



# Rhianna Lewis

Introduction to the UK Youth Parliament  
member for Blaenau Gwent

**Rhianna Lewis is 16 and from Tredegar in Blaenau Gwent. Rhianna joined the Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum back in February of 2022, and has replaced Charlotte Clark as the Blaenau Gwent's Youth Parliament member following her term ending. At this point Rhianna put herself forward for the role and was elected by the group. Since Rhianna was elected she has attended her induction, delivered focus groups around wellbeing and attended this year's UKYP conference in Hull.**

## Annual Conference

Over the weekend more than 200 Members of Youth Parliament from across the country met in Hull for their Annual Conference. During the event, members debated new policies and campaigns for the year ahead. The three-day national conference, which is organised by the British Youth Council, forms part of the charity's efforts to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

UK Youth Parliament's Annual Conference took place in person for the first time since 2019 at the University of Hull. The event provided young people with a space to debate with no political parties or adversarial opposition, but an independent vote and an emphasis on persuasion,

consensus and researched arguments. During the event, young people heard from Lindsey Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, Nigel Huddleston MP, Minister for Sport, Tourism, Heritage and Civil Society, the Bank of England Youth Forum and Regional Youth Climate Assembly.

Rhianna had the opportunity to put forward her motion for Equalities during the big debate. Rhianna spoke passionately not only representing Blaenau Gwent but also representing Young People across the UK. This motion was debated amongst many others Young People had put forward. Rhianna's motion around equalities was passed and as a result will be part of the manifesto.

On the Saturday following the Big Debate the Young People had the chance to unwind over dinner and a party. Team Wales had a great time.

The Big debate continued on Sunday before Team Wales headed home, but this is not where the journey ends, so watch this space for more of Rhianna's work as the UK Youth Parliament member.

