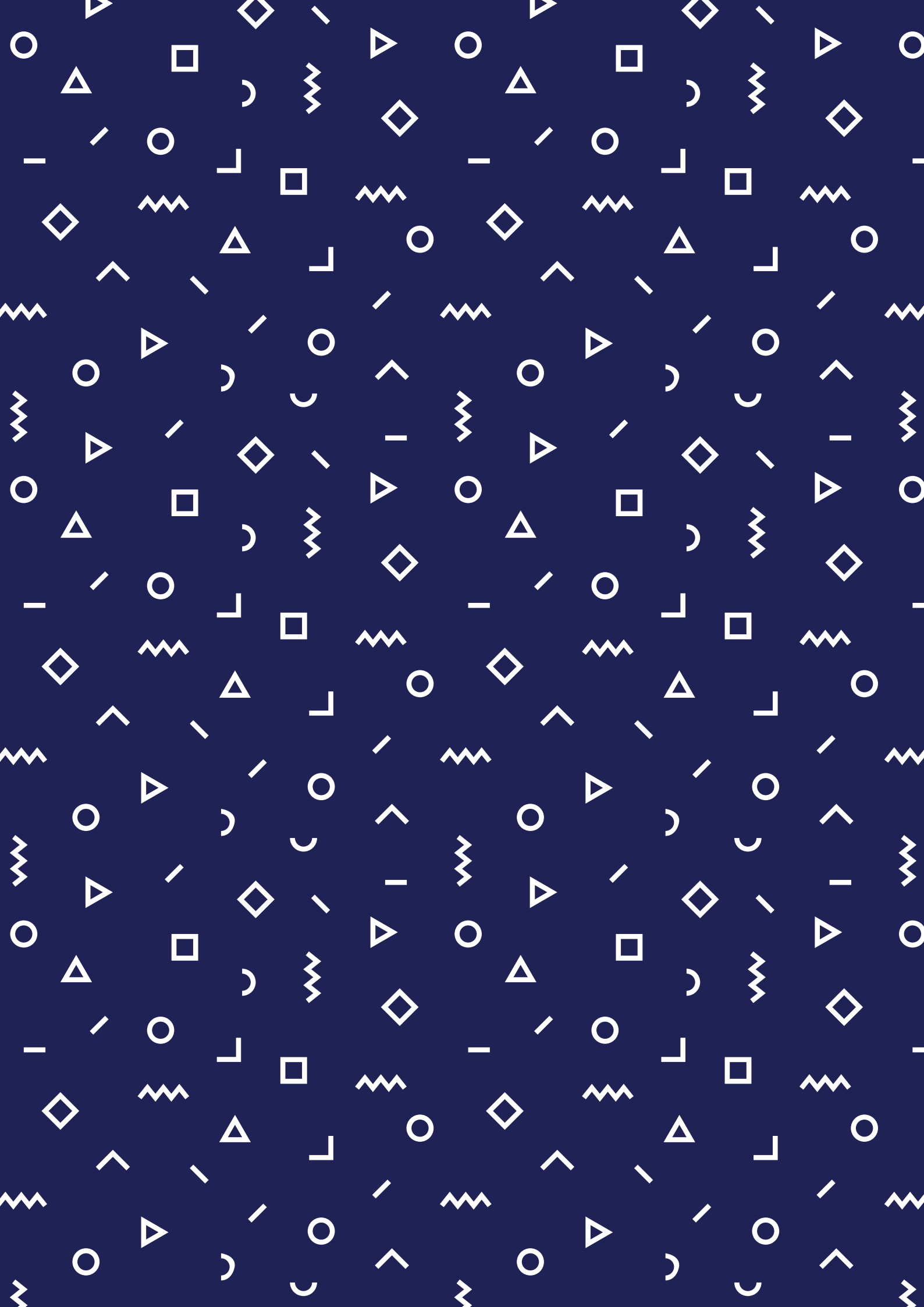


WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

ELECTION RULES

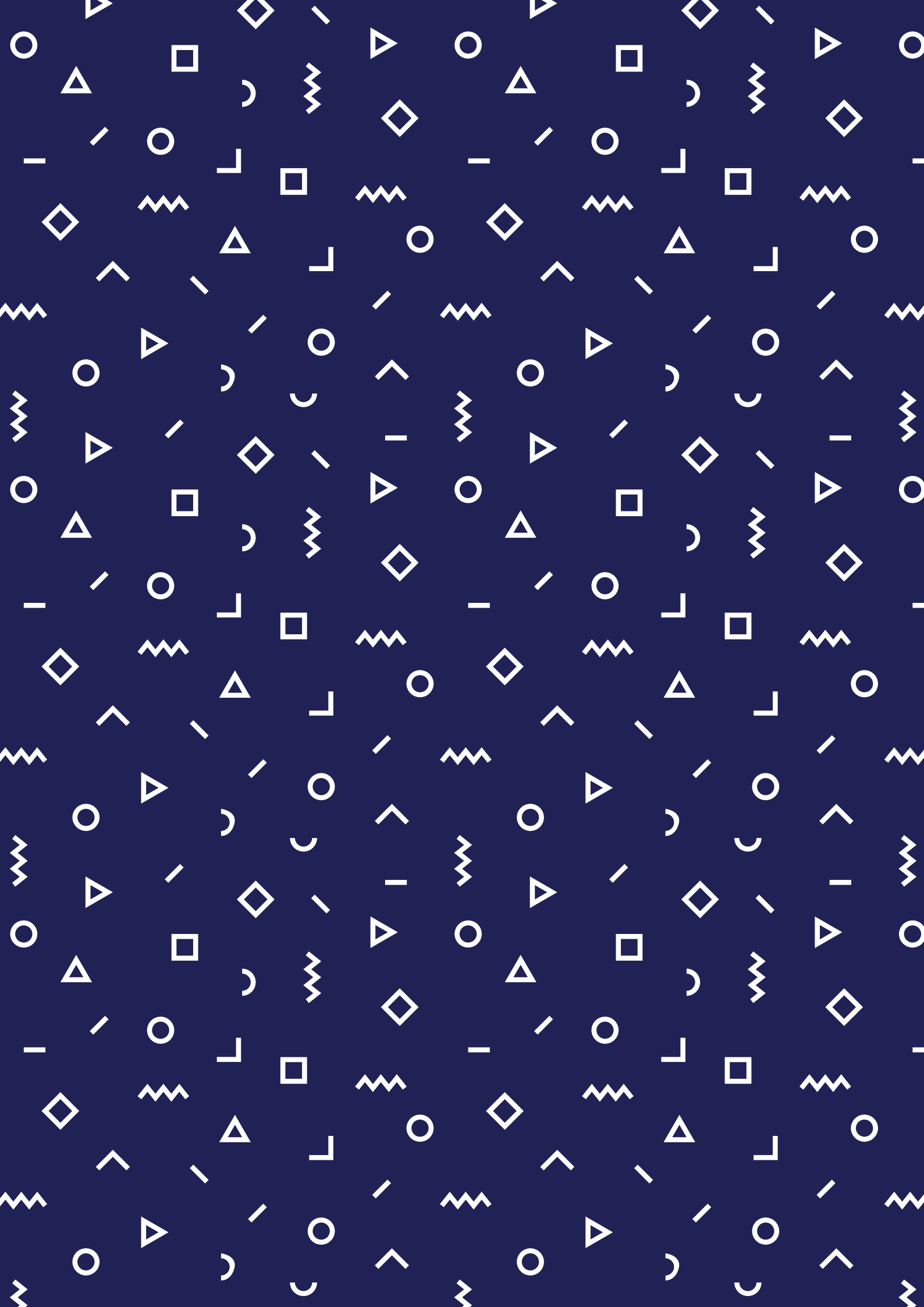


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CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	5
2.	WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTION.....	5
3.	ELIGIBILITY TO STAND FOR ELECTION AND TO VOTE.....	6
4.	CANDIDATES AND VOTERS	8
5.	CONSTITUENCIES	9
6.	ELECTION PRACTICE.....	10
7.	VOTERS AND VOTING.....	11
8.	ELECTION RESULTS	11
9.	RETENTION OF INFORMATION	12
10.	FURTHER INFORMATION.....	13



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This document has been produced by the Senedd Commission for use in the 2024 election of Welsh Youth Parliament Members.

2. WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTION

2.1. The Welsh Youth Parliament will have places for 60 Welsh Youth Parliament Members.

2.2. An electronic electoral process will be used to return 40 Welsh Youth Parliament Members through a first past the post system, returning one young person for each of the 40 electoral constituencies used in Wales as detailed in paragraph 2.4.

2.3. The election system for electing the 40 constituency members for the 2024 election will be administered by Assembly Voting.

2.4. For the purpose of the elections to the Welsh Youth Parliament, the 40 constituencies are defined as the 40 areas used as the constituencies for the 2021 election to the Senedd. Information on the 40 electoral constituencies can be found here: senedd.wales/members.

2.5. The remaining 20 Welsh Youth Parliament Members will be returned through partner organisations who will run their own internal election to determine these Welsh Youth Parliament Members.

2.6. The partner organisation elections do not have to run concurrently with the election for the 40 constituency members (although this would be preferable), but the details of all Welsh Youth Parliament Members returned by partner organisations must be given to the Senedd Commission by the end of the election period which is the 25th of November. If a partner organisation cannot put forward a candidate by this time, they should notify Delyth Lewis, Welsh Youth Parliament Manager on hello@youthparliament.wales or **0300 200 6565**. Partner organisations must provide the Senedd Commission with the successful candidate's name, contact details, date of birth, candidate profile, top 3 issues and a photo of themselves.

2.7. Partner organisations and successful candidates returned by partner organisations must not announce publicly who has been elected as a Welsh Youth Parliament Member until the Senedd Commission has made its member announcement in December 2024.

2.8. Partner organisations should have a reserve candidate, which is the person who came second in the partner organisation election.

3. ELIGIBILITY TO STAND FOR ELECTION AND TO VOTE

3.1. Subject to paragraphs 3.4 to 3.6, any young person aged 11 – 17 who complies with paragraph 3.2 is eligible to stand for, and vote in, the Welsh Youth Parliament constituency election. For this purpose, a young person is defined as being no younger than 11 and no older than 17 on the final day of the election period (25 November).

3.2. Any young person living or receiving education in Wales is eligible to stand as a candidate, and vote in the Welsh Youth Parliament constituency election. ‘Living in Wales’ is defined as permanently or ordinarily resident within Wales. ‘Receiving education in Wales’ is defined as a young person receiving the majority of their education within Wales.

3.3. Those young people who are eligible can stand as a candidate and vote either in the constituency where they live or receive their education (if they are different).

3.4. A young person who is serving a custodial sentence from which they will not be released prior to the election result being announced by the Senedd Commission is not eligible to stand or vote as a candidate for election to the Welsh Youth Parliament.

3.5. Subject to paragraph 3.4, a young person who has been convicted, cautioned or made subject to a similar order* for a relevant offence** will not automatically be eligible to stand nor automatically excluded from standing as a candidate for election to the Welsh Youth Parliament. However, a young person who wishes to stand as a candidate for election will be required to inform the Senedd Commission if they have a conviction, caution, or similar order for a relevant offence. We will consider each nomination on an individual basis. In doing so, we will take into account our security, health and safety, well-being, and safeguarding obligations to that young person, Members of the Senedd and their staff, other members of the Welsh Youth Parliament, Senedd Commission staff and members of the public. Where necessary and proportionate we may also contact other agencies in order to assess the relevant risk and consider how to manage that risk. In doing so the Senedd Commission will notify the young person concerned and/or seek their permission as may be necessary. A final decision on eligibility is at the sole discretion of the Senedd Commission and its decision is final.

3.6. In the circumstances outlined in paragraph 3.5, any young person interested in putting themselves forward for nomination who has been convicted, cautioned or made subject to a similar order for a relevant offence will be contacted by the Youth Parliament Team following their application using the contact details provided to discuss their interest further. Anyone who has further queries about this procedure can contact Delyth Lewis, Welsh Youth Parliament Project Manager, at hello@youthparliament.wales or **0300 200 6565** for further information.

