

A LEVEL

Government and Politics

**HOW DO WE PERFORM?** In both A2 and AS Government and Politics 2015 we had a 100% pass rate and the highest results for this subject in the borough. The department has excellent exam results and several students had full marks on their scripts. Many of our students go on to study single honours in Politics but also a wide range of related courses such as PPE (Politics, Philosophy & Economics), International Relations, Law, Journalism and joint honours, with subjects such as History.

**WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?** Politics is an exciting and ever-changing subject that is relevant to everyone. It can help you to play a more active role as a citizen, to question some of the things that governments do, and to begin to envisage what the world should look like. We look at these aspects through studies of UK and American politics. You will develop research and communication skills through handling complex political questions, and an up-to-date knowledge of current affairs. There is a lot of scope to sharpen debating skills and persuasive writing through analytical essays. There is an active student-led debating society and a programme of visiting speakers, lobbyists, activists, MPs and academics. The department organises annual study trips to The Houses of Parliament and The Greater London Assembly, as well as one off talks relevant to the political moment. We even run political breakfasts……

**WHAT DOES THE COURSE COVER?**

The course is 100% examined.

AS LEVEL UNIT 1: People and Politics. UNIT 2: Governing the UK. This course focuses on politics in the United Kingdom. It examines the role of the Prime Minister, Cabinet, Houses of Parliament, electoral processes, and the judiciary. More broadly, the political culture of the nation will be discussed: the media, public opinion, the party system, and the nature of the British political élite. In addition, the course examines the role that citizens play in politics, and the influence of pressure groups.

A2 LEVEL UNIT 3: Representative processes in the USA. UNIT 4: Governing the USA. This course focuses on politics in the USA. We study the role of the President, Senate, House of Representatives and Supreme Court, and the relationship between Washington and the states that make up the Union. The course examines the different role of political parties in the US, and the power exercised by pressure groups. The issue of race and ethnicity is also studied, an issue that has defined the history of the USA, and continues to shape politics today.

**WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?**

To find out more have a look on our weebly under Government and Politics on The Thomas Tallis subject sections of the website. Feel free to e-mail Fiona Lumsden (The Head of Year 13) the course leader on flumsden@thomastallis.org.uk with any queries or questions.