

Cresswell's Career

By Nate and Sam

Joining the Labour party at 16, having a family and a prominent career in education, Sally Cresswell has now moved her focus onto politics and bettering the community.

After being elected to the council in 2021, she took on the role of Shadow Cabinet

Minister for Schools and spoke to us, Nate and Sam, about some of the questions we had about her role in council.



“A typical day in council normally consists of lots of emails.” she told us. “Then followed by lots of meetings.” Some of these meetings are SACRE meetings, which is the standing advisory committee of religious education. She is a member of SACRE, which controls the syllabus for religious education in schools. The committee also holds debates over different subjects, such as the number of children taking RE at GCSE. She also spoke to us about the process of being elected. “I was elected in 2021 through a city council election into the ward Stoke.” She has been a member of Labour since she was 16, and she explained why she chose Labour. “I had always had a good sense of fairness and labour seemed to have the same ideals as me. Being in a secondary modern also helped shape my morals,” she said.

However, her job is not all that easy. As time has gone on, local councils are being given less and less money, to the point where the council should have received close to £1 billion in the last 10 years. Due to this lack of funding, the council has had to

battle an unprecedented 15.6m overspend in this year's budget, which makes helping the community even more difficult.

Finally, we decided to ask her a more lighthearted question, would she rather fight 1 gorilla or 100 bunnies. "I would have to fight a gorilla, just because I saw David Attenborough with one, and it started playing with his shoelaces, so I would like to fight a gorilla so it could play with my shoelaces!"

We really enjoyed our interview with Sally Cresswell, and she taught us a lot about the council and our community.