



The Wallace High School Students as Leaders Programme

“Leadership is lifting a person’s vision to high sights, the raising of a person’s performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond normal limitations” Peter Drucker

“As we look into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others.”

Context and Rationale

In the pursuit of our school’s core aims of Commitment, Opportunity, Respect and Excellence student leadership plays a key role. Leadership is a term most commonly used to refer to activities such as conducting, guiding or directing other people; initiating the appropriate activity aimed at a specific target or goal. Leadership is also the term used to refer to someone who is in the role of a leader.

As a school community we define student leadership as personal leadership, that is the ability to direct your own life and to lead yourself in the direction you would like for your life to take. Personal leadership means leading, directing and taking action. It means living each day to its fullest and it means taking the time, making the proper effort and finding the correct tools to achieve the goals you want.

Personal leadership also means being accountable to yourself and to others. It means that you have made a conscious decision to use the special, specific and unique talents that you have been given to reach your goals. It also means that you realise you have the potential for ongoing development.

Leadership Opportunities for Students at Wallace

- 1 Language leaders
- 2 Peer mentors
- 3 Young carers
- 4 iLeaders
- 5 Librarians
- 6 Senior Prefects
- 7 Prefects
- 8 Rotary leaders
- 9 Student Council Members
- 10 Sports’ Captains
- 11 Music leaders

- 12 Faith leaders
- 13 Model United Nations – Leadership Programme
- 14 Charity leaders
- 15 House Prefects
- 16 Business Leaders
- 17 Debating Leaders

1 Language Leaders

Students studying Modern Languages at A Level are invited to apply to support the learning of students in the junior school and in the Preparatory Department.

A short training programme is provided by the Modern Languages Department.

2 Peer Mentors

Students in Sixth Form are trained to support the learning, pastoral care and wellbeing of a range of students in the junior school.

A short training programme is provided in the first term.

3 Young Carers

Students who have a caring role at home in light of the physical or mental barriers faced by a member of their family or extended family, meet to support one another, share ideas and coping strategies. This group is facilitated by a member of the school's Leadership Team to help ensure the support mechanisms in place by the school are sufficient to support effectively the wellbeing, academic progress and future career planning of the young people. External agency support is provided as required.

Each year a Young Carer will be selected to lead and chair the work of the group.

4 iLeaders

Students who show a particular interest in or aptitude using digital technology to support and extend their learning will be selected to form the iLeaders group. These young leaders will support and inform the strategic direction of ICT in the school environment, provide support and teaching for other students, parents and meet with teachers and academic departments.

A short training programme will be provided in the first term.

5 Librarians

The role of young Librarians is one to support the school's 'Reading for Pleasure' policy and classes. Open to students of any age interested in reading, this leadership role is an important one in school as many students enjoy the sanctuary of the library at break and lunchtimes to relax and unwind. More than simply a role of learning how a library operates, this role has an important pastoral edge. A short training programme will take place during the first term. Miss Gracey supports and advises young people in this role.

6 Senior Prefects

Led by the Head Girl and Head Boy, this group of young leaders are ambassadors for the school, representing the student body at events both in the community and at school events.

These young people are initially selected by a vote cast by their peers and then a further short list is made following a teacher vote. An interview is then held in the summer term with training provided in September.

7 Prefects

The majority of Upper Sixth students are selected to be Prefects annually. This group is an important vehicle for supporting the management of key events in the school calendar. They are important role models for junior students and will have understood throughout their school career the importance of giving back to school and the community.

These young people complete a trial period in the Spring term in Year 13 before becoming an official Prefect as Year 14 commences.

8 Rotary Leaders

The school values the contribution made by the local Rotary Clubs in the local and global community. The Interact Rotary Club is established in school, led by two students annually and supported by two staff members and the Lisburn Rotary Club. All Rotarians are seen as leaders in their important community and global work and fundraising. Mrs J Dumigan and Miss G McGarry facilitate and support the work of these young leaders.

Application to join is open to all students annually with the training of those selected taking place in the first term.

9 Student Council Members

Two students from each class set make up the Year Council and are voted into the position by their class members.

Two students from each Year Group are selected as Year Representatives on the Executive Council.

This structure is designed to allow for the debate and highlighting of specific year issues as well as establishing more generic whole school priorities and issues for students.

10 Sports' Captains

These young leaders are identified by their fellow team mates and their coaches/managers as the young person to inspire and unify their team mates. Additionally they are expected to be comfortable and capable in public speaking and will be supported in a training programme each September or as necessary when public events, acceptance speeches, etc are required.

Teachers who coordinate the main school sports oversee the section of Captains.

11 Music Leaders

Honours students are identified and selected based on their innate musical ability and their prior contribution to the life of Music in the school. They are ambassadors for the school at a range of concerts and events, mentors for younger students involved in Music and expected to support and help organise the wide range of musical events, concerts and services in the school calendar. Mr Falconer coordinates the work of this group.

12 Faith Leaders

The school has a well established Junior and Senior Scripture Union Group whose work is led by a student committee facilitated by a large group of committed teachers. The young leaders help organise and develop events, residentials and external speakers for their fellow students. Participation within the groups is not dependent on any young person being affiliated to a church nor exclusive of any religious faith. Those of all religions and of those not affiliated in any way to a church or religious organisation are welcome to attend. Mr D Simpson, Mrs Ruth Foster and a number of teachers support and guide the work of this group. Those who are involved in this group share the ethos and beliefs of the parent organisation "Scripture Union NI".

13 Model United Nations Leaders (MUN Leaders)

The MUN is a student led programme facilitated by an enthusiastic member of staff to develop young people's understanding of wider economic, social and political world issues and to develop the skills of planning, cooperation, team work, public speaking and event planning. All students are welcome to join the group. This group is facilitated by Ms Karen Brett.

14 Charity Leaders

The strategy and event management of the school's charitable giving is led by a student Charity Committee which is facilitated by the school's Charity Coordinator, Miss Topley.

15 House Prefects

These senior students are selected to lead, coordinate and inform the work of the school's well established House System. Importantly they act as ambassadors for fair competition and role models to younger students.

Their work is coordinated by the two school Heads of House, Mr Simpson and Miss Frey.

16 Business Leaders

These students are involved in the school's rich and varied business and entrepreneurship activities and competitions. Not necessarily students of Business Studies themselves, they do however show understanding and expertise in e.g. product design, advertising, marketing through a number of "Young Enterprise" activities.

Ms Neill coordinates this work and supports students in this group.

17 Debating Leaders

These students prepare for and enter external debating competitions as well as internal debating sessions. A number of senior students act as mentors for the junior debators. Members of the English Department coordinate and support students in this group.