

## The Course

- In the lower sixth you will study how democracy works in the UK - what do the different political parties stand for? How do elections work? How powerful is the Prime Minister? What does Parliament do? How important is the Supreme Court?
- In the Upper Sixth you study the American political system - what is the Constitution? How do presidential elections work? Why does the US government sometimes shut down? Are there any real limits on the power of the president?

## Why study Politics?

- If you want to know why the world is like it is then you should study Politics: for example why did the UK leave the European Union? Will Scotland leave the UK? Why will 16 year olds soon have the vote? Politics explains how the decisions that affect your lives get made. It also explains how the political system works (or doesn't!). For example, how democratic is our political system? Why did Labour get 63% of the seats in Parliament after winning just 34% of the vote in the 2024 election? Why do the Liberal Democrats have 72 MPs and Reform UK just 5, despite Reform getting more votes in the election?
- Much of the Politics course involves simply knowing a bit about the world—it is the only subject where homework could legitimately consist of 'watch the news' or 'read a newspaper'!
- In today's competitive market place for university places and jobs the candidate who stands out is the one who doesn't just know about the subjects they have studied but who has a wider knowledge of the world - Politics can help develop this.
- The course is enlivened by talks from local MPs, a visit to Parliament, a big student conference in London with talks for leading Politicians (in the past we have heard figures such as John Bercow, Nigel Farage, Jeremy Corbyn and Jacob Rees-Mogg. There is also the opportunity to take part in the Model United Nations, contribute to Marginal Gains, the student politics magazine, and go on a trip to Washington.

## What can I do with a qualification in this subject?

- The study of Politics combines naturally with subjects like History and Economics and Geography and should appeal to students interested in activities such as Debating.
- It develops skills which are useful in the workplace – someone with Politics A Level is literate, informed about the world, able to analyse information and argue a case based upon the evidence.
- It develops knowledge and understanding of how the world works – someone with a Politics A Level will have opinions on the important issues of the day which can help you stand out in an interview.
- These skills and knowledge provide a useful foundation for courses like PPE at university and for careers such as law, journalism, media, the civil service, government and business.

## What do I need to study Politics?

A minimum Grade 6 in GCSE English is required and a Grade 7 is strongly recommended.

