future.