

Year 11 and Sixth Form Students Engage in Political Hustings Ahead of Senedd Elections

On Thursday 30th April, Chepstow School hosted a hugely successful political hustings, offering Year 11 and Sixth Form students a valuable opportunity to engage directly with political representatives ahead of the upcoming Senedd elections in the Sir Fynwy Torfaen constituency.

The event took place between 10am and 12pm and welcomed more than 100 students aged 16–18, many of whom are preparing to vote for the first time. The hustings provided an excellent platform for open, balanced discussions around key issues affecting young people and their futures. As a strictly non-partisan event, it was designed to promote informed debate, critical thinking and active participation in the democratic process.

Students heard a wide range of perspectives and were able to pose thoughtful and challenging questions to candidates, helping to build confidence, understanding and engagement ahead of their first experience at the ballot box.

The following candidates attended and engaged positively and respectfully with Chepstow School students:

1. Matthew Jones – Plaid Cymru
2. Ian Chandler – The Green Party
3. Brad Williams – Gwlad
4. Anthony Hunt – Welsh Labour
5. Steven Senior – Reform Party in Wales
6. Peter Fox – Conservative and Unionist Party
7. Kevin Wilkins – Welsh Liberal Democrats
8. Owen Lewis – Independent Candidate

Independent Candidate Welshpool was also represented (name withheld).

The event was led and coordinated by Associate Governors Toby Bennett and Evan Bruce and expertly moderated by the Chair of Governors, Keith Dunn OBE, who invested significant time and effort over several weeks to ensure the success of the hustings. Members of the Electoral Commission (Wales Office) attended alongside members of the school's Governing Body.

Kelly Waythe, Headteacher at Chepstow School, said:

“The hustings was an extremely valuable opportunity for our students to hear directly from those involved in shaping policy in Wales. We are proud to have hosted such a diverse range of political voices and to see our students engage in lively, respectful and informed debate.”

Keith Dunn OBE, Chair of Governors, said:

“At a time when young people can feel disconnected from politics, events like this are vital. Our students demonstrated maturity, curiosity and confidence throughout the hustings. It was encouraging to see candidates engage so positively with their questions, and we are grateful to all those who contributed to making this an outstanding educational experience.”



