

# Student Politics: Reactions to the West Lancashire By-election

**00:00:00,090 --> 00:00:03,630**

**I'm James. I am a first year history and politics student.**

**00:00:03,910 --> 00:00:07,860**

**I'm Declan on the first day of history politics, students at Edge Hill.**

**00:00:07,980 --> 00:00:12,840**

**I’m Kayleigh, and I'm also a first year student at Edge Hill.**

**00:00:13,200 --> 00:00:16,920**

**Okay, starting with you then, James. Did you vote?**

**00:00:17,430 --> 00:00:21,060**

**I did vote. I voted Liberal Democrat.**

**00:00:21,570 --> 00:00:28,800**

**And in a very interesting result for my party in that count.**

**00:00:29,550 --> 00:00:37,590**

**Quite disappointed. I'm not going to lie, but definitely an interesting perspective on how West Lancs is split politically.**

**00:00:38,400 --> 00:00:43,680**

**And was it the first time you voted? Not the first election of it.**

**00:00:43,770 --> 00:00:52,560**

**I think the second one, the first one was also quite a minor election in Hyndburn, but it was definitely a much more important election.**

**00:00:52,710 --> 00:00:56,330**

**Okay. How about you, Declan?**

**00:00:56,760 --> 00:01:00,450**

**Yeah. I voted for the first time. I voted Labour. That's a good night for us.**

**00:01:00,660 --> 00:01:06,110**

**Yeah, it was definitely interesting to vote. You know, you've seen it on TV and you've seen it on line.**

**00:01:06,140 --> 00:01:09,600**

**It's sort of like as a politician is sort of surreal to do it for the first time.**

**00:01:09,600 --> 00:01:13,559**

**I know it sounds really nerdy, but to do it for the first time, you know, you get a little bit of a buzz out of it.**

**00:01:13,560 --> 00:01:18,300**

**And it was nice to nice to be engaged with politics for the first time properly.**

**00:01:19,050 --> 00:01:23,700**

**And you didn't have to show any I.D. on this one.**

**00:01:23,700 --> 00:01:30,270**

**No. Voter ID comes in in May.**

**00:01:31,110 --> 00:01:37,100**

**Kayleigh, how about you? So in this election, I didn't vote because I'm from Wales.**

**00:01:37,330 --> 00:01:43,590**

**I just feel like I'm there. So they don't stumble here. But because Wales has lowered the voting age of 16,**

**00:01:43,590 --> 00:01:52,990**

**I've already voted twice before one in a council election and one in a Senedd election, so I've already got the experience and I was.**

**00:01:53,010 --> 00:01:59,280**

**It is a surreal thing going into the polling station for the first time and I think I went in with my parents like, you know what I'm doing.**

**00:01:59,520 --> 00:02:03,509**

**And it is, it's just, it's a fun thing to do even if you haven't even moved.**

**00:02:03,510 --> 00:02:07,260**

**Okay, I'm I'm an adult. Okay.**

**00:02:07,260 --> 00:02:14,430**

**So staying with Youth and Ceilidh, you all got involved in some of the process of of a by election.**

**00:02:14,430 --> 00:02:17,280**

**Can you tell us a little bit about you know we that for the count.**

**00:02:17,460 --> 00:02:24,630**

**Oh yeah so we all three of us went to the count and we saw just the end of the validating stage,**

**00:02:25,410 --> 00:02:30,900**

**which is where they just count and see if they have the right amount of ballots, which matches their numbers.**

**00:02:31,110 --> 00:02:34,799**

**And then there's like a brief pause and then they move on to the party separation,**

**00:02:34,800 --> 00:02:38,730**

**which is where like the fun stuff happens and you see the counts coming in for certain things.**

**00:02:38,940 --> 00:02:45,330**

**And while we were there, I'd say the most interesting thing that happened was the difference in between the postal votes and the in-person votes,**

**00:02:45,690 --> 00:02:50,010**

**because we saw the postal ballots come in and it was overwhelmingly conservative.**

**00:02:50,430 --> 00:02:57,780**

**But if you walked over to the side where the in-person were, it was the Labour vote with her and we had two of us on either side of the whole day,**

**00:02:57,780 --> 00:03:03,310**

**like it's labour over here and it's it's conservative here. And it was just, it was a fun thing to suppose and.**

**00:03:03,690 --> 00:03:07,050**

**How about how about you? How did you find it?**

**00:03:07,350 --> 00:03:11,760**

**I find it really interesting. Yeah. Um, Paul actually said to bring a book, but we do not need it.**

**00:03:11,790 --> 00:03:18,210**

**We were busy the entire night with. With everything going on. It was good to see, you know, a large a large member.**

**00:03:18,420 --> 00:03:25,649**

**A lot of membership from the parties come in. So to observe, it's interesting to see the changes between Labour and Conservatives.**

