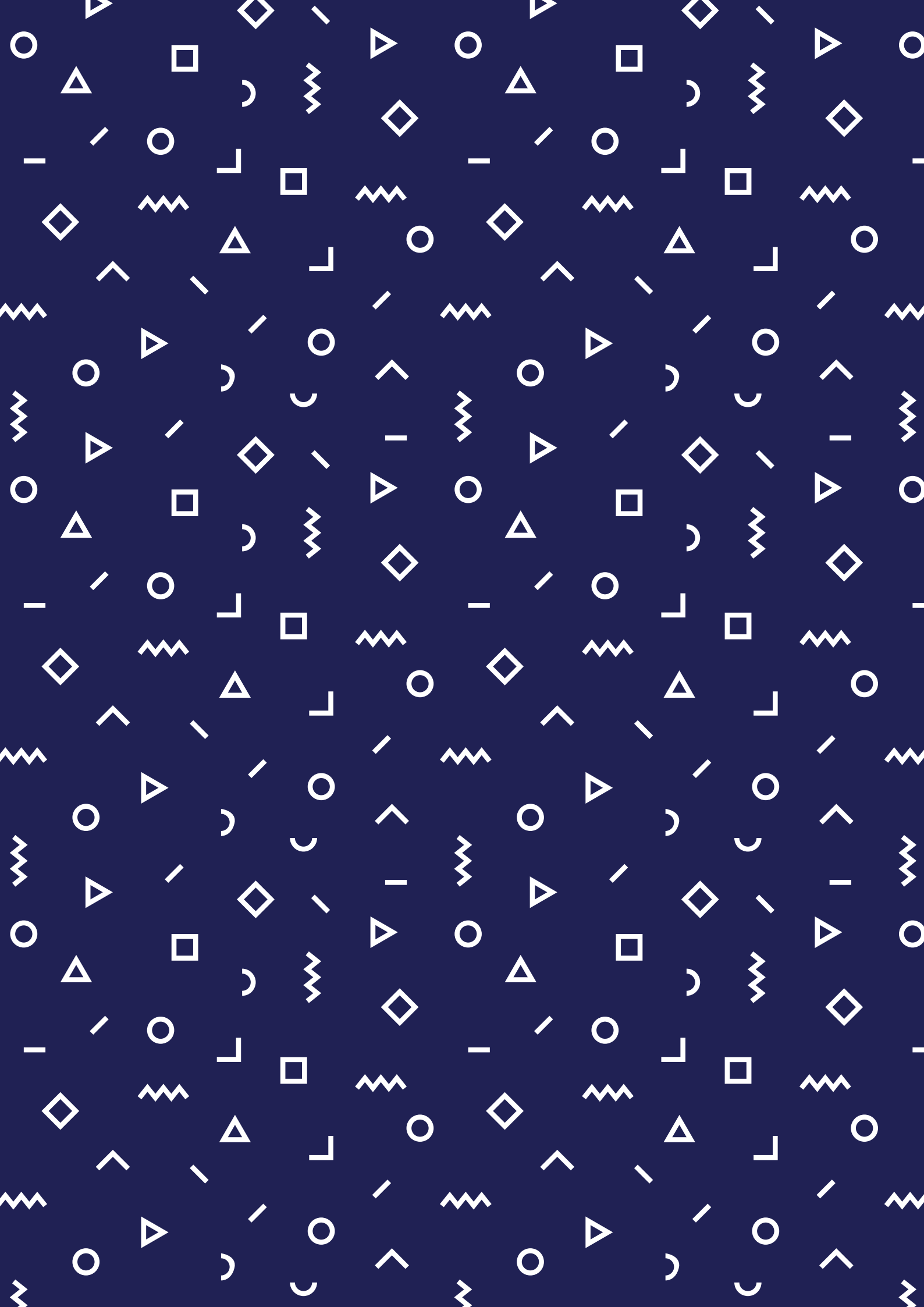


# **SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE**

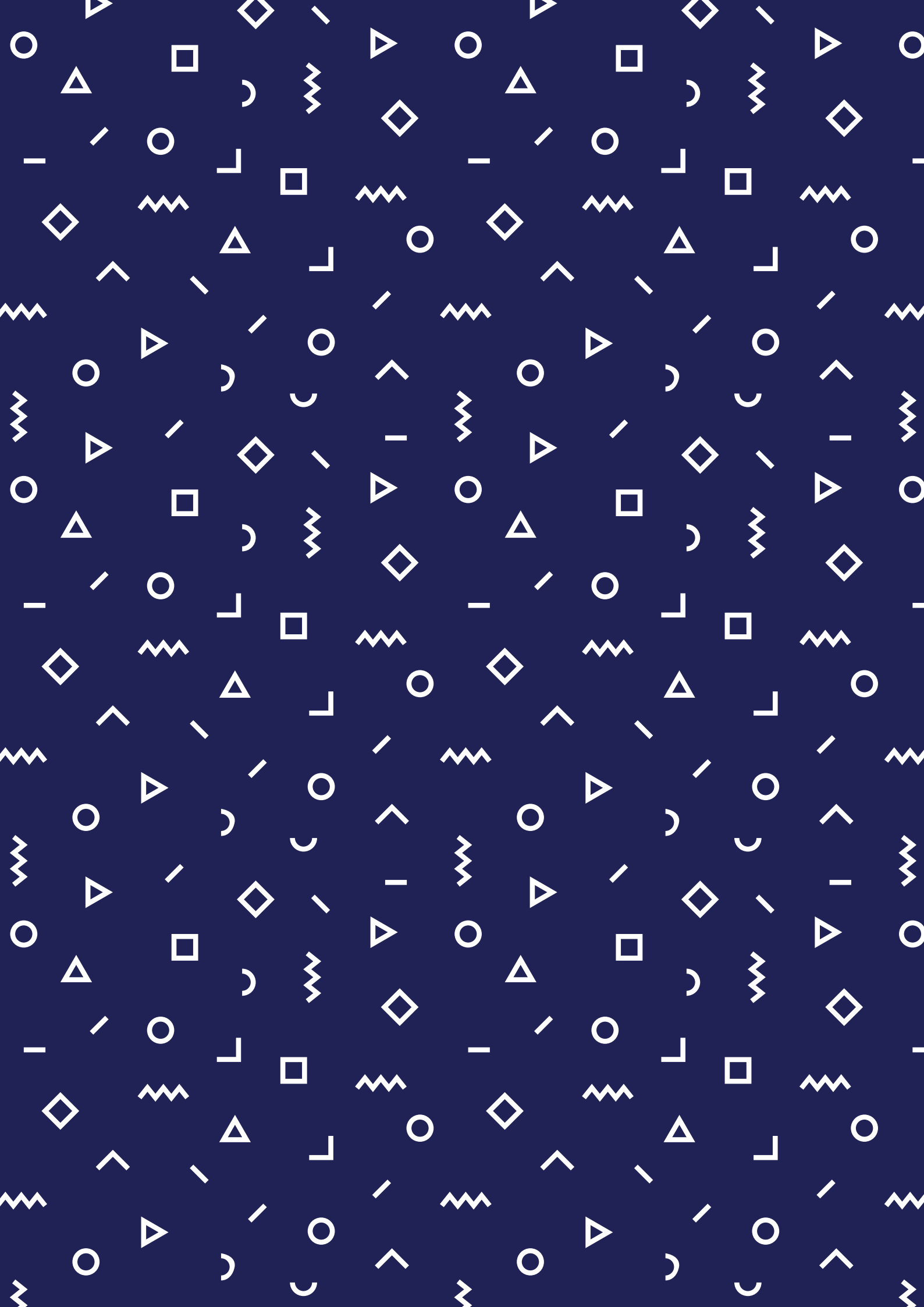




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# A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WALES

**From debating and discussing issues with their peers to delivering a speech in the Senedd Chamber. The work of the Welsh Youth Parliament provides young people in Wales, between the age of 11 to 17, with an array of unique opportunities.**



Being a part of Welsh Youth Parliament has been an experience that I won't forget and has given me the opportunity to work with 60 very driven and inspirational young people to be the voice of young people here in Wales.

