

Bowland High School Council

Annual newsletter 2025- 26



School council members 2025-6



Our council members

Joy, Summer, Hannah, Oliver - Year 10

Eric, Gracie, Izzy, Sophie, Harry, Scarlett S and Scarlett U - Year 9

Austin, Bryn, Cooper, Grace S, Grace T and Mya - Year 8

Jesse and Albert - Year 7

Miss Yates

The Bowland school council members are split across two committees - **EDIT (equality, diversity and inclusion team) and ECO**. Council meetings are held once per half term on the second Tuesday, from 3.30 until 4.30 / 5pm. Each meeting is attended by everyone, regardless of which committee they are on.

Links to meeting agendas and minutes are below

 [September 9th 2025 - Agenda and minutes](#)

 [November 11th 2025 - Agenda and minutes](#)

 [January 2026 - Agenda + minutes](#)

 [March 2026 - Agenda and minutes](#)

 [9th June 2026 - Agenda](#)

School council success

Well done to our Year 10 school council members - Joy, Hannah and Oliver.

Huge congratulations to Joy who became our head girl for 2026-7, Hannah who became our Deputy Head girl and Oliver who became deputy head boy.

Miss Yates and the whole school council are very proud of your well deserved achievements

You get out what you put in!

Pupil feedback - 3 things to improve life at school

School council members visited all form groups across school to gather pupil views on things we can do better at Bowland.

The council sat and looked at the results of this pupil voice survey at our June meeting. Please see key things below that are written in order of the regularity of the suggestion from pupils.

1. Having an early finish one day per week in to pursue sports etc
2. **Toilets**
 - ☐ **Having working locks on doors**
 - ☐ Being able to visit toilets whenever we want
3. **Having more water stations in school**
4. **Water bottles.**
5. Uniform
 - ☐ Revisit sock length allowed
 - ☐ PE socks
 - ☐ Shorts allowed for boys instead of trousers
 - ☐ Being allowed to wear make up.
6. **School meals - choice and price**
7. 3G access at lunchtimes - a fairer rota
8. Phones allowed on in school at break and lunchtimes
9. **More clubs available at all times during the year, particularly girls sports clubs to make it equal to boys**

Miss Yates fed all the results above back to the senior leadership team in a meeting but we particularly focused on the suggestions in red as we thought these were realistically achievable. The biggest change has been the improvement to school meals and pupil feedback has been excellent regarding this issue.

We have increased the number of water stations in school so this is also a success.

Toilet door locks have been fixed although we are seeing ongoing vandalism in the girls toilets which has negatively affected the progress in this area. Miss Yates is going to do an assembly regarding this in the near future and will get some of the school council to speak

A lot of work is going into the extra curricular club offer in line with the DfE Enrichment Entitlement agenda.

An end of term Google Form was sent to all pupils in Years 7 - 10 to find out what they are involved with and what they may like to see added to both the lunchtime and after school timetables.

Fundraising



Milly's Smiles

Milly's Smiles is a UK-based charity that supports families facing a childhood cancer diagnosis by providing "Milly Bags" filled with essentials and comfort items. Founded in memory of Amelia "Milly" Walmsley, who passed away from Leukaemia, it offers support at major hospitals including Manchester and Alder Hey.

The reason why our council chose to support this amazing charity this year is because two of our pupils in Year 9 are both undergoing treatment for Leukemia and their families have been personally supported by this wonderful charity.

We have raised a few hundred pounds with a cake sale and with a charity football maths at lunchtime between Year 9 and 10 pupils.

Our main fundraiser will be in the last week of the school year when we intend to run a few events including a colour run. We will feature this in our newsletter next year.

The student council also helped to organise all the events for Comic Relief this year. Members of the council liaised with the year heads to coordinate the events which included scale sales, a society colour tombola and silly socks, ties and onesies.

As a school we raised almost £650 for this very worthy cause.



THANK YOU!

Open Evening

Our annual open evening is held in September each year. School council members from all years play a vital role at the event of showing parents around the school on tours and talking to prospective pupils and parents about life at Bowland.

Our school Open Evening takes place at the start of the academic year and gives lots of people who are thinking of choosing Bowland as their high school the opportunity to come and look around.

I was involved in the tours along with other school council members. We take parents and children around school to look at all the classrooms and all the activities that are taking place in each subject area. For example there are multisports taking place in the sports hall, experiments in science and problem solving in maths.

We all try to be really friendly and welcoming on our tours.

It was really nice to be given the responsibility of doing the tours and to be able to talk about Life at Bowland.

