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# THE LATYMER SCHOOL

Founded 1624

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Wednesday 20th November 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At Latymer, we will be conducting mock elections on Thursday 5th December 2019. Students have been emailed their Poll Card, detailing where they can vote. Although voting is optional, we strongly encourage all students to take part in this form-time activity. The process will simulate real voting, with students going to the Polling Station, being issued with a ballot paper by a pair of poll clerks, and putting the cross in a ballot paper which will closely resemble a real ballot paper.

Your son/daughter will have watched members of their year group compete in hustings standing as candidates for each of the five main parties. We are also hoping to have stalls in the Small Hall at lunchtimes for the party candidates to be asked questions on their policies.

At Latymer, we take the concept of citizenship very seriously. Taking part in our democracy is a value we consider to be of the utmost importance, and we would appreciate it if you could take the time to discuss with your son/daughter the importance of voting in elections.

Students over the age of **16** can **register to vote** with their local authority - this is also something we are encouraging at Latymer as part of our efforts to promote civic participation amongst students. It takes **5 minutes** to register online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) and the only personal detail needed beyond the usual details (e.g. name and address) is your son/daughter's National Insurance number. Students can register as soon as they turn 16, and will automatically be added to the register on their eighteenth birthday.

We would urge you to ensure that your son/daughter registers to vote; particularly if they were born before 12 December 2001 and are thus able to vote in the upcoming General Election. **The deadline for registering to vote is Tuesday 26th November 2019 at 5 pm, so time is of the essence if you want your son/daughter to have the vote in this year's General Election.**

We hope that the work we have been doing will help get pupils used to voting in preparation for the real things; furthermore, we hope to have improved the levels of participation amongst Latymerians, particularly considering the low levels of turnout in elections amongst young people compared to other age groups.

Kind regards,

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Tristan Lockheart  
Senior Pupil  
Returning Officer  
Latymer Mock Elections



"Latymer is an **outstanding** school that provides an excellent all-round education for all of its students."