**Cerys Harts**  
**Welsh Youth Parliament Member**  
**2021-2024**

Taking part in the Welsh Youth Parliament Elections may be the first time for some young people to debate and discuss issues that matter to them with their friend and as part of a democratic process.

For others it may be an opportunity to gain confidence and experience in debating and highlighting these issues in a way which can make a difference to the future of young people in Wales.

# WHAT IS THE WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT?

**The Welsh Youth Parliament (WYP) was established with the ideas and aspirations of young people in Wales central to its development. It is a unique opportunity for young people across Wales to get involved in leading the discussion on issues which matter to them.**



The Youth Parliament will give Wales's young people a democratic voice at a national level and empower them to bring about change.

**Elin Jones MS**  
**Llywydd of the Senedd**

From the beginning young people in Wales have played a key role with over 5,000 young people taking part in a consultation to help decide what the Welsh Youth Parliament's aim, membership, and work should be. This has led to forming a democratically elected Youth Parliament consisting of 60 Welsh Youth Parliament Members (WYPM).



I am lucky enough to have seen the development of the Welsh Youth Parliament and to experience at first hand the impact our voices can have . The fact that, as a nation, we have a joint parliament in the first place shows that Wales is ahead of the game.

**Ollie Mallin**  
**Welsh Youth Parliament Member**  
**2018-2020 and 2021-2024**

You can read more about the forming of the WYP and the work done by its previous Welsh Youth Parliament Members by visiting [\*\*www.youthparliament.wales\*\*](http://www.youthparliament.wales).

# WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTION

## The second Welsh Youth Parliament election will be held in November 2024.

This election will give young people between the ages of 11 and 17 the opportunity to vote to choose a WYPM for their constituency. Individuals can also put their names forward to stand for election.

The 60 elected WYPMs will have a unique opportunity to make themselves heard at a national level. It will enable them to raise awareness of, and debate the issues important to young people in Wales today.



I got involved in the Welsh Youth Parliament to get young people's voices heard

**Fatma Nur Aksoy**  
**Welsh Youth Parliament Member**  
**2021-2024**

By participating in issue based politics, children and young people will get to experience first-hand how politics works and the direct effect it can have on their lives.



Key dates for the election are:

### **VOTER REGISTRATION**

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27 May 2024 to 20 November 2024

### **CANDIDATE NOMINATIONS**

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June to September 2024

### **ON LINE VOTING**

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4 November 2024 to 25 November 2024

# WHAT DOES THE WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT LOOK LIKE?

## **Like the Senedd, the Welsh Youth Parliament will be made up of 60 Members.**

40 Welsh Youth Parliament Members will be elected by a 'First Past the Post' system, returning one young person for each electoral constituency in Wales.

Any young person that lives in, or receives their education in Wales, and are between 11- 17 years old will be able to stand as a candidate for one of the 40 constituency seats. If a young person wishing to stand for election receives their education in a different electoral constituency to their home address, they can choose which constituency they wish to stand for. You can find your constituency by going to [\*\*www.senedd.wales/members\*\*](http://www.senedd.wales/members).

The remaining 20 seats will be elected by partner organisations to ensure the representation of diverse groups of young people. Further information regarding the partner organisation process can be found at [\*\*www.youthparliament.wales\*\*](http://www.youthparliament.wales).

All 60 Welsh Youth Parliament Members will have equal status, with the same roles and responsibilities in the Parliament.

# REPRESENTING THE FUTURE OF WALES

**Wales is broken down into 40 smaller areas called constituencies. Young people will be able to nominate themselves to stand for election to represent these constituencies.**

These constituencies are arranged into four regions of Wales. Young people will regularly meet and work with other Welsh Youth Parliament Members from their local region.



I just want to ensure that people aren't being ignored and people are being listened to, and things are being implemented...Welsh Youth Parliament Members can all come together to hopefully make a massive difference.

**Tegan Skyrme**  
**Welsh Youth Parliament Member**  
**2021-2024**

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBER?