3.7. Further information about how the Senedd Commission handles and uses personal data relating to criminal convictions, cautions and relevant offences collected as part of your application to stand as a WYPM can be found in the Commission's relevant privacy notice, which can be found here: [Privacy Policy \(senedd.wales\)](#).

3.8. Any young person is required to contact Delyth Lewis, Welsh Youth Parliament Project Manager, at hello@youthparliament.wales, or **0300 200 6565** immediately should they be convicted, cautioned or made subject to a similar order for a relevant offence after their nomination has been accepted but prior to the election result being announced by the Senedd Commission.

* including but not limited to final warnings and violent offender orders

** a relevant offence is an offence which exposes members of the Welsh Youth Parliament, Members of the Senedd and/or their staff, Senedd Commission staff and/or members of the public to potential security, health and safety, well-being and safeguarding risks, including (but not limited to):

- a. specified violent offence or a specified sexual offence within the meaning of the Criminal Justice Act 2003
- b. offences involving firearms or arson
- c. offences involving the unlawful supply of controlled drugs or substances where commercial drug dealing or trafficking is involved
- d. offences involving terrorism or which are terrorism-related

4. CANDIDATES AND VOTERS

4.1. The Senedd Commission (acting reasonably) reserves the right to refuse to accept an application for nomination.

4.2. All candidate nomination applications will be verified by the Senedd Commission.

4.3. To register to vote at the Welsh Youth Parliament election, young people eligible under section 3 above will need to submit the following information on the Assembly Voting platform:

- First and last name
- Email address
- Date of birth
- Home post code, or the post code for where they receive their education. The constituency for which the postcode provided lies within, will be the constituency that the young person registering to vote will be eligible to vote for.
- Place of learning (optional)

4.4. Young people registering to vote at the Welsh Youth Parliament election will also have the option of providing their mobile number, though they are not required to do so in order to register. Information as to how mobile numbers are used, should they be provided, is set out in our privacy notice: **[Voter Registration Privacy Notice \(senedd.wales\)](#)**.

4.5. The e-mail address provided will need to be verified by the young person registering before the registration is confirmed.

4.6. To submit a nomination to become a Welsh Youth Parliament Member, young people eligible under section 3 must submit the following information on the Assembly Voting platform:

- First and last name
- Email address
- Telephone number
- Home postal address

- Date of birth
- The constituency they want to stand for election in (either the home post code or the post code for where they receive their education). Information on the 40 electoral constituencies can be found here: [senedd.wales/members](https://www.senedd.wales/members).
- The 3 key issues chosen to campaign for if elected
- Candidate statement (this should focus on the reasons they believe they would make a good Welsh Youth Parliament Member).
- An accurate photograph (optional) in JPEG format no larger than 4mb.

4.7. Candidates must complete the relevant check boxes which state that they confirm the information they have provided is accurate, and that they will comply with the election rules and code of conduct (if elected). Parental permission will also be needed to complete the form.

4.8. Eligible young people can stand for election in a different constituency to which they vote should they wish. Young people seeking to register to vote and/or stand for election will be required to select constituencies where they live or receive their education, which in some cases will be different.

5. CONSTITUENCIES

5.1. There will be one Welsh Youth Parliament Member elected for each constituency. The candidates elected will serve for a period of two years.

5.2. Where a young person is elected both through the first past the post-election, and through the partner organisation, the decision on which seat they choose will be up to the young person (subject to 5.3 below). If they decide to be returned by a partner organisation, the constituency seat will be offered to the next young person in that constituency with the most amount of votes. If the young person selects the constituency seat, the partner organisation must have a reserve candidate, which is the second person to be elected by the partner organisation.

5.3. Where the young person is the sole candidate, and therefore returned, in the first past the post-election but is also elected through a partner organisation, the young person will automatically take up the constituency seat and the partner organisation will return a reserve candidate, which is the second person to be elected by the partner organisation.

6. ELECTION PRACTICE

6.1. Elections for Welsh Youth Parliament Members for the 2024-2026 term will take place in November 2024.

6.2. Constituency elections will be conducted using the 'First past the Post' system, using the constituency boundaries described at paragraph 2.4 above. This means the candidate with the most number of votes wins. The constituency elections for Welsh Youth Parliament elections will be held online.

