



The Friary School

Eastern Avenue, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7EW

Tel: 01543 267 400 Fax: 01543 267 499

Absence Line: 01543 267 467

Website: www.friaryschool.co.uk

E-mail: office@friaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher

M J Allman



Consultation
Collaboration
Support

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Dear Mr Robertson,

Last week, our Focus Week programme at The Friary School saw us mark 'International Day of Democracy'. As a school we know it is imperative for all young people to have an awareness of democracy and how this applies to the local area and country we live in.

As part of my role as Head Girl, I organised a team of students to deliver a series of assemblies with me for each year group, exploring what democracy means and the key issues that face young people such as housing, university fees and unemployment.

One exciting part of this Focus Week was our school referendum: 'Should the voting age be lowered to 16?' We opened this out to parents and guardians, who were able to vote online, and, additionally, we ran our own polling station for students during lunch times. Students had the opportunity to take a polling card and post their vote. The numbers of parents and students who took part only served to emphasise how significant this issue is.

From our student vote, 245 students voted; there was an overwhelming majority of votes in favour of the voting age being lowered to 16: 163 students voted in favour of it. However, our parental vote was a swing in the other direction: 126 parents/guardians voted for the age to remain at 18.

We know that one of Keir Starmer's proposals during campaigning (he was in fact in the local area at the time, visiting Stafford Rangers FC) was lowering the voting age to 16; therefore, given our findings from our student vote, we politely request that you inform the House of Commons of our findings and raise the idea of lowering the vote at your next PMQs.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Mackenzie
Head Girl