

## **Autumn citizenship opportunities from Norfolk County Council**

Please find below details for our autumn programme of citizenship activities.

Organised by the council's Consultation and Community Relations team, the programme aims to:

- Engage children and young people in local politics
- Provide opportunities for young people to experience meaningful decision-making both in civic and work life
- Make councils and councillors more accessible
- Inspire children and young people to become civic leaders of the future.

We hope that there is something of interest here for your school and look forward to your pupils getting involved and taking part.

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### **Take your Councillor to school for Local Democracy Week 13-19 October 2014**

This year Local Democracy Week runs from 13-19 October and Norfolk County Council is taking part by encouraging its county councillors to go back to school.

Take your Councillor to school is an initiative that matches elected members with a local school for a day. The councillors then attend lessons to experience school life from the perspective of the pupils. And, depending on what your school wants, the councillor can be invited to contribute to your citizenship curriculum by explaining their role.

There are many benefits of this activity. For participating schools it fosters closer relationships with local representatives and highlights education issues to decision makers. It can bolster confidence in the young people participating by giving them the responsibility of 'buddying up' with a councillor. Whilst the councillor is in the school, they can be asked to help bring the citizenship curriculum to life by talking about their role and how the council makes decisions. Lastly, it helps our councillors get to know more about the issues that matter to children and young people.

If your school would like to adopt a councillor for the day then please do get in touch. We cannot promise to find a councillor to match but we will do our best. If you already have a good relationship with your local councillor, please feel free to contact them directly to invite them to participate. However, please let us know if you do take part so we can both promote and evaluate the success of the project.

To register your interest please get in touch by Friday 26 September letting us know the name of your school, the year group, the best day of the week for the councillor to come and your contact details. You can email [consultationteam@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:consultationteam@norfolk.gov.uk) or call 01603 679343.

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## Make Your Mark

Members of Norfolk Youth Parliament (MYPs) are encouraging young people to take part in the Make Your Mark consultation. Young people across the country are being asked what is most important to them from a list of ten Make Your Mark issues. The five most popular topics among young people will be discussed by MYPs in their November debate in the House of Commons, chaired by the Speaker of the House Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP and broadcast live on BBC Parliament. The top issue will become the UK Youth Parliament campaign for next year.

Last year, over 478,000 young people took part in Make Your Mark, making it the largest youth consultation of its kind in the UK. This year, Members of Youth Parliament have set themselves a target of getting 1 million young people to take part. We want to make sure young people in Norfolk have their voices heard and take part in the Make Your Mark consultation.

We will be sending information packs out to all schools in Norfolk with information about how your students can take part. Look out for further information later this month.

For more information please contact Ben Dunne

[ben.dunne@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:ben.dunne@norfolk.gov.uk) 01603 495102

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## Takeover Day

On Friday 21 November 2014, children and young people from across Norfolk will be given the opportunity to work with adults for the day and get involved in decision making. Takeover Day is a national event that enables children and young people to take over the roles of senior people working in all sorts of sectors, from local councils and Government departments to charities and businesses. It is a great opportunity for them to learn new skills, gain new experiences and understand more about what work is like.

We're currently finalising an exciting list of opportunities. Last year young people took over a whole range of jobs for the day, including Chief Fire Officer, Police and Crime Commissioner, the Interim Director of Children's Services, the Managing Directors at KLM Engineering and Norwich Airport, and an MP's constituency office. We will write to schools when applications to be part of the day open at the end of September - we would appreciate your help highlighting this exciting opportunity to pupils at your school. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Chris Williams on [chris.williams2@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:chris.williams2@norfolk.gov.uk) or 01603 495107.

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All activities are organised by the Council's consultation and involvement team - email [consultationteam@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:consultationteam@norfolk.gov.uk) or tel 01603 679343. If you have any queries about any of the events, or any ideas for activities you might like us to run in the future, please do get in touch.