# Edge Hill logo and crest

# Edge Hill University Politics Lab Student Podcast: why you should vote - and how to do it

00:00:00,030 --> 00:00:04,140

I'm Elizabeth. I am a second year psychology and criminology student.

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00:00:04,530 --> 00:00:07,650

I'm Tom. I'm a second year politics and sociology student.

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00:00:08,250 --> 00:00:12,030

I’m Anthony, and I’m a second year professional placement student. I'm Jack.

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00:00:12,030 --> 00:00:20,130

I'm a second year history and politics student.

I'm Paula, and I'm the main politics teacher at Edge Hill University.

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00:00:20,640 --> 00:00:25,500

We've been looking ahead to the West Lancashire by-election, looking at some of the issues,

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00:00:25,500 --> 00:00:29,280

concerned with that and looking at perhaps why students should be interested.

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00:00:30,150 --> 00:00:38,490

But let's start off by asking that group of students who are with me about their voting experiences.

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00:00:38,490 --> 00:00:44,190

Perhaps they have voted, perhaps they haven't. So, Elizabeth, tell me about your voting experiences.

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00:00:45,180 --> 00:00:52,290

I actually found it a lot easier than I thought it was going to be.

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00:00:52,590 --> 00:00:56,510

Not my family, really. They're all like, oh, it doesn't it doesn't count anyway.

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00:00:56,550 --> 00:00:59,670

Not really. It doesn't matter what you think. It's all the same.

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00:01:00,240 --> 00:01:04,860

But just in case it does make a difference, I'm going to do it anyway.

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00:01:05,420 --> 00:01:08,639

Like, yeah, it's easy.

So what do you say?

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00:01:08,640 --> 00:01:11,760

It was easy.

You mean it was easy to find the building? It was easy to know what to do?

Yeah, I don't know a lot of the the post-war.

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00:01:17,430 --> 00:01:27,180

So because I was just always out and I'm busy so the online stuff yet so I maybe a couple of pages and it comes through the door.

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00:01:27,180 --> 00:01:32,399

Yeah. So just tickets and so no reason to be lazy or to have been told.

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00:01:32,400 --> 00:01:35,210

What was your experience like? Very easy as well.

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00:01:35,220 --> 00:01:41,379

I remember voting in the 2019 election because it was the first time I probably ever voted for something.

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00:01:41,380 --> 00:01:49,440

And I remember signing up to register to vote on gov.uk and reading all those long

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00:01:49,440 --> 00:01:55,070

list of things and getting the confirmation and then the ballot paper arrived.

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00:01:55,080 --> 00:02:00,659

And it all kind of seemed quite professional and quite exciting actually.

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00:02:00,660 --> 00:02:10,739

And then I remember going to the school that was just down the road to mark my X, and then leaving and going back home.

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00:02:10,740 --> 00:02:18,150

And you know, that's the exciting thing. That was my experience when I first voted, I was a bit, oh, is it that simple?

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00:02:18,330 --> 00:02:21,720

You know, because you almost expected a brass band to start playing.

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00:02:23,190 --> 00:02:27,839

Antony, did a brass band play when you voted? No, the first time I voted was in the May election back in Manchester. It was mostly just my local borough.

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00:02:35,430 --> 00:02:38,520

It's just like the others say, simple.

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00:02:38,520 --> 00:02:42,959

Just go in, make sure you've registered and tick the box.

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00:02:42,960 --> 00:02:47,960

And that was it really, you know, went home and then thought, oh, that was easy ago.

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00:02:48,630 --> 00:02:53,430

So John, you haven't voted yet and you sort of look forward to voting?

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00:02:54,420 --> 00:03:00,569

Yeah, I haven't voted yet, but I'm definitely looking forward to voting in the West Lancashire by election and it's

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00:03:00,570 --> 00:03:04,140

going to be like the first opportunity I'm going to have to have a sort of proper vote.

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00:03:04,150 --> 00:03:05,760

It's really exciting to be doing that.

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00:03:06,210 --> 00:03:13,110

Yeah, so that's important because some of us are in places where there are elections more or less all the time, and others have longer waits.

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00:03:13,500 --> 00:03:21,780

So young people don't vote as often, perhaps as older people like me a lot, and that's potentially a problem.

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00:03:21,780 --> 00:03:28,109

So Tom and Anthony, you've been looking at why young people should perhaps vote.

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00:03:28,110 --> 00:03:29,730

So come on, make an argument.