Mya T (Year 8)

EDIT team

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team were asked to be a part of the youth forum at The Grand. The youth forum is set up to organise GRAB The Event which brings together performing artists from all 4 of the Ribble Valley Schools (CRGS, Ribblesdale, St Augustines and Bowland)

Harry H (Y9), Cooper W (Year 8), Gracie T (Year 9), Sophie K (Year 9) and Grace T (Year 8) have been chosen to represent Bowland at the 3 meetings leading up to the GRAB events and then took on various important roles at the events itself.

They will take on the following roles

Hosting Team - Gracie T

Event Lead - Harry H

Backstage and Tech - Cooper W

Marketing - Grace T

Media - Sophie K

Well done to all of them

Community representation

Our EDIT team have also been getting out and about into the local community to help at events. One of our most favourite places to visit is the Ribble Valley Care Home at Sawley. We have visited 4 or 5 times during the year to help residents with Macmillan bake mornings and other fundraising events.

Involvement with Educational Research

We have been lucky enough to be asked to get involved this year in a research project linked to menstrual health.

10 of our female councillors were interviewed by Petra Kolic from Manchester Metropolitan University as part of her PHD. They were paid for the time that they invested into the project with an £20 Amazon voucher.

In March, Petra Kolic from MMU came into Bowland to talk to us about a menstrual health project she was doing for her PHD.

She selected a group of staff and female students and we did a recorded voice survey with a focus on being able to manage periods and period products in school. We were asked a number of questions which drew on our experience of dealing with our periods when at school.

Once Petra has completed her PHD we will get a copy of the education pack that she is producing.

Scarlett U (Year 9)

In March, Petra Koic came to our school to record a questionnaire about girls' menstrual health.

She was keen to find out how girls and staff approach it within school.

I was in a group with a few other girls and we were asked several investigative questions. Petra made us aware that all of our answers would stay anonymous but that she would use all the information within her PHD which will be published in due course.

The aim of the project is to spread awareness around the stigma linked to menstruation; encouraging schools to provide support and guidance.

Joy T (Year 10)

As a result of the research project we have adapted our policy and practice in school, particularly focusing on the easy availability of period products and emotional support.

ECO team

Sustainability Conference - Grindleton



Bowland was invited to host the conference this year which we were really pleased to accept. We chose to use Grindleton Pavilion rather than our school site due to restrictions with parking and access. The Pavilion is a fully sustainable building so it seemed a perfect place to host the event and to immerse in our local community.

10 members of the school council supported the event by hosting, serving drinks and lunch, introducing the speakers and generally helping the event to flow with no glitches. In addition, a group of 6 school councillors took part in the STEM challenge that was hosted during the day.



Lancashire Sustainability Learning Conference

Following our Ribble Valley Conference we attended the Lancashire Conference, held at Blackburn Rovers on the 25th June.

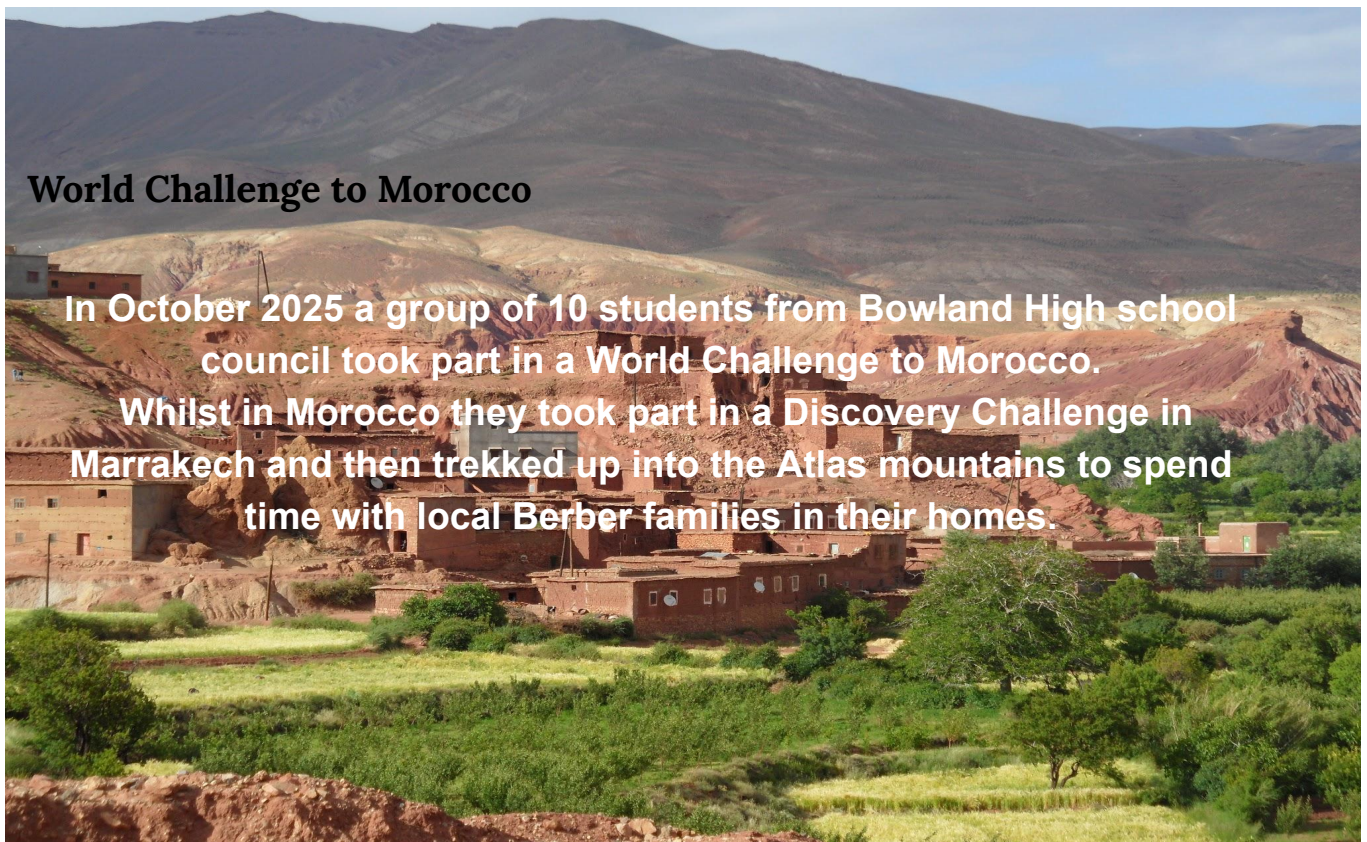
We had a team taking part in the Trashion Show and a team taking part in the Sustainable habitat art competition.

