

School Council Interview with Our Local MP

Friday 6th March 2026

Recently, the School Council at Amotherby Community Primary School had the exciting opportunity to interview our local Member of Parliament, Kevin Hollinrake.

The councillors prepared a range of thoughtful questions about democracy, politics and what it is like to work as an MP. Mr Hollinrake spoke openly about his role, his experiences and why he believes it is important for people to get involved in politics.

Can you tell us about your job?

“My job as a Member of Parliament is to represent the people who live in this area. That means listening to their concerns and speaking up for them in Parliament. Every day is different. Sometimes I’m meeting people locally to talk about issues in the community. Other times I’m in London taking part in debates, meetings and decisions that affect the whole country.”

He explained that MPs deal with many different topics - from local issues such as roads, housing or schools, to national and international matters.

What did you have to do to become an MP?

“To become an MP you have to decide that you want to represent your community and put yourself forward for election. Usually people join a political party and work as part of a team. Many people start by helping in their local area or becoming a local councillor first.”

He compared the process to the School Council elections, where pupils stand for election and others vote for the person they believe will do the best job.

“In the end, the most important part is that the public vote for you and decide that you are the right person to represent them.”

Do you travel all over the country?

“I travel regularly between my constituency and Parliament in London. I also sometimes travel around the country to meet other people involved in politics and discuss different ideas and policies.”

Although he travels a lot for work, he said he always enjoys coming back to this part of North Yorkshire.

How much money can an MP make?

“Members of Parliament currently earn around £93,000 a year. It might sound like a lot, but the job carries a lot of responsibility and involves very long hours.”

He also pointed out that many jobs which help people, such as teaching, are extremely important and deserve recognition too.

Do you travel to Parliament every day?

Mr Hollinrake explained that MPs often spend several days each week in London when Parliament is sitting.

“When Parliament is meeting, I usually travel to London and work there for part of the week. The rest of the time I’m back in the constituency meeting local people, visiting organisations and helping residents with problems.”

Would you change anything about your job?

Mr Hollinrake said that politics can sometimes be slow when it comes to making change.

“One thing I would like to see is more people getting involved in politics. The more people who put themselves forward, the more ideas and talent we have to solve problems.”

He encouraged young people not to feel that politics is something only certain people can do.

“If you think you could make a difference, then you should go for it.”

What's the best part of your job?

“I love this country and I love this area. The best part of my job is being able to make a difference and help make things better for people now and in the future.”

He said he wants to make sure that the next generation grows up in a place they are proud to live in.

Why did you choose to be an MP?

Mr Hollinrake explained that his interest in politics started when he was younger.

“When I was growing up, my family often talked about what was happening in the world. We discussed issues like education, housing, the environment and how things could be improved.”

Those discussions made him think about how decisions affect people's lives and inspired him to get involved.

"I decided to become an MP because I wanted to help solve problems and make things better for people."

What skills do you need to be an MP?

Mr Hollinrake said that listening is one of the most important skills.

"You need to be a good listener so you can understand the problems people are facing. If you don't listen carefully, it's difficult to find the right solutions."

Other important skills include:

- communication
- teamwork
- resilience
- confidence
- problem solving

Did you want to be an MP when you were young?

"Not when I was very young. My interest developed later when I began thinking more about politics and how decisions affect people's lives."

He told the pupils that it is perfectly normal for career ideas to change as people grow up.

What's the worst part of your job?

Mr Hollinrake explained that one of the challenges is dealing with criticism.

"When you make decisions, some people will disagree with you. That's part of democracy, and it's important to listen to different views. But sometimes criticism can be unfair."

He said politicians need to develop a "thick skin" and stay focused on doing what they believe is right.

How many years have you been an MP?

"I was first elected in 2015, so I've been an MP for around eleven years now."

What do you do in a typical day at work?

Mr Hollinrake explained that there is no single "typical" day.

"Some days I'm in Parliament debating national issues. Other days I'm meeting local residents, visiting organisations or attending community events. Every day is different."

"Being an MP isn't really a nine-to-five job. There are often meetings, events and travel, so the hours can be quite long."