

## Case Study:

# How One Teenager Helped Change Government Policy



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In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools, many families struggled to afford food. Usually, children who qualified for free school meals would get lunch at school. But when schools shut, the government decided not to provide these meals during the summer holidays.

Sixteen-year-old Christina Adane, from London, thought this was unfair. She started an online petition asking the government to keep giving free school meal vouchers to children during the summer. Her petition gathered thousands of signatures quickly.

Her campaign caught the attention of Marcus Rashford, a professional footballer who had also received free school meals when he was younger. He used his fame to speak up for the cause, sharing Christina's petition and writing an open letter to the government.

In June 2020, the government announced it would provide free school meal vouchers during the summer holidays, helping over 1.3 million children. Christina showed that even as a teenager, she could have a real impact on national decisions.

## Reflection Questions

**Why do you think Christina's petition was so successful?**

**How did Marcus Rashford help to make Christina's voice heard?**

**What's one issue you care about that you could speak up about in your community?**