Politics

You will study the workings of government and political culture in the United Kingdom and the United States. You will also study political ideologies such as the course is particularly interesting as you have to study the current events, issues, controversies and scandals of contemporary politics in conjunction with political theory and historical developments. Every day in Downing Street and the White House, Parliament and Congress, Fleet Street and Wall Street will raise important issues for debate.

The course will appeal to you if you:

- ♦ Enjoy debating current affairs and have an interest in politics generally.
- ♦ Have a desire to participate as an informed citizen in our democracy.
- ♦ Like doing a subject which affects your everyday life.
- ♦ Are interested in political theories and ideas.
- ♦ Want to combine the subject with other social sciences and humanities subjects

You do not need to have studied Politics at GCSE in order to take this course. It is more important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in current affairs, and a desire to explore new ideas.

Course Structure & Content

Unit 1: The Government and Politics of the UK
• The nature and sources of the British Constitution • The structure and role of Parliament • The Prime Minister and Cabinet • The judiciary • Devolution • Democracy and participation • Elections and referendums • Political parties • Pressure groups • The European Union

Unit 2: Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics
The legislative branch of government: Congress
The executive branch of government: President
The judicial branch of government: The electoral process and direct democracy • Political parties • Pressure groups • Civil rights

Comparative politics
Students will use the above theoretical approaches to analyse key similarities and differences between the USA and UK and evaluate the extent to which they explain these similarities and differences.

Unit 3:
Political ideas Core ideologies • Liberalism • Conservatism • Socialism
Other Ideologies • Nationalism • Feminism • Multiculturalism • Ecologism • Anarchism

Entry Requirements
Students need grade 6 in English Language, English Literature or a Humanities subject.

Progression
Politics can be useful for a whole range of career routes. Often students use it as a route into Politics, Law or Journalism amongst others.