

Coming up on FYI, do you think you're getting the education you deserve? We find out how young people feel. And I'm visiting this farm near Bath to find out how it's helping keep kids in school. And do enough of us have access to safe spaces out of school? I'm here to check out a new youth club designed by kids for kids.

This is FYI, your weekly news show covering all the issues that affect you. And for your info, this year, it's likely the country will be having a general election where everyone gets the chance to vote on who runs the country. Everyone except us. Yep, if you're under 18, you don't get to vote. But it doesn't mean you don't get to say. Over 360,000 of you took part in a survey called The Big Ambition. Children across England were asked what the Government in power after the election should do to improve our lives. And what you said is going to be taken to those people who are in charge of decisions that affect us. We headed to a special event to find out the results of the survey. Check it out. This is the Houses of Parliament.

It's where the Government makes decisions about how to run the country. But today, young people are taking over. For the Big Ambition survey, you were asked to comment on how you feel about everything, from school to health to feeling safe online. And what you said is going to be taken to the very top to the people who work here at parliament.

And these are the people who will be fighting your corner. Each of these brilliant young people has volunteered to represent England's children as part of the Children's commissioner's work to give young people a voice in the future direction of this country. Dame Rachel de Souza is the children's commissioner for England. And these are young ambassadors, and it's their job to make sure our opinions are heard.

This is a really special year. It's an election year, you know, too often because children don't vote. They think their voices are heard. And I wanted to make sure we knew exactly what they wanted. And it got put in front of the politicians. The survey's results also brought some key areas that you really care about and what you want the government to look at.

Lots of these issues are close to the heart of the young ambassadors. I'm really interested in children who are suffering from hidden struggles in their lives. So specifically hidden disabilities, both mental and physical, but also children with additional caring responsibilities. The topics that I'm very passionate about is educational inequality, where someone is born shouldn't have an impact on what they're able to do with their life.

As someone that does have special educational needs, I find it quite difficult to like, socialise and I find it quite difficult to find support in school. So I want all children with special educational needs to actually find that support. How exactly do you make sure that the government is listening to young people? It's my job to be

knocking on those doors and making sure that their views are heard.

So still looking at those important survey results. Next, move on to your thoughts on education. So, Scarlett, do you enjoy school? Yeah, I really enjoy school. I've really great teachers and I love being able to see all my friends. Yes, same. But do you guys think so, too? Well, it turns out that 60% of you agreed and said you enjoyed school, which is great.

But what about the other 40%? Well, you said that you want: help for children with attendance and behaviour problems. Each child needs an education and teachers that helps them achieve any dreams and goals they have. Your first ambition is that all children should have access to a brilliant education. Yeah. So like you said, behaviour and attendance is a massive issue.

In fact, Scarlett, did you know that one in five of us in England are regularly absent from school? Wow, That's a lot. Well, Maya's visited a unique place that's helping kids who are struggling at school to achieve their full potential.

This is Jamie's farm, a charity that's helping kids who face challenges at school, whether it's because of behaviour, low self-esteem, or they just need some time out to reset. They spend a week living on a working farm like this one. But it's no holiday. The group have to help run the place. I'm meeting some of the kids who are staying here.

I want to find out if mucking out animals and cooking meals can help improve their chances of getting a brilliant education. What would you say was the main reason you wanted to come here? I'd get five days away from school, and I didn't know that I'd have to do lots of work. I thought it would just feel like quick retreat, just chill.

I've never been to like, the English countryside properly before. First I thought, like, this might be like a little boring. Since I have ADHD, it's hard for me to focus. I start getting distracted, talking to my friends that's what usually ends me getting in trouble and getting sent out of the classroom. One important job is chopping wood for the boiler that provides all the hot water for the farm.

Doing the wood chopping has really helped me like focus on the task at hand and get better at concentrating on everything. But don't try this at home. Jobs like this are done with the support from the team who run the farm. What are some of the challenges that some of the kids coming here face? So I guess a lot of the kids are really struggling to engage in school.

We step in at a point where children might be heading down a negative route to see the changes from the start, the week where people arrive and they're saying, this is smelly. I don't want to be here. I don't want to go on long walks, I don't want to eat this food through to the end of the week where the kids have had a great week! And the impact on the pupils is massive.

Six months after their visit, 63% reported improved mental health. 64% of pupils previously at risk of being kicked out of school and no longer at risk of exclusion. Does you think going back to school, do you reckon it will have changed much? I think will get me to be a bit more confident and maybe I'll be able to speak up more in class because usually I just sit there kind of do nothing and only answer, like when the teacher asks me something.

So what would you say to people who had a chance to come here? I'll tell them like to do it, because I think doing that strengthens your confidence and bravery. Because when I first came here, I would never touched a cow, never touched a pig. And now I've been so close, so the animals and it's a really good experience.

Thanks, guys. We're looking at the results of a survey of thousands of children in England and finding out how you're feeling. Next up is crime and how safe feel when you're out. Yeah. So 72% of you said that you feel safe in your area, which is good. But what about the 28% who don't? You said me and countless people I know have been a victim of or have witnessed youth on youth violence.

All children should be able to live without violence. Your next ambition is we want you to feel safe and confident in public places. We know that knife crime is something that a lot of you guys have been worried about lately. Especially when the latest figures show that's been in the rise again. Last year in London alone, 18 teenagers lost their lives because of knife crime, although experts do say that the chances of being in an incident involving knives is still extremely low.

We wanted to hear what you guys thought the issue, so we paid a visit to the FYI News Club Southgate School. It's just a really hot topic and it's sort of inescapable because it is the reality. There was a day where police came to our school and they talked about knife crime. That really helped me and I feel safer.