6.3. In the event of an uncontested constituency, the only candidate standing for election will be returned as the Welsh Youth Parliament Member for that constituency.

6.4. In the event of no candidates being nominated in a particular seat, nominations will be extended until the start of the election period in November 2024.

6.5. In the event of a tie, where two or more candidates have the same amount of votes, the candidates would draw lots to determine the successful candidate.

6.6. In the event of a vacancy due to a Welsh Youth Parliament Member failing to complete their term in office:

6.6.1. If returned by a partner organisation, the partner organisation must return a reserve candidate which is the second person to be elected by the partner organisation..

6.6.2. If elected through the first past the post system, the seat will be offered to the young person with the second highest number of votes. If that person is no longer available, it is offered to the young person with the third highest number of votes and so on. If there are no young people who contested the election available, a by-election similar to the 2024 election will be held.

6.6.3. Welsh Youth Parliament Members who fill seats vacated within a Welsh Youth Parliament term will serve for the remainder of the two year term, until the next national Welsh Youth Parliament election.

6.6.4. If a vacancy arises more than 18 months into the two year term, the seat will remain empty.

7. VOTERS AND VOTING

7.1. All young people eligible under section 3 have the opportunity to vote in the election of their Welsh Youth Parliament Member.

7.2. All young people wishing to take part in Welsh Youth Parliament election must register to vote on the Assembly Voting platform.

7.3. All young people who registered to vote in Welsh Youth Parliament elections, will receive a unique voting code and a link to the voting website at the start of the election.

7.4. Voter registration will remain open until the 20th of November.

7.5. A link to candidates standing for election in their chosen constituency will be sent to each registered voter. If the voter has opted to include their mobile number, a ballot paper will be sent to their mobile device and e-mail address. A confirmation e-mail will be sent once voting has taken place.

7.6. Every young person who has registered to vote will only be able to vote once. The unique voting code will not work more than once.

7.7. Voters with specific requirements to enable them to vote should contact hello@youthparliament.wales should further assistance be required.

8. ELECTION RESULTS

8.1. Once the election has closed on the 25 November 2024, votes will be automatically counted through the Assembly Voting platform.

8.2. The Senedd Commission will confidentially contact every successful candidate once the results are known to ensure the candidates are happy to become Welsh Youth Parliament Members. Successful candidates must not publicly inform anyone that they have been elected as a Welsh Youth Parliament Member until they have been notified of the announcement of formal election results and elected members in December 2024.

8.3. Following the election, the Welsh Youth Parliament will announce the successful 60 Welsh Youth Parliament Members. Information about how many votes each candidate received will not be disclosed.

9. RETENTION OF INFORMATION

9.1. The Senedd Commission has privacy information in place which outlines how it processes personal information, including how long it retains this information. This has been split into the following privacy notices:

- Information about how the Commission processes the personal data of those who register to vote in Welsh Youth Parliament elections can be in the Commission's Voter Registration privacy notice:
[Voter Registration Privacy Notice \(senedd.wales\)](#);
- Information about how the Commission processes the personal data of nominees can be found in its Nominations privacy notice:
[Candidate Nomination Privacy Notice \(senedd.wales\)](#);
- General information about how personal data is processed in relation to the Welsh Youth Parliament can be found in the main privacy notice:
<https://youthparliament.wales/privacy-policy>.

9.2. To summarise how long personal information is retained, the Senedd Commission will retain the details of all nominees and the voting results for the duration of the two year term.

9.3. Subject to paragraph 9.4, individuals who register to vote will remain registered following the results of the election, and their registration will be carried over to the next election.

9.4. The Senedd Commission will review the list of registered voters at the end of every term and remove any registered voters who will not be eligible for the next WYP election due to age. Registered voters can also request that their information is removed by contacting **hello@youthparliament.com**.

9.5. Once the results have been announced, all election nomination information that is collected as part of your application, other than some personal information relating to criminal convictions, cautions and relevant offences which it is not considered necessary to retain after six months, will be held by the Senedd Commission in a secure environment for the duration of the two year term. This is in case an election query is raised or a reserve candidate is needed. Following this, documentation relating to individuals who applied to become WYPMs will be deleted.

