

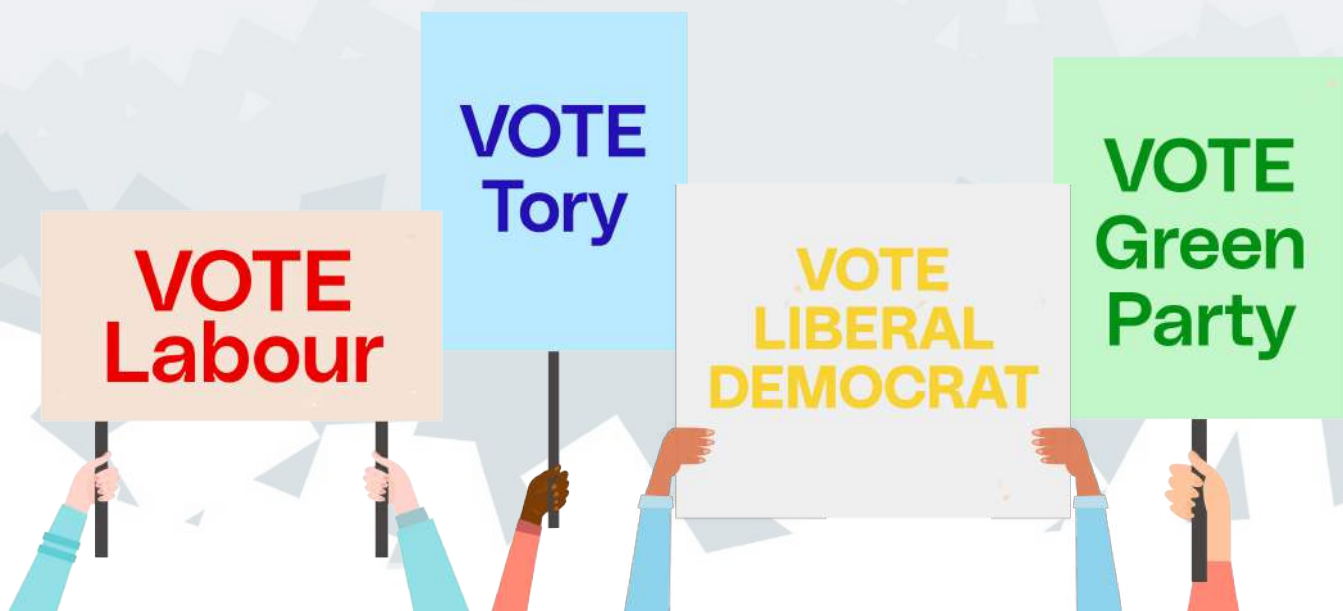


# Highlands School General Election

At Highlands we are of the view that if we are going to do something, we want to do it with rigour and as an example of excellence to other schools. Lots of schools hold mock general elections, but it usually involves a single vote in the hall to decide which party wins. We decided to replicate the real UK General Election (GE) as closely as possible. We wanted to do this so we could teach our students about our first-past-the-post electoral system, about party manifestos, about campaigning and about leader debates.



Each form group from year 7-10 acted as a constituency and students in that form group were invited to stand as candidates for one of the four parties that won at least one seat in the last UK GE: the Conservatives, Greens, Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Students in each party would be campaigning on the policies set out in the manifestos, students had to study them and be ready to defend them. We were unsure whether we would have enough students willing to stand but, in fact, over 250 students volunteered to take the 128 places available. You can see the full candidate list and results of each tutor group / constituency below. We would like to thank all of the students who volunteered.





The students standing for each party met in groups, studied the manifestos, decided their campaign arguments and produced leaflets and posters. Each party also chose leaders, one from years 7 and 8 and one from years 9 and 10. The leaders then prepared for the leader debates. You can see photos of the party leaders and some of the campaign posters.



# The Conservative Party leaders



The Conservative Party



**Vote Conservative!**

Isabel Antoniou, Louie Lynch  
and Christian Demetriou



## The Labour Party leaders



Parla Ghanipour and Micah  
Codrington



## The Liberal Democrats



Brij Mahtani and Abel Kalaj

# The Green Party



**THE GREEN PARTY**

*"FAIR IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR"*

**GROW THE TREES  
GROW THE ECONOMY**

**OUR MANIFESTO:**

- TAX THE WEALTHY
- NET-ZERO
- FREE EDUCATION
- BAN NO-FAULT EVICTIONS
- DOCTOR/TEACHER PAY RISE
- STAY IN NATO
- FREE PERSONAL HEALTH



Emily Newton and Elis Cristovao



## The leader debates

On Tuesday period 2 we held the year 7 and 8 leaders' debate. During period 3 we held the year 9 and 10 debate. The student leaders spent an hour in front of nearly 500 of their peers answering questions on education, health, defence, the environment and debating with each other on a range of other issues. The audience were supporting and enthusiastic, and the candidates had mastered their briefs impressively.