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00:03:30,450 --> 00:03:38,460

So I think for a lot of younger people, because politics is an ever evolving subject, they lose track of it quite easily,

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00:03:38,880 --> 00:03:44,310

whether it's who's the who's the prime minister at the moment, what's happening in other different other countries,

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00:03:44,640 --> 00:03:48,299

what's actually going on and how it's going to impact their lives?

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00:03:48,300 --> 00:03:52,500

I think it's quite a difficult subject to go about to get a hold of,

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00:03:52,650 --> 00:03:57,930

unless it's sensational or they find out through social media, which a lot of young people these days use.

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00:03:58,260 --> 00:04:01,860

They're not. It's like politics, you know, I've met that sort of thing.

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00:04:02,100 --> 00:04:07,469

Yeah, I think as well, because young people have quite a lot commitments,

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00:04:07,470 --> 00:04:17,390

whether it be school work can be quite weird change because you turn a while, you turn 60 and you get a bunch of leaflets through your door.

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00:04:17,400 --> 00:04:21,700

He got a post by the government saying Register to vote.

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00:04:22,110 --> 00:04:29,580

I mean, you're not really taught that in school about the whole Democratic Party process unless you've studied the study exactly or whatnot.

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00:04:30,090 --> 00:04:36,180

The candidates who are voting, they tend to be a lot older or they may not necessarily resonate with the young people.

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00:04:36,330 --> 00:04:38,930

I think it allows us, you know, why should I vote for you?

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00:04:38,950 --> 00:04:44,759

Like know so the kind of it's back to the marriage lecture in Manchester and you're hearing that obviously a lot and probably think please be quiet.

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00:04:44,760 --> 00:04:50,729

But, you know, as a lot of the times, what we found is they wanted to place more emphasis on,

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00:04:50,730 --> 00:04:55,500

for example, hiring more police officers as a result of Berkshire, wanting to uplift them all.

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00:04:55,650 --> 00:04:59,850

And I think a lot of young people, instead of wanting more police officers, they may have one.

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00:05:00,050 --> 00:05:05,240

More, you know, more investment in the local infrastructure as opposed to just, you know, seeing more cops on the street.

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00:05:06,410 --> 00:05:12,980

So what can politicians do then to make young people make it more valid for young people, more relevant for young people?

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00:05:13,160 --> 00:05:16,700

A big ask, just make it a lot simpler and, you know,

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00:05:16,790 --> 00:05:23,840

make their message a lot clearer and what they actually stand for and what they can do to impact the lives of younger people.

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00:05:24,620 --> 00:05:30,080

We've been impacted by a lot of things, but whether it's coming of age, whether it's currently the cost of living crisis,

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00:05:30,560 --> 00:05:38,840

now really harnessing a message and putting it out there as law these parties are going to do for us and relate to us on that level,

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00:05:39,350 --> 00:05:42,020

I think is probably one of the first things that they should do.

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00:05:42,020 --> 00:05:48,450

And I agree and make an assessment about because making a decision for the rest of your life potentially.

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00:05:48,470 --> 00:05:54,320

Yeah. It's a big it's a big thing. And people do need to have a say about. Course you can't vote if you're not registered, can you?

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00:05:54,320 --> 00:05:59,540

And Elizabeth, you've been looking into how people can register to vote.

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00:05:59,580 --> 00:06:04,700

And you found it quite simple. So do you want to explain how you can go about doing that?

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00:06:04,940 --> 00:06:12,290

It's honestly so easy. Literally go on Google type and register to vote and it's based on the council.

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00:06:12,950 --> 00:06:17,000

It's literally a couple of pages long, not complicated questions.

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00:06:17,660 --> 00:06:22,430

So you don't have to go and queue up outside an office. Now we've got an all online segwit.

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00:06:24,470 --> 00:06:30,590

So I think you tried it out, didn't you? And how long did it take your trial run?

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00:06:31,420 --> 00:06:35,000

Like, not even 5 minutes. It's literally probably like 3 minutes.

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00:06:35,510 --> 00:06:39,710

So what would you say to persuade people that that's a useful 3 minutes of their time?

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00:06:40,280 --> 00:06:43,170

I mean, first of all, it's only 3 minutes agencies.

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00:06:43,670 --> 00:06:54,160

And it is useful because especially students, like if you can find local things as well as obviously general elections, it is that is important.

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00:06:55,840 --> 00:07:01,819

So we're going to hear a lot from political parties trying to win the votes of young people like yourselves.

