



Student Direct:

Mancunions

www.student-direct.co.uk



Your complete guide to the general election
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Inside Mancunions

Oxford Road accident

A 19-year-old male has been left with a broken jaw after he was hit by a bus outside the Students' Union last week. The student was hit by the 42 bus as he stepped out into traffic. It is suspected he was caught by the bus' wing mirror.

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On the double

High-earning graduates could face higher interest rates and longer repayment periods on their student loans, if advice from a leading think tank is followed. The suggestions come from the Institute for Fiscal Studies and could see graduates paying almost £12,000 in interest on a typical loan of £26,000.

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A new wave of legal highs

With Mephedrone upgraded to class B, legal highs NRG-1 and MDAI could be set to take its place. "When restrictions are placed on the supply of drugs and demand remains high, you get substance displacement," said Danny Kushlick of Transform, a UK think tank opposed to drug prohibition.

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Photo: Joe Sheffer

Protest escalates after Israeli Deputy Ambassador lecture **Page 3**

'Vote with your heart and make the difference' - Nick Clegg

Girish Gupta
News Editor

Months of campaigning by hundreds of parliamentary candidates and hopeful councillors are coming to an end this week as the country heads to the ballot box on Thursday.

Student Direct: Mancunions approached the three main party leaders for comments on what their parties have to offer student voters. Of the three - thanks primarily to the televised leaders'

debates - the Liberal Democrats have surged in the polls from a firm third place to now vying with the Conservatives for the popular vote pushing Labour into third position.

"We're just going to keep getting out there, telling people across Britain about the change only the Liberal Democrats can now deliver," Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg told *Student Direct: Mancunions*.

"We're in an election that is wide open, and knowing that, knowing that people really are now beginning to imagine things can be

different, is what is pushing us to fight as hard as we can, for every single vote, every single day."

The Lib Dem manifesto, uniquely for the three main parties, promises to scrap tuition fees. Over the months since this policy was made public, there has been much talk of it being financially unfeasible, however, Clegg countered: "We're going to pay for it out of spending cuts in other areas, and we've spelt those out in the back of our manifesto."

"Those savings include scrapping ID cards, biometric passports, and scaling back tax credits for families

on higher incomes."

The Lib Dem leader continued: "For me, this is about a simple principle: it just isn't right for us to be saddling the next generation with such a huge debt burden."

He did admit that economic problems meant that tuition fees would not disappear overnight. "We are going to have to phase them out over six years. But - and this is crucial - we can start

immediately, beginning with fees for students going into their final year.

"That way, under a Liberal Democrat government anyone at university in the autumn will see their debt cut by at least £3,000."

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