



# EMILY CHAPMAN

FOR #1 VICE PRESIDENT FE

“ My name is Emily Chapman and I want to be your next NUS UK Vice President (Further Education)!

I'm Leeds City College Students' Union President and NEC 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Further Education. I represent 26,000 students and apprentices across 5 main campuses in Leeds, a mixture of FE, HE, part-time, mature and international learners. This is my third year in the student movement, a journey led by and inspired by the power and potential of FE Students' Unions across the UK. ”

## MY FE JOURNEY

In 2009, a week before Christmas, I had a very difficult time which resulted in a move to Leeds and safe to say that my self esteem and confidence was at an all-time low. I'd hit the bottom and did not know if and how I could get back up. Shortly after, a family friend passed away and he said to me:

*"This year is going to be your year, make it your year".*

So after some time and space I built the courage to try something, I enrolled at Leeds City College. While working on a Foundation Degree in Law and Criminal Studies; I decided to try out the Students' Union, to build confidence, and I haven't looked back since.

FE has given me a second chance after a difficult few years and I couldn't have done it without the Students' Union – a place I call home. I want to ensure NUS is somewhere for all FE learners, a place where they can feel both comfortable and supported. Making FE students the priority of the movement and providing a bigger space which they want and need.

## MY TRACK RECORD:

- > Successfully negotiated an increased the block grant from 27k to 50k
- > Secured commitment from College for two Students' Union staff members.
- > Used the NUS UK FE Unplugged campaign to ensure that students get a say in their education through 'Student Voice' development.
- > Reviewed the Students' Union which resulted in positive changes, including increased accountability and more student opportunities.

**"THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE FE'S YEAR, I'LL MAKE IT FE'S YEAR!"**

EMILY  
CHAPMAN

N<sup>o</sup>.1 for VP Further Education  
Help me say **FE IS HERE TO STAY!**

# MY MANIFESTO

**1 Keeping the fight going for FE :** Over the last two years, the FE campaign has been loud, meaningful and powerful. We are on the map, however need to expand our borders. No longer will we be the footnote or after thought for policy and speeches. No more should we allow the Government to see Further Education as a second class form of Education. If elected I will:

- > Lobby and consult with institutions and learners in fighting for consistency in learners, from all backgrounds and modes of study, being central to the decisions made about their education
- > Monitor and work closely across the area review waves to ensure students are a part of the implementation agenda. Communicating with members and consulting on decisions

**2 Resources and investment in FE SUs :** There are over 300 FE Students' Unions in NUS and not even half attend our National Conference. NUS democracy isn't accessible for FE students, and NUS events are too expensive. The Government doesn't pay attention to FE representation - the compulsory student governor isn't enough and I'll work to improve FE representation. If elected I will:

- > Work with the VPUD and lobby the UK Government to fund FE Students' Unions in England, by learning from the frameworks and development plans in the nations.
- > Create a Students' Union visit plan and target colleges that need the most development. I'll show that NUS is there for its membership.
- > Work with 6th forms and specialist colleges personally and acknowledging and supporting more flexible frameworks and providing suitable accessible support.

**3 Learn from our partnership :** The student movement as a collective has proven in the past to be powerful and effective in positive change. NUS as it stands is broken. It is seen by many as just a discount card rather than a Union that can effect change and improve the lives of students. FE and Apprentices are too frequently a footnote in Motions at National Conference. Working in partnerships is stronger than alone. If elected I will:

- > Develop the relationship between FE/HE by creating regular FE/HE network meetings in regions, to collectively action on local/devolved issues.
- > Maintain a dialogue with the VPHE to voice/action on behalf of HE students that study in FE institutions.

**4 It's not just the Classrooms that need investment :** The government has done the basic work with the post 16 Skills plan. Now is the opportunity to look at:

- > Curriculum reform - lobbying the UK Government with the trade unions to ensure that high quality teaching and learning is influenced by learner feedback. If elected I will:
- > Work with the VP Welfare and all Liberation campaigns to ensure that learner are able to access the support they need, Mental Health, Finance, Careers and life skills e.g. rights @ 16.
- > Work with specialist colleges to get the needs of SEND Learners heard and lobby for ring fenced funding for their provision
- > Fight for investment in FE and apprentices in line with the recommendations in the Skills plan
- > Lobby the UK Government to ring fence ESOL funding

**5 Apprentices :** Apprentices are becoming one of the most advertised/popular education routes. Now more than ever is the time to make sure their voice and wellbeing in on the agenda. If elected I will:

- > Support the development and profile of the National Society of Apprentices (NSoA) across the UK, by working closely with their Leadership Team.
- > Lobby the UK Government on the National Society's policies e.g. cost of living; sexism and discrimination; positive interactions between apprentices, training providers and employers; and apprentice pay.



#EMILY4FE