All of our school council members were invited to be guides for primary school pupils who were at the event.



It was a fabulous event and our pupils were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the arts competition.

The Trashion show was won by Cadie, Alfred and Bella L in year 9.



World Challenge to Morocco

In October 2025 a group of 10 students from Bowland High school council took part in a World Challenge to Morocco.

Whilst in Morocco they took part in a Discovery Challenge in Marrakech and then trekked up into the Atlas mountains to spend time with local Berber families in their homes.

World Challenge, the company, focuses on student-led expeditions designed to develop leadership, resilience, and global citizenship. The idea of a World Challenge is that students challenge themselves from the minute they sign up. They should make every effort to raise the funds for the trip themselves, therefore encouraging independence, organisation, team working skills etc

The trip

Our cultural discovery visit provided students with immersive, real-world learning. It enhanced cross-cultural empathy and global citizenship. Our students were apply to classroom concepts directly to diverse environments, experiencing history through ancient medinas, geography through the Atlas Mountains and Sahara, and sociology through community engagement.

Primary benefits included:

- **Curriculum Enrichment:** Students investigate physical and human geography, history (Islamic and Roman architecture), and economics through hands-on artisan workshops such as our pottery workshop.

- **Soft Skill Development:** Navigating bustling souks, interacting with local communities, and trekking the Atlas Foothills build resilience, adaptability, and self-reliance.
- **Community Engagement:** Our visits to traditional Berber villages where we interacted with local families through homestays and cooking workshops gave students a profound sense of cultural exchange and global awareness



During October half term the student council travelled to Morocco for a World Challenge trip.

One of the things that we did that will always stay in my mind is to climb up into the Atlas Mountains. It was hard work as it was so hot!

My favourite memory of the trip was our guide, Juba - he was really interesting and funny and took us to see lots of sights around Marrakech and the mountain villages.

I am really proud of myself for being brave going all that way with friends and being able to enjoy this unique opportunity all together. It really pushed us and we developed lots of skills.

Scarlett S - Year 9

We will look to repeat the World Challenge in October 2027.

Our new members - Year 7

Jesse H and Albert W joined the school council in term 2 after applying through their form tutor and being interviewed by other members of the council.

Being in the school council is great and, to be honest, I found it quite easy to get in.

Being in the school council has already given me lots of opportunities that I would not have if I didn't join.

Everyone in the team and really kind and supportive.

I am looking forward to all the projects that I can do next year.

Albert W

Council meetings 2026 - 27

The council meets from 3.30pm until 4.30pm on the second Tuesday of every half term.

Our meetings for the next academic year are below

Meeting 1 - 8th September 2026

Meeting 2 - 10th November 2026

Meeting 3 - 12th January 2027

Meeting 4 - 2nd March 2027

Meeting 5 - 20th April 2027

Meeting 6 - 8th June 2027

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)