



House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**Sarah Champion**  
**Member of Parliament for Rotherham**

**Immediate Release**  
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## **Rotherham MP galvanises youth action with her summer school**

Sarah Champion MP put her passion for youth politics into practice last week, teaching young people the importance of politics for their future. Together with invited speakers, Sarah Champion taught the group the tools to change society.

BBC radio journalist Andy Kershaw visited with his radio car, demonstrating the media's role in holding power to account, whilst local council member Mahroof Hussain spoke on the responsibilities of Rotherham's councillors and Sarah Champion held a Q&A on a 'Day in the Life of an MP'.

Building on her work from the 'Votes at 16' campaign to expand our democracy, Sarah Champion's pioneering Summer School took on the challenge to engage young people in Rotherham on the issues important to them.

At the end of each day Sarah led the group into Rotherham town centre to help them champion their chosen causes and gather signatures for petitions on campaigns chosen by them. The rising cost of bus travel in Rotherham was a key issue for young people at the Summer School.

Sarah Champion MP commented:

***"Young people are too often ignored by politicians since they can't and then often don't vote. I find it really frustrating that the next generation is discounted in this way. Politics affects young people's lives deeply. Their education, their quality of life, their opportunities for the future; all are shaped by the political process."***

***"We need to give young people the tools to voice their concerns about the issues and causes they believe in. We need more young people to understand and engage with the political process. I hope initiatives like my Summer School will get young people involved and encourage them to connect with politicians."***

Ross Taylor 18, who joined the summer school said:

***"Politicians need to listen to young people. The Summer School showed me that Sarah is actually out in the constituency listening to people's concerns; other politicians should be out there too."***

Hannah Kong 18, Rotherham's Youth Parliament Member said:

***"The skills I've learnt are skills that we should learn in our schools. Sarah's Summer School has widened my knowledge of politics and shown me how to campaign locally and nationally on the issues I care about."***

ENDS

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Sarah Champion's Summer School ran from July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> for Rotherham based young people aged 16-24 years old with participants chosen from applications submitted in May and June earlier this year.

Transcripts of Sarah Champion's work in Parliament on 'Votes at 16' are available from the Parliamentary Hansard archive at  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140506/halltext/140506h0001.htm#1405064000181>

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