



## **Ken Livingstone quizzed by College Politics students**

Labour's London mayoral candidate Ken Livingstone visited Havering Sixth Form College for a question and answer session with students studying A Level Government and Politics.

Mr Livingstone was asked about the summer riots, travel costs and University fees during the lively discussion in the College's lecture theatre, which was attended by around 120 students.

The visit was part of an all-day trip to Havering by Ken, his deputy running mate Val Shawcross and Mandy Richards, the GLA Candidate for Havering and Redbridge. It was organised as he prepares to fight Boris Johnson for the role of London Mayor in the elections next May. Havering was the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the 32 'Tell Ken' visits he is paying to every London borough this year.

Government and Politics teacher Tom Porter said that students were particularly impressed with Ken's commitment to bringing down travel costs. He pledged to cut public transport fares by five per cent by October 2012, freeze them throughout 2013 and after that, sanction a rise only in line with inflation.

Tom said: "It was an excellent experience for the students – a great event which really showcased both the enthusiasm and interest of the politics students here at College."

Following the question and answer session with students, Ken discussed issues, including post-16 education, results, success and retention rates with College Principal Paul Wakeling, Chair of Governors, Cllr Keith Darvill and Assistant Principal John Davis.

He said his time at the College had been "brilliant", adding that the students had been articulate and had asked some very astute questions.

Paul Wakeling said: "Havering Sixth Form College has 200 students doing A Level Politics. It is one of our most successful courses with 59% getting A\* to B grades and high progression to good universities.

"As part of their political education the students meet politicians, listen to their views and put questions to them. Ken laid out his vision for being Mayor of London and then the students put him through his paces asking questions including how would he address unemployment, prevent the riots and make London competitive.

"They were also very keen to push him on what he would do for Havering. It was great to see the students debate so intelligently with one of the big hitters of modern politics."