**The 60 WYPMs will work with young people from across Wales to identify, raise awareness of and debate issues that are important to young people in Wales.**



It is so incredible to see Welsh Youth Parliament Members sitting here in the seats of power in Wales

**Rocio Cifuentes**  
**Children's Commissioner**  
**for Wales**

Members of the Welsh Youth Parliament will:

- Engage with young people in their area.
- Decide on the main priority issues of the Welsh Youth Parliament.
- Speak up on issues they feel passionate about. Issue based politics is central to the work of the WYP, Members are not elected to represent political parties.
- Have the opportunity to take part in and speak at events, and media engagements during their time.
- Support other Welsh Youth Parliament Members.

- Discuss issues with Members of the Senedd and Welsh Government
- Contribute to the work of Senedd committees.
- Help children and young people understand how the Senedd and the Welsh Youth Parliament work, and the impact they have on the lives of people in Wales.
- Meet together as a full Welsh Youth Parliament three times over the two-year term.
- Meet at regional level and at engagement events every 2-3 months. Meet either face to face or virtually to discuss and progress the issues prioritised by WYPMs.
- Newly elected WYPMs will decide how they want to organise themselves.
- Represent young people in a positive way.

# **WHAT SUPPORT CAN WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBERS EXPECT FROM THE SENEDD?**

## **The Senedd will support all Welsh Youth Parliament Members in the following ways.**

- Welsh Youth Parliament Members will be allocated a member of staff from the Senedd during their time at the Welsh Youth Parliament. This member of staff will provide support and guidance, and will be a contact point for any help or advice about the Welsh Youth Parliament. They will also give Welsh Youth Parliament Members regular updates and provide information about upcoming meetings and events.
- The Senedd will provide information for the parents or guardians of Welsh Youth Parliament Members about their role in the Welsh Youth Parliament.
- The Senedd will provide support and information for schools and youth organisations about their role in the Welsh Youth Parliament.
- The Senedd will cover any reasonable costs Welsh Youth Parliament Members incur related to their work with the Welsh Youth Parliament, such as:
  - Authorised travel;
  - Accommodation;
  - Food;
  - The cost of attending activities arranged by the Senedd.
- The Senedd will provide transport options for Welsh Youth Parliament events arranged by the Senedd.
- The Senedd will provide relevant and useful training on what the role of the Senedd is.
- The Senedd will provide clear guidance and training on policies which all Welsh Youth Parliament Members will need to follow, including:

social media, equal opportunities, child protection and safeguarding. These will be found in a handbook provided to all elected Members.

- Welsh Youth Parliament Members will receive full training and guidance on any work they are asked to undertake for the Welsh Youth Parliament; this could include research training, public speaking, debating skills, using social media, safeguarding and more.
- The Senedd will provide support to Welsh Youth Parliament Members for their own personal development and development of their role in the Welsh Youth Parliament to help them do the best they can.

# RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING A WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBER

**Being a Welsh Youth Parliament Member is a fantastic opportunity for young people between 11 and 17 years old across Wales.**



The highlight, definitely, for me was the launch of our Young Minds Matter report and seeing how much of an influence that's had on the big decision makers in the Senedd.

**Zach Davies**  
**Welsh Youth Parliament Member,**  
**2021- 2024**

The Senedd will expect all Welsh Youth Parliament Members to follow and uphold the WYP Code of Conduct. If Welsh Youth Parliament Members are alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct, there will be a fair investigation into their behaviour and any allegations made before deciding on any further action. A detailed version of the Code of Conduct will be issued to all Welsh Youth Parliament Members once elected, and key points can be seen below.

## **Member of the Welsh Youth Parliament are expected to:**

1. Behave in a courteous and respectful manner in all your interactions - including in person, on the phone, in writing and on social media - towards other WYPMs, Members of the Senedd, Member of Senedd Support staff, the WYP Team, other Senedd Commission staff, or any other people you encounter whilst you are a representative of the WYP.