For the year 7 and 8 debate we had Isabel and Christian representing the Conservatives, Emily stepping in at the last minute to do a great job arguing for the Greens, Micah for Labour and Abel for the Liberal Democrats.

The year 7 and 8 audience was clearly quite pro-Labour to start with but Abel, in year 8, leader of the Liberal Democrats, was the breakout star from the debate. He turned the audience into one more sympathetic towards the Liberals. This was borne out in the results with the Lib Dems taking five of the eight available seats in year 8.

In years 9 and 10 the audience were split across the four parties. Louie gave a confident defence of the past 14 years of Conservative government, Elis argued for the Greens, Parla spoke for Labour and Brij spoke for the Liberal Democrats.



# The campaign

Once the leader debates were over the two day campaign started. Poster and leaflets were distributed across the school, candidates tried to persuade floating voters to support them, the Conservatives launched a balloon campaign and on Thursday morning, Abel, the leader of the Liberal Democrats was outside school on his soapbox with a loudspeaker trying to win some final votes.

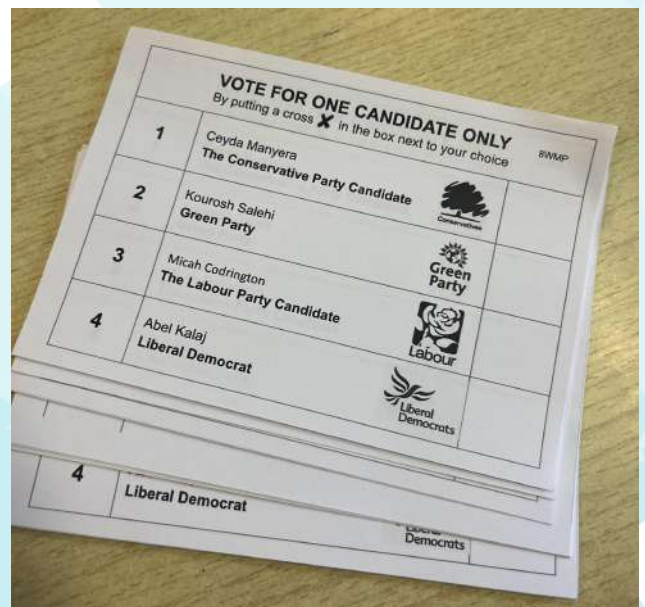




## The vote

Voting took place in form groups. Each form groups had a ballot box and ballot papers that closely resemble the ones we use in UK general elections. As results were announced the winning candidates were sent to the main hall to be sworn in as Members of Parliament, this was to replicate MPs going to Westminster to form a new government. As the students arrived it became more and more tense, would any party get to the magic number 17, so they could form a government? The answer was 'no'; Labour fell two seats short. The Liberal Democrats, powered by some great leadership from Abel and Brij had come second, the Tories third and the Greens with three seats came fourth.

	Votes	Seats
<b>The Conservative Party</b>	176	6
<b>The Green Party</b>	150	3
<b>The Labour Party</b>	324	15
<b>The Liberal Democrats</b>	225	8



VOTE

VOTE

VOTE

VOTE





## Coalition talks

With a hung parliament, tense coalition negotiations were ahead. It is convention that the largest party gets to try to form a government first; in this case, Labour. However, although Labour had the most seats, both of their leaders had failed to get elected from their tutor group constituencies so the Labour MPs quickly selected Daniel Boztas in year 9 to be their new leader.

The Labour Party entered into coalition talks with the other parties, starting with the Liberals, as the second largest party. Would this be the moment the incredible underdog Lib Dem campaign would come to fruition and see them enter government with Labour? Abel met Daniel. The Lib Dem leader, despite having half the number of seats Labour had, demanded to be made the prime minister. A bold gamble, would it work? It would not.

Labour could not agree to those terms. Next came the Tories, led by Louie Lynch. They could not find common ground with the Labour Party, so, finally, Labour and the Greens met. This time a deal was reached, with the Green Party being offered the post of Home Secretary in order to come into coalition with the Labour Party. Elliott Marinos skillfully negotiated for the Greens and he and Daniel shook hands, and a new government was formed. You can see the Labour and Green government below.