**00:03:25,650 --> 00:03:28,740**

**Quite a lot of young Conservative members once the count,**

**00:03:28,890 --> 00:03:33,480**

**whereas is Labour it was quite a lot of not older but there were you could tell the**

**00:03:33,480 --> 00:03:38,310**

**difference in age between the two and it was interesting when and how in Lord Howe,**

**00:03:38,350 --> 00:03:41,670**

**shadow leader for the official monster raving Loony Party.**

**00:03:41,760 --> 00:03:45,720**

**Yeah, and there was a fanfare for him and then he went off, I believe, to have a nap.**

**00:03:46,350 --> 00:03:50,600**

**So when he showed up, that was interesting. Yeah, well, he.**

**00:03:50,760 --> 00:03:52,470**

**James, what was the atmosphere like?**

**00:03:52,620 --> 00:04:00,029**

**It was a lot busier than I thought it would be because I believe there was an idea of it's only a by election in West Lancs.**

**00:04:00,030 --> 00:04:03,900**

**We're not a massive constituency, so it would be quite compact.**

**00:04:04,350 --> 00:04:13,440**

**It was busy, therefore it was bustling with a lot of Labour and Conservative members swarming over the counters and doing something with the tugboats.**

**00:04:13,890 --> 00:04:23,610**

**It was interesting to see the each individual member turn up like Peter Cranie for the Greens and actually Dalton eventually turned up at the end.**

**00:04:23,970 --> 00:04:27,540**

**Mike Prendergast The committee was was there the beginning with and Joe Barton the Lib Dems.**

**00:04:28,020 --> 00:04:38,070**

**So it was interested to see how they all reacted to the votes because they obviously went around the tables and saw who was voting for them.**

**00:04:38,220 --> 00:04:44,700**

**But it was also interesting just to see the amount of press coverage as well, because again, the BBC wasn't there.**

**00:04:44,700 --> 00:04:47,819**

**Well, the way they were, they weren't a huge pie.**

**00:04:47,820 --> 00:04:53,520**

**They were in the sort of cornerstone themselves. But the Sky News was there and they interviewed Paula Electra.**

**00:04:53,520 --> 00:04:57,150**

**So we got to see it to look at poll. We're doing a professional scheme, which is quite interesting.**

**00:04:58,020 --> 00:05:03,330**

**And if you have any tips for how the abnormal amount of connections that poll has,**

**00:05:03,510 --> 00:05:12,209**

**somehow she is she she knew everybody there and thankfully she introduces to everybody there as of journalists.**

**00:05:12,210 --> 00:05:21,870**

**But the amount of just people she knew and just going around and knowing everyone and acting very professional on the interviews as we watched it,**

**00:05:21,920 --> 00:05:28,860**

**it it's a good start of the year. Elections professionals taking a step back.**

**00:05:29,160 --> 00:05:34,140**

**How do you see this as part of the political landscape, this result?**

**00:05:34,710 --> 00:05:39,300**

**Yeah. So I spoke in the last episode we did on the podcast about the candidates,**

**00:05:39,300 --> 00:05:43,330**

**about the Conservative Party and how it was sort of like one of the first challenges where she so dark.**

**00:05:43,800 --> 00:05:50,040**

**Also this this byelection served as the third election challenge that he's faced as prime minister and as leader of the Conservative Party.**

**00:05:50,670 --> 00:05:54,360**

**And he's lost all three. Now, we know that, Chester and.**

**00:05:54,880 --> 00:06:00,220**

**Stratford and Epsom, the other two of the two by elections. They sort of were safe Labour seats.**

**00:06:01,240 --> 00:06:07,479**

**This one was also Labour seat, but the proportion between the votes from Conservative to Labour is the worse**

**00:06:07,480 --> 00:06:11,770**

**election result in this constituency since 1997 for the Conservative Party.**

**00:06:12,160 --> 00:06:17,379**

**I think that shows something about the Government and there is only two years until the general election if this,**

**00:06:17,380 --> 00:06:20,800**

**you know, sort of sway between Conservative and Labour sort of holds up.**

**00:06:20,800 --> 00:06:26,890**

**We could see an interesting result in 2025. So it's it's definitely keep one's keep an eye on.**

**00:06:27,340 --> 00:06:33,700**

**And I think the by election shows that it's not the same as it used to be and things are changing into changing happily as well.**

**00:06:34,480 --> 00:06:42,190**

**Kelly You may have a slightly different perspective on what you think of the English government.**

**00:06:43,310 --> 00:06:46,180**

**What is your take on what's going on at the moment?**

**00:06:46,340 --> 00:06:53,800**

**And I don't know, all of the like factual stuff behind current things is still important to the UK Parliament as a whole,**