2. Take care of our equipment and premises.
3. Show reasonable commitment to the WYP.
4. Comply with the law at all times and not engage in any illegal activities whilst taking part in WYP activity.
5. Not be under the influence of / or consume any alcohol, drugs or substances that are not medically prescribed when taking part in any WYP activity.
6. Not advocate on behalf, or act as a representative, of a political party during official WYP activity.
7. Protect the WYPs politically neutral status, in particular during the break period in the 3rd WYP Term. You should refrain from insinuating that as a WYPM you, or the WYP as a whole, support certain candidates or political parties at the upcoming Senedd Election in 2026.
8. Comply with all policies and our obligations, (including data protection, safeguarding, bullying, media and social media, and staying safe online).
9. Respect the Senedd's Official Language Scheme, and the right for young people to work, communicate and engage in Welsh or English.
10. Keep yourself and others safe by listening to the WYP Team and other Senedd Commission staff, including following all reasonable instructions.
11. Not behave in a way that is likely to damage the reputation of the WYP.

# **WHAT COMMITMENT IS EXPECTED FROM A WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBER?**

**Welsh Youth Parliament Members will be expected to take part in Welsh Youth Parliament activities for the duration of the two year term.**

All 60 Welsh Youth Parliament Members will meet as a whole group, usually in the Senedd, three times during their two-year term.

Members will also meet in their regional areas as well as virtual meetings where possible. Their work will include meeting with and discussing issues with other Welsh Youth Parliament Members and consulting with the young people they represent on the issues raised. Every effort will be made to arrange meetings and events at times and dates that will enable as many Welsh Youth Parliament Members as possible to attend.

# WHO CAN STAND AS A CANDIDATE IN THE ELECTION?

**Any young person living in or receiving their education in Wales can nominate themselves as a candidate for one of the 40 constituency seats. However, they will need to be at least 11 years old, and be no older than 17 years old on the last day of the election (25 November 2024).**

Young people who are eligible to stand at the election can stand as a candidate for one of the 40 constituency seats. If a young person wishing to stand for election receives their education in a different electoral constituency to their home address, they can choose which constituency they wish to stand for. It's possible to check your constituency by going to [.senedd.wales/members](https://www.senedd.wales/members).

A young person can also be elected as a representative by an official partner organisation. It is possible for a young person to stand as a candidate for election in their constituency and for a partner organisation at the same time. If a young person gains the most amount of votes for one of the 40 constituency seats, and is the preferred candidate elected by an official partner organisation, the choice will lie with the young person as to which seat they choose to occupy. The relinquished seat will either be allocated to the young person who obtained the second highest number of votes in that constituency, or to the official partner organisation who will then another young person.

To stand for the constituency seat, the young person will need to complete an application form at [www.youthparliament.wales](https://www.youthparliament.wales). Applications open in June 2024 and close 1 September 2024.

The form will take about 15 minutes to complete. Candidates must read the introduction, complete the relevant check boxes which state that they confirm the information they have provided is accurate, that they will comply with the election rules and parental consent will also be needed to complete the form.

Young people will need to provide the following information to apply:

- Name;
- Address and post code;

- Email Address;
- Date of birth;
- Equality form.

Candidates will need to provide a short biography about themselves. This should be no longer than 200 words. It should cover why they would be a good Welsh Youth Parliament Member and the three issues that are most important to them. The issues need to be things that the Senedd has powers over such as health, Welsh language, youth provisions, the environment etc. More information about the Senedd's powers can be found on the Senedd's website [\*\*senedd.wales/powers\*\*](https://www.senedd.wales/powers).

Once young people have successfully completed their online application form and their information has been verified, they will then be sent further information about the election process. This will tell them everything they need to know about standing for election to the Welsh Youth Parliament.

The remaining 20 seats will be returned by partner organisations.

# PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

**20 of the 60 Welsh Youth Parliament Members will be elected by partner organisations to ensure the representation of diverse groups of young people.**

Any organisation, of any size, from any part of Wales can apply to become a partner organisation.



The experience has had a big impact on our representatives and their futures. They have so much to take away in the form of knowledge, skills, experience, awareness. How many young people can say they stood up in parliament or attended ministerial meetings and debated in the chamber?

**Learning Disability Wales  
Welsh Youth Parliament Partner  
Organisation, 2021-2024**

Organisations wanting to become an official Welsh Youth Parliament partner will need to apply in writing by the 24 June 2024, and will be considered against a set criteria.

