

## Are new voters provided with enough information about the EU referendum?



Currently, there is a debate over if the UK should leave the European Union that will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. There is controversy over if it would actually benefit our country, as it is said it may lead to an economic ruin, and leave the UK vulnerable to larger countries. However, many believe that it will free the country and give us more control on who comes through the UK's borders. But do England's youngest voters know exactly what they're voting for?

We asked two Imberhorne sixth formers about whether or not they will vote in the upcoming referendum. Both their answers were "yes", however when we asked them if they had enough information to make a vote, they replied "not right now". They also said that they would "do what everyone else does". This proves that there is information lacking for young people, so they just follow



the crowd, "we don't watch the news".

The students suggested that they could have "debates in school" or information about it on Facebook. This would put something out there to help people their age, as well as helping them form their own opinions and not the "one sided" arguments from the people who have already picked a solid opinion.

We asked an English teacher if she believed that new voters are being supported, and given enough resources to construct an unbiased vote. Her response to this was "if we can't understand it, how are they supposed to understand it". Meaning that if mature adults, who have a better understanding and more

experience with politics, feel like they aren't being fully supplied with information how can the younger generation, who mainly don't read the paper or watch the news, have a clear view on what is going on.

Young adults are expected to rely on the internet but are mainly influenced by their parents or carers' views. Have they been shown both sides of the argument? Is the government even being clear enough when they explain the pros of their opinion and not the cons? In addition to this we also interviewed a politics teacher who said we definitely should help young adults about to vote.

Overall, the people we interviewed felt that new voters were not supported by previous voters. Support is important because most of them will follow other people's viewpoints instead of finding their own. To help this, sixth formers would like in class discussions and mock votes. Also politics could reach social media, as they do not watch the news. This gives them a way to talk about their opinions on current affairs in the UK. However, even if they did watch the news, are the government being straight forward about the consequences of staying or leaving the EU? With help, new voters can decide their own viewpoints.

Reported by Alette and Josh

