

Year 12 v political campaign

ZACK STEIN AND
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What could possibly pull a couple of year 12 Bialik College students away from their textbooks a mere seven weeks before their VCE exams?

It began when our assistant principal Dan Sztrajt stood up in front of the senior school and announced that he was running for local council and invited students, like us, to help him work towards his election.

What made his invitation so enticing was that our role would not be restricted to mundane mail drops or handing out flyers, but to actually take on major responsibility: marketing directors, social media co-ordinators, chief graphic designers, and even his policy development.

But more than that, Dan was offering a chance to enact genuine change and allow youth to be involved in politics and have a real impact on our community.

Whilst last year's classes with Dan...” to “Whilst last year's Global Politics classes with Dan were about learning how the system works, Dan's campaign allowed us to take our interest in politics beyond the classroom and play a meaningful

role in local government. As motivated students with a desire to have our voices heard, joining Dan and other like-minded young students was a ‘no brainer’.

Working as both online and mainstream media co-ordinators, our role is to communicate with the public and market



Ilan Volchek, Ethan Kravitz, Maayan Zlatsin, Dan Sztrajt and Noa Ashkenazi on the campaign trail. Photo: Dani Peipert

Dan's campaign. From the launch of the Facebook page to drafting press releases for major news outlets, Dan has entrusted us with the responsibility to successfully create the face of his campaign.

Inside Dan's makeshift campaign headquarters, doubling as his children's

playroom, age has no boundaries.

Dan's announcement that he would be running for council drew the attention of an incredibly diverse group; ranging from high school students from McKinnon Secondary College, Bialik College, Mount Scopus and King David School to second year uni

students, this diversity is a driving force behind Dan's appeal and ultimately, election success.

While Dan's desire to involve youth has benefited us, the campaign is about so much more than that. Given our prior involvement with Ajax Football Club and Maccabi Soccer, Dan's ideas to create more open spaces for sports fields and better use of the grounds that we already have, really resonated with us.

Additionally, the recent spike in crime and gang violence in Glen Eira has meant that Dan's focus on improving safety and security is a must.

Ultimately for us, it came down to our real desire to make a difference and by taking on a major role within Dan's campaign, it has allowed us to achieve that. We are now looking forward to success at the polls and then an even greater opportunity to impact local politics.

So, was it worth juggling VCE with a political campaign? We guess only time will tell, but for now we are loving the chance for real life learning about the challenges of managing a political campaign.

If you would like to know more about how to get involved in Dan Sztrajt's Glen Eira Council political campaign, please visit VoteDan.com.au

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