Guidance on becoming a Welsh Youth Parliament partner organisation and an application form can be found at [www.youthparliament.wales](http://www.youthparliament.wales).

# VOTING IN WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

**All young people between 11 and 17 years old, living or receiving their education in Wales are eligible to vote in Welsh Youth Parliament elections but they must register to vote beforehand.**

Voter registration will be open from 27 May – 20 November 2024. Young people will be able to register to vote at [www.youthparliament.wales](http://www.youthparliament.wales).

Those who registered to vote in the 2021 Welsh Youth Parliament election do not need to register again, They will be sent an e-mail to inform them that they are still registered. Their voting code and instructions will be e-mailed on 04 November 2024.

Registering to vote will only take a few minutes, the following information will be needed to register:

- Name;
- Post code (home or school);
- Email address;
- Date of birth.

Once the online registration has been completed an e-mail confirmation will be sent asking the young person to confirm the details and validate their registration. If this doesn't show up in your inbox please check your Junk mail. **Voting for the election will open on 04 November and will close on 25 November 2024.**

Young people who have registered to vote will need their voting code when casting their vote. This is to ensure everyone who has registered has only one opportunity to cast their vote for their favoured candidate.

Biographies for all the candidates for each constituency will be available at [www.youthparliament.wales](http://www.youthparliament.wales) from mid October 2024.

# **HOW CAN SCHOOLS AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTION?**

**The basis for the Welsh Youth Parliament can be found in article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).**

This sets out the right of children and young people to express an opinion and to have that opinion taken into account when decisions are being made on any matter that affects them.

This also underpins the key principles of youth work in Wales and is clearly reflected in the New Curriculum for Wales which aims to develop young people as ethically informed citizens of Wales and the world. As a result, supporting and promoting the WYP is relevant, and provides unique experiences for young people to get involved, be that in the classroom, at home or as part of a youth organisation.



Welsh Youth Parliament has helped me with my communication skills, my team working skills, my listening skills which will be extremely useful for the future and now. And of course, the WYP expanded my political knowledge greatly, something which I will always, always be grateful for.

**Bowen Cole**  
**Welsh Youth Parliament Member,**  
**2021-2024**

To encourage as many young people as possible to get involved in the work of the WYP the Senedd's Education and Youth Engagement team welcome the support of schools, colleges and youth organisations across Wales.