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00:07:01,820 --> 00:07:04,260

But it's not all political parties, is it, Jack?

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00:07:04,280 --> 00:07:11,879

And you've been thinking about whether or not independent candidates are likely to fare well in elections.

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00:07:11,880 --> 00:07:17,210

So what have you found? So basically, I was looking, as you said, about the independent candidate.

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00:07:17,660 --> 00:07:24,470

There is a lot of like 14 employees in parliament at the moment that are classified as independents.

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00:07:24,890 --> 00:07:28,430

And these actually when elected as independents, however,

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00:07:28,430 --> 00:07:33,860

they were mostly suspended from their parties or they decided to withdraw from the party after election.

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00:07:34,340 --> 00:07:41,299

So when you look at the sort of success of independent candidates over the course of different elections,

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00:07:41,300 --> 00:07:48,620

you don't see much success for these candidates as they tend to be sort of outmanoeuvred by the larger, more well-funded parties.

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00:07:48,620 --> 00:07:52,610

And their candidates are a lot better. So in terms of electoral support.

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00:07:53,060 --> 00:07:56,570

But do we need more independent candidates, do you think?

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00:07:56,840 --> 00:08:03,680

Would it help? I definitely think it would help to have a few more independent candidates who focus

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a lot more on the regions that they come from and the areas that they represent.

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00:08:08,420 --> 00:08:13,370

I think with the current political party system that we have now, with the two dominant parties,

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00:08:13,970 --> 00:08:21,170

you see too much sort of trying to get one over the other and there's too much party conflicts going on.

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00:08:21,500 --> 00:08:29,959

And I think if you had more candidates who are independent in Parliament, then you would definitely see more action on issues that need resolving.

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00:08:29,960 --> 00:08:32,960

And I think there'd be a lot less contention in politics.

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00:08:33,020 --> 00:08:37,820

So issues that need resolving. Antony and Tom, what are some of those issues for young people?

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00:08:38,390 --> 00:08:46,550

Well, one thing that we did find was obviously, like you said, young people might not be less maybe less likely to vote on average,

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00:08:46,790 --> 00:08:53,990

but maybe because, you know, they're not as educated in school, you're not interested in it or you're just stoked or just doesn't cross your mind.

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00:08:54,620 --> 00:08:58,909

And that begs the question, then, what would be the best way to connect with those young people?

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00:08:58,910 --> 00:09:03,319

You know how we must bring them into the fold, educate them and say, well, you actually matter?

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00:09:03,320 --> 00:09:08,629

Because I realised that I could register to vote was when I didn't yacine and when they said,

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00:09:08,630 --> 00:09:15,650

Oh, well, did you not realise that you could actually vote at this age? And they were like, Wait, why do we not learn about this before?

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00:09:15,710 --> 00:09:22,310

I feel like there's a stigma attached to it. You know, you see it in the movies about, you know, people just go see current affairs.

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00:09:22,310 --> 00:09:29,570

You know, it's it's just sensational, effectively. So you want more fun in politics than oh oh equity fund the last year.

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00:09:31,730 --> 00:09:37,130

But I feel like the best way to connect with it is make them feel included in the conversation.

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00:09:37,370 --> 00:09:44,660

So, Tom, what's your big issue? And I think as well, there's kind of a disconnect within the use of social media.

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00:09:45,260 --> 00:09:52,010

You know, a lot of apps use Twitter and Facebook accounts and or LinkedIn profiles if you want to go down that avenue.

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00:09:52,490 --> 00:09:56,629

But I think there's the message that they're putting out there.

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00:09:56,630 --> 00:09:59,660

It's not it's not getting to the young people.

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00:10:00,110 --> 00:10:04,670

And I'm not saying for all politicians to go on Tik Tok and do a little dance to convey the message,

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00:10:05,540 --> 00:10:11,030

but making the short, snappy messages on a social media platform,

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00:10:11,210 --> 00:10:19,970

whether it's Instagram or even if it's a tik tok just having the shorts message that's important and, you know,

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00:10:19,970 --> 00:10:27,470

making use of the platforms where young people that they do use because a lot of young people use Tik Tok.

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00:10:27,860 --> 00:10:33,950

It's something that definitely can be used. And although some MPs do use Tik Tok to convey their messages,

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00:10:33,950 --> 00:10:43,670

I think a lot more could do that to really get people engaged and get people in the conversation and go, Look, this is what's happening now.

