

YOUTH VOICE

Democracy Week is a national campaign encouraging young people to become involved in democracy both locally and nationally with the aim of increasing the number of young voters. A Young People & Democracy working group made up of Elected Members and Officers has been set up as a response to the ongoing need for young people to become engaged in the democratic process. The working group planned and led on four sessions which took place in schools and collages across the county over Democracy Week.

Amersham & Wycombe College

26 level 3 business students attended the session along with Elected Members and Officers.

The group took part in Budget Simulation exercise that reflected figures from previous budgets.

The group also took part in voting for the next Youth Parliament candidates and had a Q&A session with Councillors.

Elected Member Attendance

Laura Gonsalves (Youth Parliament)
Paul Irwin
Val Letheren
Jean Teesdale
Noel Brown
Matthew Davy (WDC)
Harry Bull (WDC)



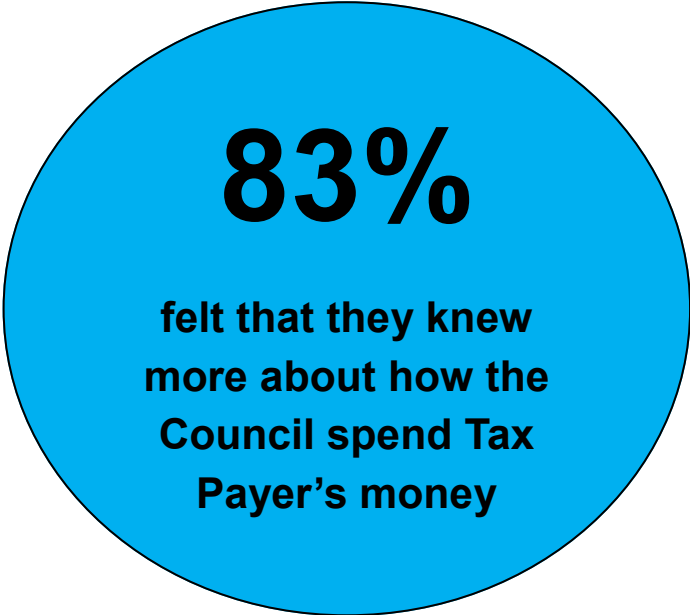
How much do you know about the role of a County Councillor?

A lot. before **18%** after **41%**

Some understanding. before **27%** after **47%**

80%

Said they would vote in the next local elections.



Quotes from young people

"Learning about Democracy was enjoyable because it felt like we could work in parliament".

"Voting is fun and important"

Quotes from young people

"There is no point in having libraries as everything is online nowadays"

"I don't see where the money we are spending is actually going".

Buckingham School Debate Buckingham Town council organised a debate involving both Buckingham School and The Royal Latin School. A panel of representatives from the Town Council, District Council, The Mayor of Buckingham and the Parish Priest answered student's questions on how immigration and refugees are impacting on the UK. The students were able to challenge and question the panel creating an interesting and dynamic debate.

Holmer Green Junior School planned a week of lessons for all students across all year groups on what democracy is, the role of government, the importance of voting and finished the week with a whole school election where students campaigned and voted for a "kind Ambassador" from each year group. A representative from the County council led a school assembly looking at different levels of democracy that students face every day and met with the School Council to talk about their plans for the coming year.