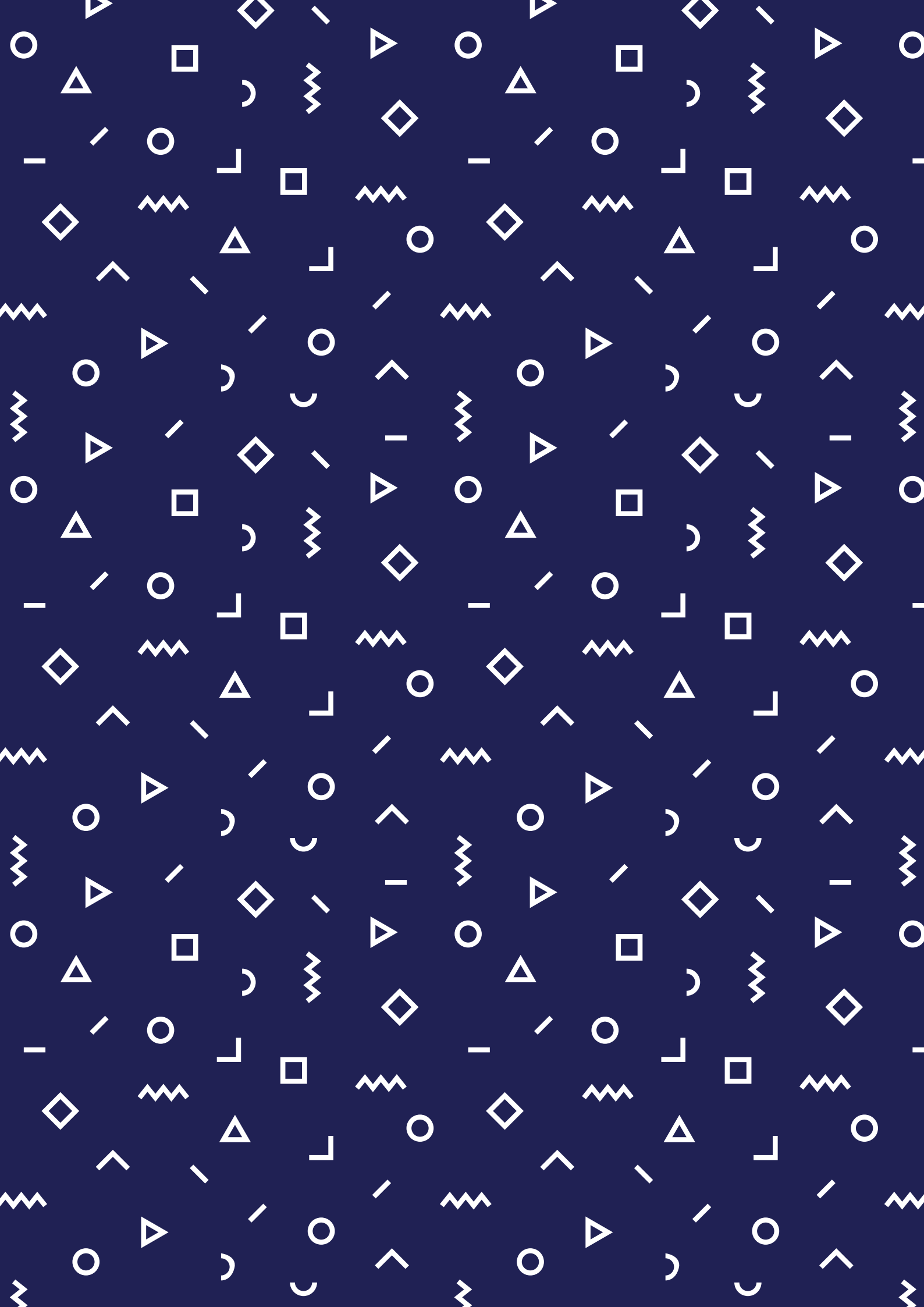
Our hope is that young people of different ages, genders, socio - economic backgrounds, abilities and ethnicities, from all parts of Wales will in some way participate in the work of the WYP. Either by registering to vote, by standing for election, by voting during the election, or by contributing to the work of the WYP on issues that are important to them.

