

Young Voters Bored by Politics

Sixth Formers in Thomas Deacon Academy have little interest in politics as shown in a recently conducted survey.



Thomas Deacon Academy's Head of Sixth Form Ben with students at the new TDA sixth form area.

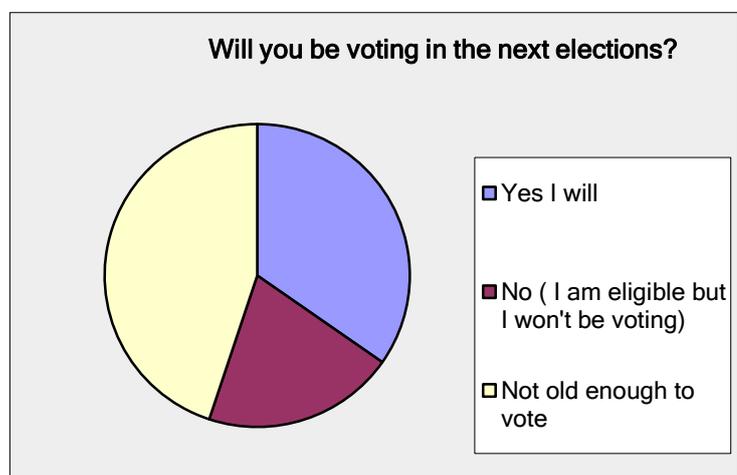
The survey was answered by 49 sixth formers and they were asked various questions about their voting habits..

When the students were asked if they were going to vote in the upcoming election in May, 20.4% of students said 'I am eligible but will not be voting'. We wondered why?

'I don't know enough about politics' said one .

Issues important to them ranged from health and welfare to counter-terrorism.

When we researched into the main 4 political parties, we found that they didn't put enough emphasis on the key areas in which young people are interested in.



Answer Option	Response Percentage
Health and Welfare	10.2%
Crime	16.3%
Environment	4.1%
Immigration	8.2%
Europe	0%
Education	22.4%
Science and Technology	4.1%
Counter-terrorism	12.2%
Business	4.1%
Sport	2%
Animal Rights	2%
Entertainment	2%
Economy	12.2%

Therefore if parties included issues which interested young voters there would be a wide spread of interest as their views were listened to and taken into consideration.

A table of results showing answers from 'What issues are you interested in?'

Main Parties Made Simple for First Time Voters

Conservatives

Leader: David Cameron

Current Status: Voted as part of a coalition in 2010

Peterborough's Member of Parliament: Stewart Jackson

Aims – Improve the lives of the working class

Plan – Reduce debt to improve economy, cutting income tax, creating more jobs, working to control immigration and delivering skills for the next generation.



Liberal Democrats

Leader: Nick Clegg

Current Status: Voted as part of a coalition in 2010

Peterborough's Member of Parliament: Beki Sellick

Aims – Fairer Society and Boost Economy

Plan – Create more jobs; keep interest rates low, 15 hours of free childcare, increase pension and free school meals.



Labour

Leader: Ed Miliband

Current Status: Not the main party

Peterborough's Member of Parliament: Lisa Forbes

Aims – Health Care, Lifestyle and Youth

Plan – Strong economic foundations, higher living standards for working class, improve NHS, control immigration and have a country where the next generation is better than the last.



UKIP

Leader: Nigel Farage

Current Status: Not the main party

Peterborough's Member of Parliament: Mary Herdman

Aims – Protect borders and free speech

Plan – Return power to the UK; Protect our borders, safeguard against crime, care and support for all and democracy.



We believe this a simple guide to politics would help young voters and encourage them to vote.

Reported by Aisha, Sania and Saiba