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00:10:43,700 --> 00:10:49,640

You know, if you don't like the way how it's being done, you know, you can vote since you know,

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00:10:49,730 --> 00:10:54,110

even even the thing to register to vote, you can do it on a tech talk, you know.

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00:10:54,710 --> 00:10:58,940

So that is a politics lob challenge thing to the candidates in West Lancashire.

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00:10:58,940 --> 00:11:02,929

We want to see you upping your game on social media.

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00:11:02,930 --> 00:11:09,049

So let's just see, have a final message to young people and to the candidates.

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00:11:09,050 --> 00:11:14,209

So just walk through the one most important thing you would say to encourage young people to vote,

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00:11:14,210 --> 00:11:17,510

but also to tell the candidates what you want to hear from them.

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00:11:18,110 --> 00:11:23,810

I think the most important thing for candidates to do during this election would be to definitely.

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00:11:23,880 --> 00:11:28,570

Try and get more involved in institutions where young people are also university schools.

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00:11:28,580 --> 00:11:35,479

Make sure everybody, young people, everybody are able to and they feel involved in the process,

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00:11:35,480 --> 00:11:40,549

getting people excited about voting and the ability to sort of perform a democratic way.

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00:11:40,550 --> 00:11:46,700

And yeah, that would be very important. And what would you say to young people to persuade them?

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00:11:47,360 --> 00:11:52,669

I think if you don't vote, then you have no right to say that things are bad.

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00:11:52,670 --> 00:12:00,970

If you if you're not willing to go out and vote for your representative in Parliament, then you have no right to criticise up.

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00:12:01,430 --> 00:12:07,160

So, Elizabeth, one message to young people, alumni surged to the candidates message to young people.

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00:12:08,230 --> 00:12:13,050

Just to add a message to the candidates.

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00:12:13,340 --> 00:12:17,569

I like the idea of them do to take stock of their message.

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00:12:17,570 --> 00:12:24,940

But yeah, I think listening to young people and obviously young people are future generations, they should be included.

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00:12:26,900 --> 00:12:30,050

So, Tom, your message to the candidates and your message to young people?

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00:12:30,260 --> 00:12:33,290

My message to young people is do your research.

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00:12:33,290 --> 00:12:39,019

Have a look at what the candidates are saying and seeing if what they say is what you believe in,

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00:12:39,020 --> 00:12:43,520

and especially with current affairs and seeing if it's going to really impact you,

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00:12:44,240 --> 00:12:51,170

you know, just get out there, you know, a quick five minute research of the candidates can really help you,

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00:12:51,770 --> 00:12:55,190

you know, distinguish who to vote for and what you believe in.

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00:12:55,190 --> 00:13:01,640

Because everyone has an opinion. It doesn't matter who you vote for. Just doing your duty is the most important thing.

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00:13:01,700 --> 00:13:11,990

And my message to the candidate is, get your message out there, make it simple, make it accessible to everyone and don't overcomplicate things.

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00:13:13,040 --> 00:13:20,450

And Anthony, message the candidate, message to young people, message to young people as like it's been said around the table, get out there.

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00:13:20,680 --> 00:13:25,370

And though, you know, it takes less than 5 minutes to vote and one out there and register to vote.

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00:13:25,670 --> 00:13:34,370

If you if you find a candidate who does, you know, resonate with you and, you know, and basically emulate what you believe in,

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00:13:34,730 --> 00:13:40,129

vote for, you know, it's better than doing nothing and then sitting back complaining that nothing's wrong.

00:13:40,130 --> 00:13:45,650

I think he's got to if he's got to work and what not. But message to candidates is try and try.

00:13:45,650 --> 00:13:50,990

Try the best to connect with young people, even if that is, you know, trying to go to schools,

00:13:50,990 --> 00:13:55,670

going to diversities or just in general trying to chat to those young people.

00:13:55,670 --> 00:14:01,310

Because that way, you know, you may get some of the best insight into, right, this is what they want.

00:14:01,370 --> 00:14:04,510

This is how we can best, you know, appeal to them. Right.

00:14:04,520 --> 00:14:11,929

So lots of food for thought there for candidates, but the message for young people is get involved, vote, make sure you register.

00:14:11,930 --> 00:14:17,270

So thank you. This is the first of our podcast recordings looking ahead to the West,

00:14:17,270 --> 00:14:24,080

Lancashire by election and we'll be looking a bit closer at party competition next time.