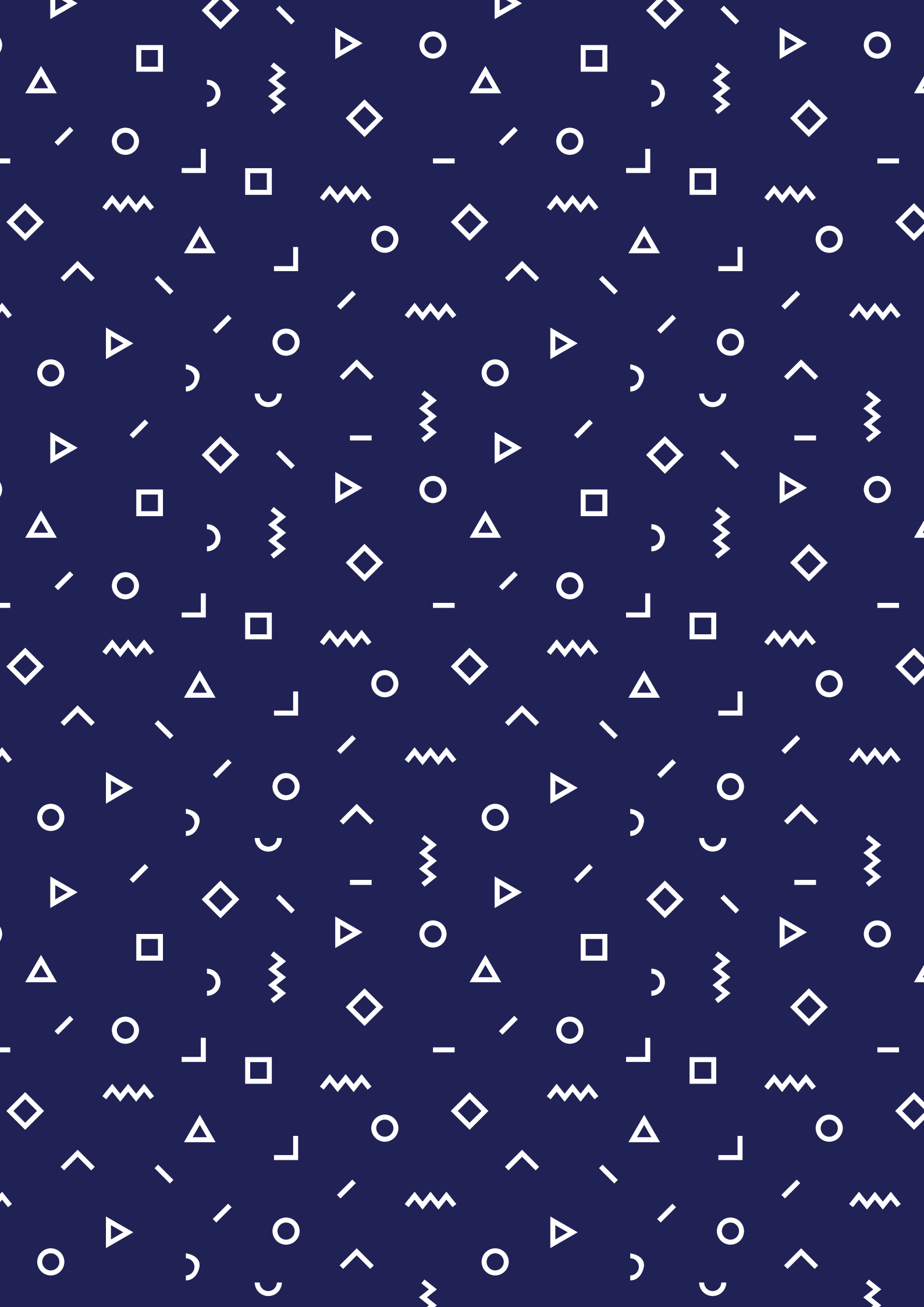
The Senedd's Education and Youth Engagement Team have developed a range of resources, workshops for young people, and training sessions for professionals to support the work of promoting the WYP election. Full details of the resources and booking information for the workshops and training sessions can be found at [www.youthparliament.wales](http://www.youthparliament.wales) or e-mail [hello@youthparliament.wales](mailto:hello@youthparliament.wales) for further information.



There are many practical ways which schools, colleges and youth organisations can support the WYP:

- Use our WYP session plans or book a workshop as part of citizenship themed assembly or lessons to raise awareness about the work of the Senedd and WYP;
- Use WYP session plans or book a workshop as part of a youth organisation activity;
- Promote the Welsh Youth Parliament on social media or in newsletters and on websites;
- Encourage young people to register to vote in Welsh Youth Parliament elections, allow time during registration, relevant lessons or club activity for 11 to 17 year olds to register to vote;
- Encourage debates and discussions led by young people on issues which are important to them and feed into the WYP Key Issues Consultation;
- Encourage young people to stand for election to become a Welsh Youth Parliament Member and offer support to the young people during the application process;
- Support young people standing for election during the 3-week election period by helping them raise awareness amongst other young people in either a school or youth organisation setting;
- Allow time within lessons, registration period or youth club activity for young people to read about the candidates and to vote;
- Share information about the Welsh Youth Parliament within your own networks;
- Encourage young people to attend events organised by the Welsh Youth Parliament;
- Following the election take part in WYP consultation events and activities to raise awareness on issues which have been selected by young people.







**WEBSITE:** *YOUTHPARLIAMENT.WALES*

**INSTAGRAM:** *WELSHYOUTHPARLIAMENT*

**FACEBOOK:** *WELSHYOUTHPARLIAMENT*

**X:** *@WELSHYOUTHPARL*