**00:06:54,100 --> 00:06:55,360**

**these decisions that are being made.**

**00:06:55,750 --> 00:07:03,670**

**So I feel like even the smallest things of yeah, I'm living here in the West like this is a constituency for here,**

**00:07:04,060 --> 00:07:08,620**

**but the effects that it does have over everything, it does also affect the other countries as well.**

**00:07:08,770 --> 00:07:11,649**

**It's sort of the ripple effect of like this thing can do here,**

**00:07:11,650 --> 00:07:16,420**

**which then means that overall it does change the landscape a little bit to what you decide.**

**00:07:16,900 --> 00:07:23,170**

**Do you think the result is a reflection of how the public are feeling at the moment**

**00:07:23,170 --> 00:07:31,420**

**and that maybe the current government isn't focusing on what the people need?**

**00:07:31,810 --> 00:07:39,910**

**I'd say especially up in northern areas, definitely because of sort of the historic state of down south is far more down south is more rich,**

**00:07:40,180 --> 00:07:46,350**

**then you get north and it's sort of the demographics of who started, who are both conservative and who, so to speak.**

**00:07:46,360 --> 00:07:48,640**

**But for Labour, I think it shows up here as well.**

**00:07:48,790 --> 00:07:55,860**

**But I would say that with the vote, that Labour vote versus the Tory, it does show that there has been some shift to things like that.**

**00:07:56,020 --> 00:07:59,650**

**Declan, you're all young people. Did they come out?**

**86**

**00:08:00,130 --> 00:08:03,070**

**The official turn out for the university polling station was 6%.**

**00:08:03,490 --> 00:08:08,640**

**So I think that shows that there is a there is a crisis with young people and voting out.**

**00:08:08,670 --> 00:08:16,540**

**A lot of my peers would say, I don't want to vote because I don't know enough or I'm not bothered, you know, and if that continues, well,**

**00:08:16,570 --> 00:08:22,000**

**you know, the older people who tend to vote more when that when they're, you know, not voting anymore, it's time it's time for us to vote.**

**00:08:22,390 --> 00:08:27,430**

**Is there going to be a crisis then as to there's not enough votes or that the**

**00:08:27,430 --> 00:08:30,760**

**parties are winning on much fewer votes and it's not proportional enough?**

**00:08:30,990 --> 00:08:36,400**

**Like, where do you stand on this? James I would say definitely not.**

**00:08:36,610 --> 00:08:42,720**

**It's a very murky field. Politicians are not the most respected people.**

**00:08:42,730 --> 00:08:50,260**

**They are a lot of them are currently are in scandals and it makes them pop up on the news if and only then makes you just think they're all rotten.**

**00:08:50,590 --> 00:08:57,399**

**There's no incentive for young people to vote because we have not seen any specific target towards young people.**

**00:08:57,400 --> 00:09:01,180**

**Nothing. The last one I know was Jeremy Corbyn and his free broadband.**

**00:09:01,450 --> 00:09:06,160**

**That was the last proper one going to get young people to vote idea.**

**00:09:06,400 --> 00:09:12,520**

**And the Conservatives so typically are more focussed on the older generation you know, they to keep them satisfied.**

**00:09:12,820 --> 00:09:16,110**

**Labour is about doing the same bit more middle aged.**

**00:09:16,120 --> 00:09:21,730**

**So I don't believe there is any incentive to get young people voting because there's no rewards**

**00:09:21,880 --> 00:09:28,420**

**for them to vote a specific party because no party has listed any direct benefits for them.**

**00:09:28,480 --> 00:09:33,100**

**It sounds like you don't think the young people are a priority for a lot of politicians.**

**00:09:33,310 --> 00:09:36,640**

**So just as a sign off, just go round one more time.**

**00:09:36,760 --> 00:09:38,890**

**Start with you, James. You've already mentioned something.**

**00:09:39,100 --> 00:09:49,600**

**What one thing do you think the parties could focus on which would maybe encourage young people to go, okay, that sounds like finally talking to me.**

