

# HOW TO LOBBY YOUR PRINCIPAL OR HEAD TEACHER



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In order to actively campaign on Votes at 16 in your school or college it is important to get your head teacher or principal on board. They will be crucial in getting support from them which could include assemblies, room bookings, and time away from class. Also, they are often very influential in the community and can help you raise the profile of Votes at 16 to others.

## GET IT ONTO THEIR AGENDA

Firstly find out from your principal/head teacher their stance on Votes at 16.

Arrange a meeting with them to find out their position and gain their support for the campaign. Some of the questions you might like to ask your head teacher/principal:

- What do they think about Votes at 16?
- Do they think it will improve youth engagement in politics?
- How do they think that a lowering of the voting age affect the school/college?
- If they don't support the campaign why not?
- Do they not believe young people are mature enough to vote?

## WHAT CAN THEY DO FOR YOU?

If your head teacher/principle supports your campaign it is important to make the most of their support. Here are some things you could ask for:

- For them to write to their local MP about the issue
- For them to give you time during an assembly for you to present on Votes at 16
- An opportunity to run a stand about Votes at 16 during break times or at a parent's evening to raise awareness of the issue
- An opportunity to speak at Parent-Teacher Association meetings so you can get parents and other teachers' support
- An opportunity to speak to the Board of Governors so you can get their support

## TOP TIPS

### DO YOUR RESEARCH:

Find out what other students think about Votes at 16.

### BE POLITE:

If they agree to meet you make sure that you are polite. They have many other issues to deal with and it is good for them to make time available for you.

### BE OPEN TO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND IDEAS:

Not everyone agrees with Votes at 16. But make sure you ask them their ideas of how to increase youth engagement in politics and the community.

### FOLLOW UP:

After the meeting show them you are serious by following up on any action points and providing answers to questions they put to you.