



NEWS RELEASE:

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Tom Brake goes back to school for a young Question Time

A team of 30 young people from Carshalton High School for Girls met with their MP Tom Brake today to tell him their vision of a sustainable future.

The team of sixth-form students, supported by youth charity Envision, has been working since September to create projects tackling the issues that are important to them. These included water poverty, domestic abuse, teenage runaways, breast cancer and homelessness in Haiti.

Each team chose different ways to make a difference.

- The **Haiti** Team designed posters and organised a fundraising day
- The **Domestic Abuse** Team wrote and produced a short film to raise awareness
- The **Water Poverty** Team delivered presentations at school to highlight the importance of water conservation and to emphasise the importance of supporting international charities.
- The **Breast Cancer** Team got in contact with Breast Cancer Research who gave them advice and resources to help them create a fun fundraising event.
- The **Teenage Runaway** Team also created a film that helped frame a survey of their peers which investigated the causes of runaways.

Today's visit gave them a chance to showcase their projects and practice their presentation skills. They also persuaded Tom to take part in a lively discussion covering issues such as lowering the voting age to 16, European citizenship and community activism.

Tom described his role in the local area and in Parliament, and finished by answering questions from the team about what it was like to be an MP. They also discussed pressing local issues including the successful St Helier Hospital Campaign, Building for Schools, the strengths of the local area and the involvement of young people in politics.

Speaking about his visit **Tom Brake said**, 'Envision has clearly created a lot of deep thinking amongst pupils on some really critical issues like domestic violence and international aid.'

Envision Coordinator Zoe Fishel, who has been supporting the team to put its ideas into action, said, "This was a great chance for the team to come face-to-face with their MP and tell him about the actions they have been taking as young people to make

Envision London: 3rd Floor, 63 Gee Street, London, EC1V 3RS

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Carshalton even better. They really enjoyed chatting to him and hearing about life as an MP.”

-Ends-

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Notes to Editors:

- Envision provides young people with the opportunity to make a difference. The charity was established in 2000 by four young people who wanted to challenge the stereotype that young people are apathetic and disengaged.
- Envision works with over 3000 young people a year in London, Birmingham and Leeds, helping them design their own local community projects tackling issues ranging from street crime to climate change. The experience builds confidence, aspirations and skills – inspiring the next generation of young community leaders.
- This year Envision has worked with over 60 schools in London, including Carshalton Boys Sports College and Carshalton Girls High School. Their projects have included running sports workshops with younger students, writing and performing a play about water conservation and making a documentary about teenage runaways.
- This year Envision is celebrating its 10th Anniversary and is marking the occasion with a special birthday event at the Emirates Stadium on Friday 16th July. All the young people who took part in this year’s Envision programme will receive an Award of Achievement in recognition of their dedication and commitment to making a positive difference. <http://envision.org.uk/envisionat10>

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