10.FURTHER INFORMATION

10.1. Whilst this document is intended to provide the parameters for the 2024 election, we understand that there may be additional questions which may arise; for further information and guidance, please contact the Senedd Commission using the details below:

Senedd Cymru

Welsh Youth Parliament Team

Tŷ Hywel

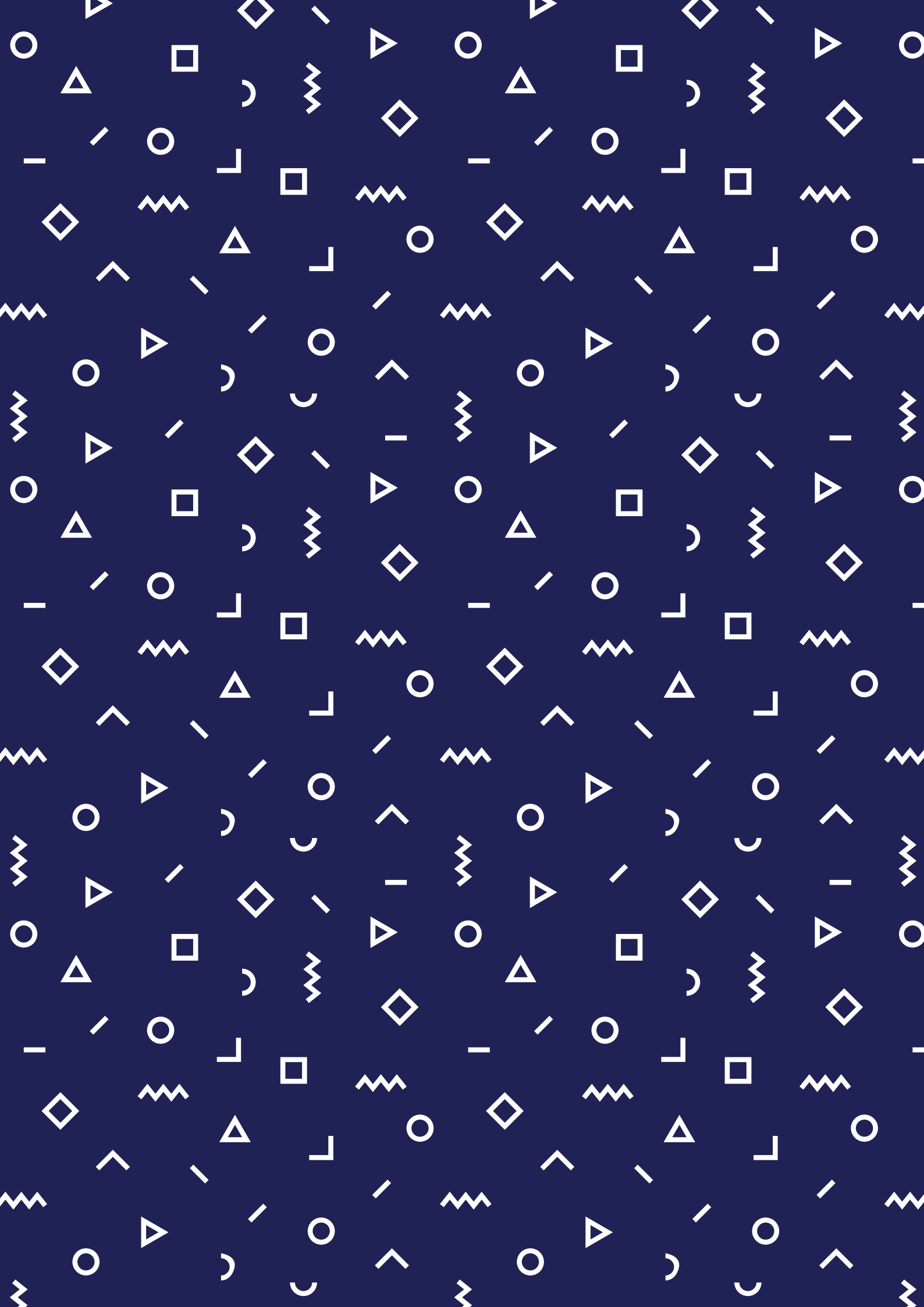
Cardiff Bay

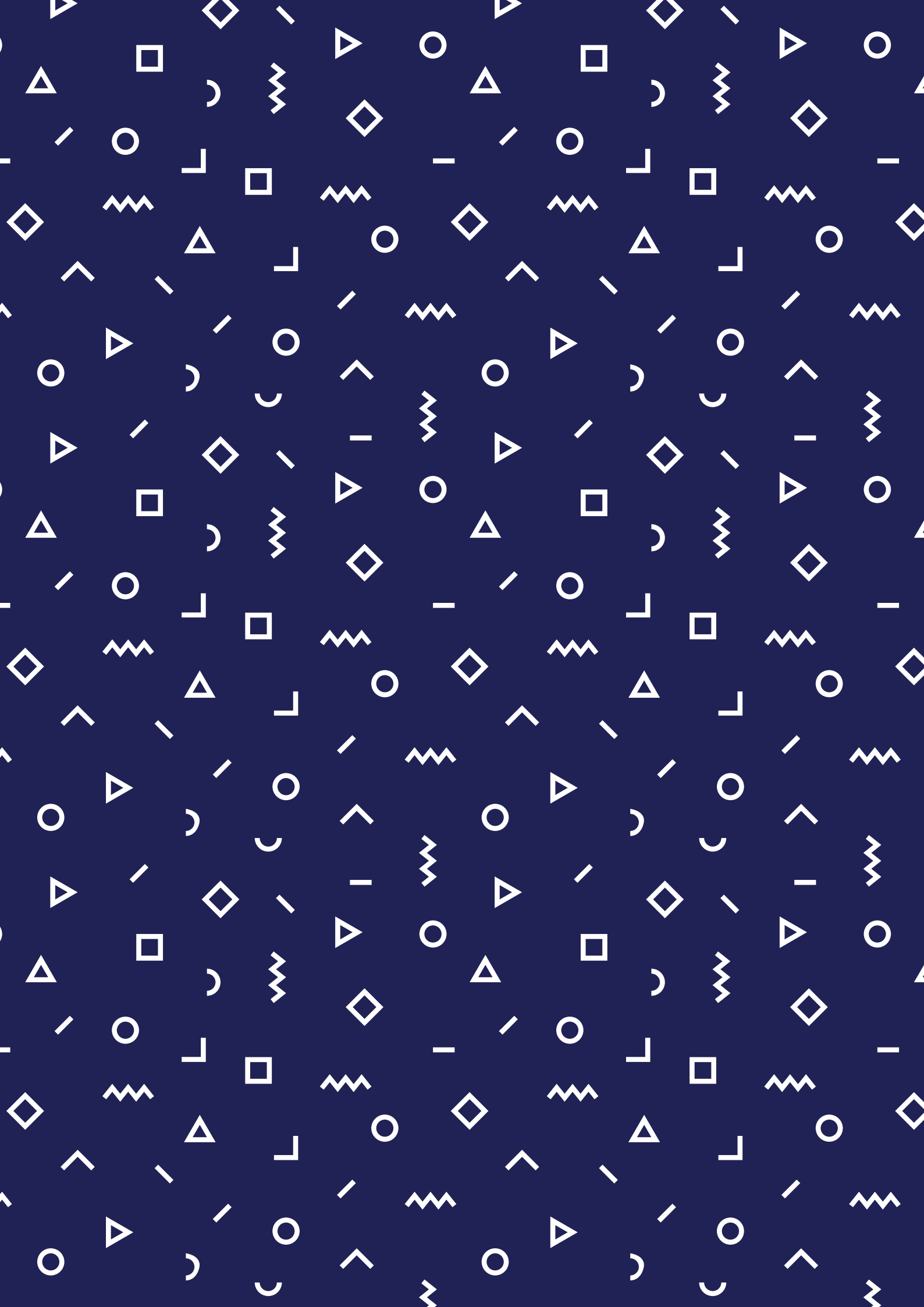
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