**00:09:50,230 --> 00:09:57,309**

**I think the main idea is to just get out who they are, what pies, what, what they are.**

**00:09:57,310 --> 00:10:01,810**

**Very simplistic. Basic this. I'm the leader. What kind of this is what I stand for.**

**00:10:01,810 --> 00:10:07,840**

**I'm conservative with what I stand for, making it as easy as possible for young people to know what they want,**

**00:10:07,960 --> 00:10:11,080**

**what they are voting about, and what this elections for is.**

**00:10:11,680 --> 00:10:17,140**

**I see the most effective way of getting them to vote. And yet you did mention specifically free broadband.**

**00:10:17,510 --> 00:10:20,979**

**That sounds like that. Reflecting upon Corbyn.**

**00:10:20,980 --> 00:10:23,380**

**That was definitely an interesting policy of his,**

**00:10:23,560 --> 00:10:31,150**

**but I believe it was it was effective because it was tailored towards young people, which was the end of that group.**

**00:10:31,600 --> 00:10:34,510**

**I think we just need an apology, to be honest with you.**

**00:10:34,690 --> 00:10:39,729**

**It's been continuously disruptive these past few years and it's nothing to do with the parties.**

**00:10:39,730 --> 00:10:44,770**

**It's just to do with all of the politicians not really getting a grip on understanding young**

**00:10:44,770 --> 00:10:50,190**

**people and the disruption that they've had all year has been the most disrupted of any,**

**00:10:50,200 --> 00:10:55,960**

**and I don't think that's arguable. So the other thing you can argue against the real GCSE is cancelled last minute.**

**00:10:56,320 --> 00:11:02,740**

**We had absolutely no idea what was happening. You know, the education sector did get a secretary, didn't say what was going to be happening with LGC.**

**00:11:02,920 --> 00:11:06,460**

**What if we going back to school? What was happening? Our A-levels were online.**

**00:11:06,970 --> 00:11:11,430**

**We didn't get much in-person contact with teachers that we did.**

**00:11:11,440 --> 00:11:14,770**

**It was towards the end that it was sort of your A-levels are here pre-prepared.**

**00:11:15,250 --> 00:11:19,000**

**They gave out advance information. Their examples didn't follow that very much.**

**00:11:19,270 --> 00:11:26,919**

**And then now we're getting the strikes, you know, we're paying nine £9,250 a year to be here and the is around a strike.**

**00:11:26,920 --> 00:11:31,840**

**And I get that that's nothing to do with the government and it's do with more of the unions and what was what they stand for.**

**00:11:31,840 --> 00:11:39,250**

**But an apology from the politicians would go a long way for young people and just saying, look, we accept, we've made mistakes.**

**00:11:39,520 --> 00:11:41,889**

**This is what we're doing to this is what we're doing to address it.**

**00:11:41,890 --> 00:11:48,100**

**We're sorry for the disruption that you've had, and we hope that we can rely on you to vote into office next time.**

**00:11:49,570 --> 00:11:58,060**

**And frankly, a just some form of a collaboration in politicians going to ask young people, what do you want from us?**

**00:11:58,390 --> 00:12:03,219**

**It's not necessarily out of touch. Some things that they say, but it's these sort of broad general strokes.**

**00:12:03,220 --> 00:12:10,990**

**They'll be like, Yeah, they'll cover some people. And and I'd say when you have places like universities where you've got this hub of young people,**

**00:12:11,140 --> 00:12:18,600**

**either politically minded or not or anything, you have this platform to be able to go in and then ask them, What do you need from us too?**

**00:12:18,610 --> 00:12:23,530**

**Then other people can then see that and be more inclined to have any opinion on things,**

**00:12:23,860 --> 00:12:28,990**

**because if you see a manifesto that doesn't apply to anything to do with you,**

**00:12:29,080 --> 00:12:35,650**

**then either you won't vote at all or you'll vote for somebody else because they might have an inkling of something that you might be interested in.**

**00:12:35,920 --> 00:12:39,850**

**So I would say just something where they actually have a conversation with young people would help a lot.**

**00:12:40,180 --> 00:12:44,890**

**Is there one particular thing that you think the party should focus on?**

**00:12:45,190 --> 00:12:48,549**

**For example, the climate? I'd say definitely.**

**00:12:48,550 --> 00:12:53,260**

**I'm not going to discount that the climate is a big thing, but if you're trying to focus more on young people,**

**00:12:53,530 --> 00:12:58,720**

**then mainly prices and cost of living within student maintenance loans and such.**

**00:12:59,140 --> 00:13:07,160**

**Because though they are doing something technically is enough to make university more accessible to people now.**

**00:13:07,480 --> 00:13:15,250**

**And you get a lot of people who are needing to have either extra loans or will only be able to go to university if they have help from their parents,**

**00:13:15,490 --> 00:13:21,760**

**which doesn't mean anything. If that person could completely be wonderful the university but has nothing**

**00:13:21,760 --> 00:13:25,719**

**holding them back and it's just going to get worse and worse more than the more,**

**00:13:25,720 --> 00:13:30,810**

**the more that the economy kind of does what it's currently doing. Okay.**

**00:13:30,990 --> 00:13:35,420**

**Okay. Thank you very much for your time. I was very interested. Think. Look for his fiancee next time.**

**00:13:35,750 --> 00:13:37,190**

**Thank you.**