

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

## HAVE YOUR SAY!

By Lucy Sawyer and Nazrene Hanif, Bulletin Board Co-ordinators

Recently we launched the Bulletin Board, live now on [www.younglavin.org.uk](http://www.younglavin.org.uk). We feel that often young people are not listened to and our views are ignored so we decided that it is time that we have our say.

The Bulletin Board gives you the chance to air your views and express your opinions on topics that are of relevance and interest to young people. Every week we come up with two new topics that are added and we want you to join the debates by adding your thoughts and opinions online. By doing this you will be informing us, as an editorial group, of certain things that need to be raised and covered in this magazine in the future. We also intend to give feedback to adults on what you think, so we will be collecting all of your comments and including some of them weekly in a local newspaper.

Here are examples of recent Bulletin Board debates:

Do you think it's right that under-16s can get the morning after pill without their parents consent?

**Alice:** I think that it is right because otherwise under 16s wouldn't use contraception and there would be more unwanted pregnancies in young teenagers because they would be too scared to ask their parents for access to contraception.

**Jo:** Yes I think it is right because they have the right to make their own decisions and it may

Do you think banning caps and hoodies is right or just discriminative?

**Lewis:** I think that hoods should be allowed because I don't see why they are bad in the first place. It is just stereotyping and the police should be aware of this.

**Nazrene:** I don't think it's right to ban hoodies and caps, as I don't believe in changing the way people want to express themselves. However I can understand that this ban could help in shopping centres, as it allows people to be identified easily on CCTV.

Do you feel that teenagers are under too much pressure to do well in exams?

**Morgan:** I don't think that it's pressure from teachers and friends but pressure from yourself, worrying about your future or trying to be perfect which is never realistic.

**Stacey:** Yes! I think teenagers are put under a lot of pressure; however it's for your own good. You need to be put under pressure in order to do well.

Would you be willing to pay more for a healthier school dinner?

**Eman:** No, although healthier school dinners are the correct option children should not be required to pay more for a healthier option.

**Stacey:** Yes! Lots of young girls go on diets and want healthy food. I like salad.

**Tom:** I would be willing to pay more for healthier meals, however the government should subsidise school dinners to make them healthier without the higher prices

So why don't you join the debate?

Go to [www.younglavin.org.uk](http://www.younglavin.org.uk) and click on Bulletin Board on the menu.

Got an idea for a topic? Email [kewilsdon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kewilsdon@yahoo.co.uk)