I knew that everything was recognised. When I hear about it, it does make me feel upset because that's not what's supposed to happen in the world. We've had many assemblies about it, and sometimes I get worried that that may happen to me. I think knife crime is on the rise because I think people are scared as much as like anything else.

Like they're scared of it happening to them. So then they think that they should carry a knife, so then they feel safer. You're making yourself a part of the problem more. You're in more danger now because you're carrying a knife. I think knife crime has increased also because like people are influenced by their friends. it is about their friends, but it's also about where they are.

Because if you think if you're in like really rich, like neighborhoods where it's safe, you're not going to have a lot of knife crime. But if you're in a more broken down and a more like

rough society, you're going to be more worried. Those areas are dodgy because the politicians and police haven't put enough funds and effort into keeping these areas safe.

I think people should just like be kind and find other ways and violence because it would obviously make the UK a better place.

Thanks, guys. So what is the answer to helping young people feel safe? Well, research has shown that youth club closures means a bigger risk of young people getting caught up in crime. So, do you think there are enough fun and safe places for us to go in our free time? Well, it depends on where you live in the country. But overall, 72% of you said you had fun activities near where you live, which is pretty good.

Yeah, but what needs to be done to get the other 28% on the same page? You said there should be more activities for the youth to do, no matter their background to lower the amount of crime. Fund sports and activity for all children of all ages. Because it's not fair for the kids whose parents can't afford sports. Your next ambition is every child and teenager should have a good, quality free or cheap youth club.

Recently, Thomas went to the unveiling of a brand new youth club, which has actually been designed by young people and apparently a very important person is also attending. Hey, guys. Yes, I'm here in White City at the official opening of this very special youth club and the Prince of Wales is here to tour the building and unveil a plaque with some of the kids who designed this building.

I thought I might join in. Named West. Standing for where everyone sticks together. This building was designed by local young people, and I got a chance to catch up with them after His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. So what was your involvement in designing the you said? It's sort of quite. Smallwood Designing the exterior, all the colors.

We were looking at different designs from around the country, so we were trying to find the best parts for each of them and put them all together to create this perfect space. Before I joined after school, I would be really bored and just spend time on my phone and stuff. So like coming here would be much better for like my mental health.

It's very easy to feel separated. I'm personally homeschooled as well, so it can be a bit harder for me to find spaces to go and meet other young people. And this is honestly a dream. I could have never imagined this. But what did the other local people have to say? What's it like coming to West? Is it what you expected?

I thought it would just be a massive room with chairs and not actually being able to do anything. I really like the rock climbing and the gym and the dance studio. I like playing sports, like basketball or football. I'm really excited for this place just because my friends here. So what have you been doing today? So today

we've been making cupcakes with our wonderful head chef, Mia.

If people want to come in and bake, can they do that every day? Absolutely. Yeah. We're open seven days a week at West, and the training kitchen is always open for young people. White City has in the past been considered as an underprivileged area with a high crime rate. Places like these give young people a safe space to play in and gives them the chance to do things they haven't tried before.

Why do you think it's so important for places like this to be built? Because some kids are involved in crime and stuff, which is really bad. Coming to the youth centre can help change that. It seems clear that places like this are allowing kids to be themselves and to give the opportunity to take part in activities they otherwise might not be able to do.

Thanks, Thomas. And now that place looked great and so good that young people actually got a say on how it was designed. Definitely. And we know from the survey that you want to have your voices listened to, but only 22% of you feel listened to by the people who run the country, whereas 78% of you don't. It was the most negatively answered question in the survey.

You said you want the adults to involve children in making policies that affect them. Children should be able to change the world too. Your next ambition is we want our views on important issues to be reflected in decision that affect our futures. We know that one of the big issues you really care about is the environment, and a lot of you are taking matters into your own hands.

Yeah, like these guys Waimi, Mbetmi and Yimi. They've been litter picking for the past five years every week! They've even won a British Citizen Youth Award for their work. So why did you guys start litter picking? And what effect does litter have on the environment? When we were six, we learned about the three R's in school, which obviously you guys already know.

Reduce, reuse and recycle. We went home to our mum and we asked her what we could do about it, so we stopped litter picking. If we don't reduce plastic pollution, it can end up in our landfills and destroy our nature. But you guys do way more than litter picking now, don't you? Yes. So actually, we go to our local church and collect soft plastics like crisp packages and biscuit packages.

And we've also planted 12 trees and we hope to do more. I completely agree with you. You know, it's about getting everyone to be really passionate about this, which you guys are definitely doing, is amazing. A lot of our viewers also really care about the environment. So have you guys got any top tips on what we can all do to help?

Really simple things, actually. We can tell our parents to turn off the heating and while jumper and we can nurses public transport cycle or walk to a destination whenever possible you could also take

shown a period of time when you are taking a shower instead of a bath and tell off the couple you're brushing your teeth and having a voice about saving the environment.

We need all adults to listen because it's our planet and there's no planet B. It's crucial that we all do our bit. I'm definitely going to be using some of these tips. Thank you so much for coming on the show. Thank you. Well, that's almost it from us, but over the next few months we'll be keeping you updated with any developments on this story, because here on FYI, you get your say.

But before we go, we want to show you a clip of our special episode next week and something that a lot of us do. We're investigating gaming. The UK is the largest video game market in Europe, and the latest stats tell us 89% of young people play computer games in some form or another. What sort of games are you playing?

I like playing Zelda games like I'm dressed up as Link from Zelda. There is nothing the games can't do now. They help you with problem solving, team building, they are where people hang out with friends. Could these games be having an impact on our health? I play about 5 hours a day. Well, some days I play for like 10 hours if it's like a Sunday or something.

This investigate is taking a look at gaming addiction. Do we game too much? Check it out next week here on FYI. Bye.