**Writing to your local Member of Parliament**

**Why write to your MP?**

* Members of Parliament are usually very keen to know about school initiatives taking place in their constituency and will often help to publicise your work both within Parliament and in the constituency.
* It’s a great opportunity for a class activity that will help your pupils/student to become aware of their local policy and law-makers.
* They may send a message of support to your class, helping to boost their self-esteem
* Legal education in the UK needs more advocates in government! The more we can shout about it, the better.

**How to write to your MP**

Below is a template letter that you can use to let your MP know about your school’s involvement in The Big Legal Lesson.

* We suggest that you send this on school letter-headed paper, as an email attachment. Most MPs’ email addresses are in the format: firstname.surname.mp@parliament.uk
* If you don’t know the name of the Member of Parliament, you can find it by typing in the school’s postcode at <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/>
* We would love to know if your MP responds! Please let us know by email: oliver.walkden@youngcitizens.org

***See the next page for the template. Good luck!***

**[School letter-headed paper]**

[Name of Member of Parliament]
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

XX March 2024

Dear [Name of Member of Parliament],

I am writing to let you know that pupils at **[insert your school name]** will be joining tens of thousands of young people from schools across England and Wales to benefit from [**‘The Big Legal Lesson’**](https://www.youngcitizens.org/news/is-your-school-joining-the-big-legal-lesson) from 11th – 22nd March 2024.

Nearly 2/3 of us do not know our basic legal rights (Law for Life), and just 13% of A-Level students have received a lesson on the law (Young Citizens). The Big Legal Lesson aims to change this by enabling all teachers in England and Wales to start a conversation about the law in their classrooms.

Using free, age-appropriate resources provided by the education charity Young Citizens, we have been exploring what the law is, who has the power to make or change laws, and how pupils can make their voices heard by those in power.

200,000 young people have taken part since 2020, making The Big Legal Lesson the largest public legal education campaign of its kind.

As our local MP/councillor, please can you help us spread the importance of all young people learning about the law by promoting our involvement in The Big Legal Lesson. We’d really appreciate it if you could:

* Send a message of support to our pupils about the importance of learning about justice and the rule of law
* Amplify our involvement through your social media, using the hashtag **#TheBigLegalLesson** and including the school’s Twitter account [insert your school Twitter account if you have one] as well as **@YoungCitizensUK**
* Raise the importance of education about the rule of law within Government by promoting **The Big Legal Lesson** with your colleagues.

Please visit the Young Citizens website or contact Oliver Walkden (Communications Manager) if you would like to know more: oliver.walkden@youngcitizens.org

Thank you in advance for your support for this important initiative.

Yours sincerely,

**[Representative of school]**