



SHADOW HELEN 2011

GUIDANCE NOTES

MAIDSTONE & THE WEALD CONSTITUENCY
HELEN GRANT MP SHADOWING SCHEME

22nd September 2011

Application Process and Deadline:

Application forms must be originals in hard copy, signed and dated, and received at Helen Grant's Constituency Office by **5.00pm on Friday 31st October 2011**. Forms received after the deadline will not be considered.

Postal applications to: Shadow Helen 2011, Freepost MA827, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5BR.

Hand delivery to: Shadow Helen 2011, MWCA, 3 Albion Place, Maidstone Kent, ME14 5DY

Who can apply?

Anyone aged between 16 and 18 at any date during September 2011 who lives or attends school or college within the Parliamentary constituency of Maidstone & the Weald at the date of submitting their application.

To check the boundaries go to:-

<http://www.helengrant.org/constituency/constituency-boundaries>

Completing the Application Form

- Full Name means First name and Family Name
- Home Address means your family home. If you are a boarder at school you should provide your family's home address.
- School name, address and postcode only require completing if you still attend school.
- Teacher contact name, mobile number & position applies to the teacher who is guiding you with your application, e.g. your Government & Politics teacher or your Head of Year.
- Party Membership means the name and telephone number of any politically orientated party you belonged to as of September 2008 or thereafter.



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Completing the Application Form (cont'd)

Word process the form if you can, but handwritten applications will be accepted if they are clear and legible. No more than the three pages may be submitted although you may vary the size of each question box to suit your own response e.g. you may have lots to say about Voluntary and community work and not much about academic achievements, so size the box to suit your needs. Typefaces under 10 point in size should not be used.

Note: in any of your responses you may include a testimonial from another person to support your application e.g. *"Mary Brown is the greatest student I have ever had the privilege to teach"* – Head Teacher, Top School, Maidstone.

WHY I WOULD MAKE A GOOD SHADOW FOR HELEN GRANT:

Think about your motivation for entering the competition, what you hope to achieve if you win and how you feel suited to being Helen's shadow in the various different activities you are likely to undertake.

THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO ME IN MAIDSTONE & THE WEALD:

Think about things that you feel should be changed that you know and care about. This could include things that need improvement, things that should be stopped or started up, and ideas that you might have about how to help certain situations. For example, you may feel that the younger kids in your area have nothing much to do or nowhere to go. How would you address this? Or how do you feel about traffic congestion, public transport, school dinners, or Junk food advertising, anything you like really.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS:

What exam results and other academic progress have you achieved so far.

SKILLS, ARTS, MUSIC, CRAFTS, CULTURAL & SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS:

What other skills have you attained in any field other than academic qualifications. For example – member of swimming club, play guitar in a band, making furniture, mending motor engines, speaking in public.

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY WORK:

Let us know about anything you may have done that was helpful to others, for no payment, or any kind of contribution you may have made to the community.

OTHER INTERESTS:

Tell us about anything else that interests you – going to gigs, movies, reading, walking, fishing, chess etc etc.



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How will the selection process take place?

A list of finalists will be selected by the Shadow 2011 selection committee based upon the information they receive from the candidates' application forms. It is therefore important that you take care when completing this form.

In the event of there being a large number of potential finalists there may be a telephone interview to allow the selectors to draw up a short list for the Final Selection Event. This will take place before the end of the Christmas term on a date, time and location to be arranged in the Constituency of Maidstone & The Weald. Full details will be published nearer the time but as a basic summary, finalists will be asked to prepare and deliver a short speech (not longer than 3 minutes) about why they should be chosen as one of Helen's shadows. They will then answer questions from the Selection Panel. Questions will include a mixture of personal issues and views on certain topical current affairs. After due deliberation two winning candidates will then be announced.

Note: The media may be present after the event has concluded. All finalists should therefore be ready to give a comment if they wish to do so.

Questions and queries

Please email any questions you may have regarding this competition to;

helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk

If you would like to learn more about Helen please have a look at her website

www.helengrant.org

And finally.....

Very best of luck and thank you for participating!