The state of citizenship education and the role that it plays in creating active citizens:

- In general in curriculum terms this is adequate but often gets side-lined in favour of other very important PSHE areas. Rarely is the curriculum time sufficient to allow citizenship education to be delivered fully or in a way that will inspire and animate young people. I am fortunate enough to work in a school in which there is curriculum time to explain the constitution, voting system, the different levels of democracies and to explore the rights and duties of British citizens. We have also arranged a mock election in conjunction with every UK general election since 2005, in which candidates address the whole school and are subjected to public Q and A hustings; turnout is now regularly 80% of the pupil body. We staged a Brexit debate, where staff and pupils debated together, and secured a 92% turnout in our referendum. We hosted a post-Brexit discussion forum by Cambridge University, in which pupils, staff, parents and local people shared their views as to the shape of post-Brexit Britain that they wanted. We even conducted a US presidential debate in 2016. During the 2017 UK general election the School had a visit from the CPA UK Election Assessment Mission which allowed pupils to discuss their views of the UK political system and the election process; the international delegations were impressed by the passion and level of engagement displayed by the pupils. There are typically twenty-plus school debates a year, which frequently explore issues directly related to citizenship. There is also a Politics Group, which invites local councillors and police and crime commissioners to speak and answer questions. More schools need to be encouraged to have this level of active engagement for pupils and there ought to be time and incentives to make it more central.

- The actual process of voting looks like it is out of the 1920s. It is time to explore a secure digital system of voting which might encourage more young people to vote. Social media was certainly a significant factor in the increased student turnout in 2017.

- In general, decent citizenship education is essential to social cohesion. It would be great to see more freedom to celebrate the values of freedom and political democracy, which are not solely British values, and to separate this from a Prevent strategy which serves quite a different purpose. Above all though the delivery of citizenship needs to be active and exciting. Only when young people get the chance for dialogue and debate amongst themselves and with different stakeholders and generations can citizenship education really succeed.

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