I would like to co-write this article because the effects of coronavirus and the route out of this crisis fascinate me. I also feel passionately that as our generation will be the ones paying off debt caused by the virus, and leading the country through the longer lasting after effects, such as the debt gained, that we as young people should play a pivotal role in the crisis at this time. By convening this message in a medical journal, there is an opportunity to present young peoples’ role in this crisis scientifically; as the government has been “led by the science” throughout this period this is a brilliant opportunity to present the role of young people during this pandemic. This is something I would love to be a part of.

I think the most important message to come out of the meeting last Saturday was that young people shouldn’t be side-lined as they usually are when it comes to government decisions. The impacts of coronavirus will be felt for decades to come in all aspects of our lives. As future leaders, and taxpayers, we should have a role in this crisis, as the generation most affected by it. The impact for our generation is already being felt in education, as students miss out on exams and key aspects of their curriculum and we will, almost certainly, be the most impacted generation. Therefore, we should have a say, and this article gives us an opportunity to express our opinions. I believe this was the most important message from the meeting – that we should have a say.

I believe I should help to write the article as I have been a member of the YPF for a few years now and have helped ethics projects in the past few years, I am devoted and would make this my top priority while balancing it with school work. I also have worked with this team prior to this and have enjoyed it as I’m sure everyone did. I would like to help with my take on the ethical stand points of children. I am hard working and compassionate of what I do. I would like to be considered to help writing this journal. Thank you.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to co-write the Article for Archive of Disease in Childhood with the Ethics Team.

I am going to work with children in my future career as a Nurse, hopefully starting an Adult and Child Nursing course at Southampton in the autumn. I am passionate about working with children and their families to get the best outcomes. The COVID-19 pandemic is a defining moment for healthcare and so it will be vital to explore the different aspects of this and how children have been (or assumed to be) pawns, pathfinders and partners. For example, I have interviewed the CEO of GOSH about the implications of COVID-19 on behalf of young patients and I have helped to write a booklet on transition to adult services.

Being able to co-write this article will allow me to explore the issues. This will enable me to encourage children and young people to articulate their needs and drive their healthcare options. This will have an immediate impact on them as patients – and an impact on them in the future if they become policy-makers.

The key message I took away from Saturday was that we need to help children and young people’s voices to be heard and not let the adults speak for us. For example, this can be done through
encouraging children and young people to write to their local MPs regarding their opinions and concerns. This may also include worries surrounding the return to school, which can contribute to the increase in mental health problems that both children, young people and adults are facing as a result of the pandemic.

(iv)

Helping to co-write the article about children and young people’s views for the Archive of Disease in Childhood would be a privilege for me and I believe I can offer a unique perspective. The disruption that devastation and fear for our lives has caused is something that’s been present in our daily lives for many months now and has impacted every aspect of my life. I have seen the damage this pandemic has caused (and no doubt will continue to cause) to social support networks and financial stability, therefore, coering us to live under a shadow of uncertainty: not knowing what the future holds. For me, my life has been disrupted significantly: not only have my GCSEs and many work experience opportunities been stripped away from me, I have also been abandoned by my school and left with no educational input, no direction of how to keep learning, so, at times, I have been left feeling like life has no purpose. Despite young people’s normality being stripped away, at no point have our mental health needs have been considered. Is anyone who is involved in supporting young people asking, “What is this new normal like for young people?”? What about the young people who seem to be coping but really are struggling with having no sense of belonging and little safety net? I feel passionately that the voice of young people needs to be heard so innovation can be optimised, and we can contribute to shaping the future of the society which will soon be steered by us.

(v)

I would like to help co-write the article regarding the role of children and young people during and after the coronavirus pandemic because I believe that in the long term, we stand most affected by this crisis, not only from the health perspective, but also economically. Through raising awareness of our perspectives and the different roles available to children and young people coming out of this pandemic, I am motivated to explore how we can change people’s perceptions of children and young people from ‘Pawn’ to ‘Partner’. Subsequently, I would like to work with the ethics team because I believe that on Saturday, we all shared a key believe – ensuring that the upcoming generation are not left behind but have an active and concurrent role.

(vi)

I really enjoyed the session with the ethics team and would love to help in the process of rewriting the article.

The main reasons I would love to help is because being an older member of the group means I can present a different perspective on the how children and young people are being perceived and this issue is quite close to home for me. My brother is in year 6 and in the shielded category and both things have helped me discover a lot about how different the experience and emotions are for him and me and how this pandemic has affected us all in precise ways but most importantly how little our voices are heard regarding different situations.
Personally, the key message for me this Saturday was that children and young people were not the first port of call on the receiving end of all the discussions, information and support surrounding the pandemic. Despite all the outstanding work and effort being put to help children and young people at the moment it was clear in our discussion that a lot of the information such as how schools were planning to be reopened, support in school, government briefings and global updates on the pandemic had not been focused on keeping children and young people as a main priority. Rather this was being delivered to parents and even the important questions about how the child/young person felt about returning to school had been considered from a parental perspective. The session also highlighted to me how despite common themes of emotion and trends in where our concerns were arising from the issues we had were specific to the different phases of childhood. This particularly emphasised to me how catering for children across the spectra of ages is an utmost priority because every voice needs to be heard so that action can be taken and the problems solved. Furthermore, it was definitely clear that this could only be achieved by working with children and young people as partners and this was a key message that needs to be presented to the world through this article so we can not just improve in how things work in this pandemic but create a sustained role of how children and young people are perceived in future ones and in other situations.

(vii)

I very much enjoyed the discussion with the ethics team in the previous YPF meeting. I would love to co-write the article with the ethics team as I am very passionate about ethics; examples of my passion for ethics are that I am predicted a 9/A* in GCSE Religious Studies, which has a large amount of content on ethical topics such as euthanasia. I also recently received a head teacher commendation for my hard work, dedication and contribution in my religious studies classes. The key message of the meeting was that the thoughts plus opinions of children and young people are crucial to the reopening of society as we are a generation of future leaders who have lived through the Covid-19 pandemic. Subsequently, we can contribute a great deal of valuable information and ideas to our society now and in the future.

(viii)

I would like to co-write the article with the ethics team because I am very intrigued by the article and interested in the subject. Also, I can relate to the subject of the article too, I’m keen to give ideas about all aspects of the article. I have had assignments to write articles at school about lockdown (see below) and I have skills in teamwork, writing and speaking. Finally, I think the Key message on Saturday was that everyone can make a change because we were giving ideas for how to change GOSH’s sustainability.