

Curriculum Purpose Statement- Politics

The main objective of the Politics 'department' is to equip students with both an understanding of the ever-evolving world of politics, and to foster a genuine interest and passion in how government works, how it is influenced, and in the power we each have to generate change. This is accomplished via an understanding of the mechanics of governance, and a comprehensive understanding of the forces at work in a pluralist democracy, as well as a study of the main political theories and ideologies that underpin much of the above, and that question the motives, fairness and even the existence of liberal democracy in its current form.

By the end of KS5, students will:

- Understand the apparatus of the UK state, parliament, government, devolved institutions and the judiciary, with a focus on the restrictions and powers of each, and the complicated web of influences upon them all individually and collectively.
- Be aware of the forces at work in elections and upon public opinion, on the theory of democracy and upon society as a whole. They will understand who is trying to influence who and how successful this can be, and the changing currents in society that confound or inform these attempts.
- Have an understanding of the main ideologies that we find in UK politics- liberalism, conservatism and socialism- and of one other ideology chosen by the group, but usually feminism or nationalism- and how it relates to the realities and policies that we see enacted by governments and others.
- Have a similar, but necessarily narrower, understanding of the politics of the USA, and be able to use comparative theories to illustrate and elucidate the differences between the two.
- Be aware of current events and confident in explaining complicated events and processes to peers and other adults and, through their essay work, able to evaluate situations and present their own interpretation in a convincing and thoughtful manner.
- Come to see the value in the study of politics and what it means for one's understanding of one's place in the world and in society, and be motivated to pursue that value via university studies, or even by engaging in political activity of their own.