

## Money, business, politics.

**On 11th May, 200 young Londoners will learn the three most important things they don't teach at school: how to manage their money, how to increase the chances of their employment and how actively participate in democracy.**

This fortnight the UK lurched back into recession; local election turnout dipped to 22.5% and personal debt topped £1.457 trillion.

Counter striking from the classroom, a trio of pioneering social enterprises who focus young minds on personal finance, careers, enterprise and politics.

Education experts from Bite the Ballot, MyBnk and the Enterprise Lab are joining forces at a Croydon Secondary school to lead a day of workshops, debates and games and arm scores of Year 10 pupils with practical real life skills.

Young people are now spending less classroom time on subjects like business and politics, according to new Department for Education figures.

Shirley Park teacher, Laura Mackenzie, is in no doubt of the need: *"We seem to teach young people how to pass exams but a lot seems to get left out. There are some really bright individuals but on matters of financial education etc, the knowledge they have is scarce."*

Helping 13-15-year-olds break the debt cycle are leading financial education specialists MyBnk, who are bringing the award winning Money Twist programme, covering Payslips, Tax, National Insurance, Government Spending, and Minimum wage.

*"If we want sustainability, we need to educate our way back to growth and give young people a stake in society, through enterprise, through politics and better understanding our money."*

**MyBnk CEO Lily Lapenna.**

Shaking up the perception of politics are Bite the Ballot, an innovative campaign created by, and for, young people to inform about the power of vote and benefits behind it. Their programme will spark a creative engagement in politics and show not only how easy it is to vote, but, most importantly, why should we vote and how politics affects every aspect of our life.

Peter Lesniak, Director of Communications at Bite the Ballot highlighted the importance of political education saying "if current system does not educate young people about the most important skills they need in life, including politics, how can we expect them to be ready to make conscious, responsible and extremely important, political and financial decisions further in life?"

Boosting business and enterprise is the Enterprise Lab, pioneering agency developing skills necessary for young people to become more employable or start their own business. The workshop will concentrate on perceptions, careers and employability and will look at how young people are perceived online, their chances of being employed and how to use social media to boost employability.

Ketan Makawana, Director at Enterprise Lab added "in today's environment of opportunity it is essential for young people to understand, appreciate and facilitate engagement through all sorts of

available streams and develop essential skills needed for future employment, including self-leadership and political and financial knowledge”.

This innovative and creative trio might just be what is needed in the current climate of political and economic pressure.

To find out more, please visit [mybnk.org/programmes](http://mybnk.org/programmes) or call 0207 377 8770