## Offices of state

Here is how they divided up the great offices of state:

Daniel Boztas	9ODC	The Labour Party	Prime Minister
Syerah Islam	7WSW	The Labour Party	Foreign Secretary
Aaron Awatar	9BYC	The Labour Party	Chancellor
Vishanne Beezadhur	9OSM	The Green Party	Home Secretary

Here are the elected members of parliament:

Name	Form	Party	Name	Form	Party
Natalia Balla	7BEF	The Liberal Democrats	Vishanne Beezadhur	9OSM	The Green Party
Jackson Barker	7BLR	The Conservative Party	Daniel Horea	9RNB	The Liberal Democrats
Sidar Bozdog	7ODM	The Labour Party	Louie Lynch	9RTC	The Conservative Party
Ernie Batista	7OJT	The Labour party	Lois Anosike	9WCM	The Labour Party
Sophia Andreaou	7RAS	The Labour Party	Tom O'Mahoney	9WJQ	The Green Party
Leon Spalevic	7RJG	The Labour Party	Carey Kirton	10BJC	The Labour Party
Nathan Oladeji	7WMT	The Green Party	Polina Zaiat	10BNI	The Labour Party
Syerah Islam	7WSW	The Labour Party	Yaqoob Sediq	10OAB	The Conservative Party
Isabel Antoniou	8BAM	The Conservative Party	Mashaal Khan	10OKK	The Labour Party
Christian Demetriou	8BJF	The Conservative Party	Leah Appiah-Gyebi	10RCB	The Liberal Democrats
Zach Owusu-Ansah	8OFD	The Liberal Democrats	Nick Agyeman-Duah	10RNC	The Labour Party
Ben Kissos Boast	8OSQ	The Liberal Democrats	Elisia Huetson-Varnarva	10WDD	The Conservative Party
Ez Rangel Patrizzi	8RBW	The Liberal Democrats	Naa-Shidaa Quartey	10WTH	The Labour Party
Austin Kavanagh	8RCX	The Labour Party			
Abel Kalaj	8WMP	The Liberal Democrats			
Nea Petritaj	8WNK	The Liberal Democrats			
Darlene Kisubi	9BLM	The Labour Party			
Aaron Awatar	9BYC	The Labour Party			
Daniel Boztas	9ODC	The Labour Party			



## Announcing the results

At 11am there was a live broadcast to the whole school during which the results were announced and all four party leaders were interviewed. We asked all four parties for a press release, reflecting on the campaign, you can see them below and on the following pages.

The Highlands General Election was a wonderful example of our school values in action, with enormous levels of student participation and friendly debate and competition, but always in the spirit of positivity. We want to thank all of the students who participated, particularly those who debated and took leadership roles and to the staff who supported, particularly Mr Islam who did much of the preparation work.

You can see our video reel of the general election on our social media channels and [here](#).

***We are very grateful for this amazing opportunity to form a coalition government and advocate for change after 14 years of Tory rule. Ourselves and the Green Party can change the country for the better with our new policies to stop austerity and inflation as well as improving living standards in the UK. thank you for all of your votes and putting your trust in the Labour Party. Here's to a great future.***

- Labour Party

***Thank you to the Labour Party for forming a coalition government with us, the Green Party. It has been a pleasure fighting for a government and we look forward to working with you in the future. We have arranged a place for our Home Secretary - Vishanne Beezadhur, who will be working alongside the PM, Chancellor and Home Secretary. Despite having very few members, we still managed to form a government with the Labour Party. Thank you to Daniel Boztas, our new Prime Minister, we hope he will lead us well. Thank you to the Conservatives and Lib Dems, we've enjoyed the battle. Thank you Labour for accepting our policies and giving us a chance to form a government with you.***

- Green Party



***We are extremely disappointed with the final outcome of the election.***

***Unfortunately, after having terms agreed with the Labour Party, they decided to choose a weaker, incomplete party to form a majority coalition. In the end, we are happy for both the Green Party and the Labour Party and wish them the best. Thank you for believing in us but in the end the worse parties prevailed.***

- The Tories

***After many days of debating and campaigning, the results are in. Labour and the Green Party have formed a coalition government. We feel sorry for the Green Party as they have fallen for Labour's manipulative tactics.***

***After many attempts, we tried to form a coalition government with Labour but they refused to do so. Our second plan was to make a triple coalition government alongside the Conservatives and the Green Party. However, yet again it didn't work out to our wishes.***

***Overall, it was a very highly enjoyable experience. Although we might not have 'shushed' the big two parties, we sure did give them a scare, assuring everyone that we do not mess around. Labour watch out!***

- The Liberal Democrats

