

## Empowering young people to use their right to vote

We've teamed up with Guildford College and Surrey University to make sure students know how to register to vote. Young people are passionate about so many issues and it's important they value the power of the ballot box. Young people keen to make a difference to their communities can have a voice about things that matter to them by using their vote to shape the future.

This week we've been at Surrey University highlighting the importance of registering to vote. Our Election Services Manager was on hand to explain how to register for the first time, change existing registration details, and answer any tricky questions. One topic of particular interest to students was how does registering help my credit score.

This event followed a successful visit to the Freshers' Fair at Guildford College earlier in the month. Students were encouraged to ask questions about voting. Realising that it only takes a few minutes to register online, one 17-year-old student signed up on the spot. He told us: "I registered to vote, so I can make a difference."

Alfie Roberts, Student Enrichment Officer at Guildford College explained:

"It's good to let our students know what their council does. We want them to be engaged with their local community. Registering to vote is a vital way to get their voices heard."

Young people can register to vote from the age of 16, although they must wait until their 18th birthday before they can vote in any election. Registering before the age of 18 ensures young people can vote in a future election as soon as they are old enough. It also removes the possibility of missing a tight deadline to sign up if a snap election is called.

Elections decide who runs our local council and the country. Decisions made by our elected representatives affect everyone. Remember - if you're not registered you can't vote.

More information is available on the [Electoral Commission website](#)



Image: Member of Guildford Borough Electoral Services Team with Student Enrichment Officer at Guildford College.