

**Overview:**

Studying politics now is probably more exciting than it has ever been. The political world today is changing at a lightning speed, with extremist views dominating on a global scale. Arguably, its leaders haven't been so polarising in the eyes of the world for nearly a century. The first part of the course looks at UK Politics with a focus on core political ideas and systems, voting behaviour, and core political ideas such as liberalism and socialism. The second part of the course focusses on the UK Government. Widespread constitutional reforms have changed the political map. The leaving of the European Union and establishment of devolved Parliaments means that power is shifting within the United Kingdom. In the theory section of this course, you will study the development and the ever increasing importance of the feminist movement. #timesup and #metoo have become synonymous with postmodern politics and we will look at this development over time. The third area of study is Global Politics, including the politics of the United States which is another area that dominates our news and helps you to broaden your understanding of current issues. This aspect of the course allows comparisons and a greater understanding of global issues. Political theory and this is vital because without theory we would not know what to investigate.

**Expectations:**

Students will be expected to purchase core texts that will cover their A Level study but additional reading and research is also expected. Moreover, and so as to better consolidate classroom learning, students will be expected to add to class notes, building on arguments and developing more in depth knowledge of key political events. Students can expect to engage in lively whole class discussions and should be prepared to have their view challenged as well as challenging the viewpoints of others. Daily reading of national and international news is essential as well as listening to Radio 4 politics shows and watching the Daily Politics show on the BBC.

**Extra-Curricular Activities/Independent Learning Opportunities:**

A trip to the Houses of Parliament, opportunities to listen to speakers both inside and outside of school, student conferences.

**Career Pathways:**

An A level in Politics prepares students for many forms of employment as well as further study. You will gain many analytical and practical skills including the ability to conduct research, oral and written communication, and IT, all of which are invaluable in today's employment market. Such skills are crucial in Journalism and the Media, Business and Human Resources. Many careers demand the ability to express an opinion and to support an argument as well as to be able to communicate succinctly. Many universities' see Politics A Level as a pre-requisite to study Law, over Law A Level as it covers so many relevant aspects.

**Good combinations of other subjects to study with History:**

History, Sociology, English