



OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

A-level Politics



In Washington DC on the Politics, Economics and RS trip to New York and Washington DC October 2018

Why study Politics?

The Politics department was established in 2000. It is always a popular subject with a very high proportion of the students going on to study Politics at university. The aim of this booklet is to introduce you to the subject, provide an outline of the course and ensure that, if you opt for it, you will be aware of what you will be expecting in Years 12 and 13.

Mr Mike Gallacher, Head of Politics and Mr Rob Packard

For those students interested in current affairs and changing international relations, Politics is a fascinating course to study. It deals with a range of topical subjects from pressure groups to political parties and from US Politics to political ideologies. As a subject it goes particularly well with studying Economics, History, Geography, Religious Studies and Psychology, though students tend to study it with almost every conceivable combination of subjects in the Sixth Form.

Recent Politics students have gone on to study Politics at university but also to study International Relations, Economics, Sociology, Law, Art Foundation, Philosophy and Development Studies. A good knowledge and understanding of political concepts and recent events is highly regarded by both the Professions and the Universities and therefore the study of Politics will be extremely useful. It does also give students an awareness of Politics that will be important as they become eligible to vote.



**At the Pentagon in Washington DC on the Politics, Economics and RS
visit to New York and Washington DC October 2018**

What general skills will I learn on the course?

The general skills you will learn from the course include:

- The ability to construct a logical argument.
- The ability to communicate both orally and in writing in a fluent and coherent manner.
- The ability to apply evidence from current political events in the support of theoretical interpretation.
- The capacity for sustained, relevant analysis in written answers.

What kind of student does this course suit?

This course will be of interest to you if:

- You enjoy debating politics and current affairs in general.
- You have an interest in the world around you.
- You enjoy reading quality newspapers or watching the news.
- You like doing a subject that affects your everyday life.
- You like doing a subject that offers the opportunity to progress to a career in politics or a related area.
- You want the chance to study a new subject. Politics gives you that opportunity, though you should be clear what you are undertaking.



At the United Nations in New York on the Politics, Economics and RS trip to New York and Washington DC October 2018

What is studied?

In Years 12 and 13, the students will study the following:

- Government of the UK to include: the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Parliament, the UK Supreme Court and the UK constitution
- Political participation in the UK to include: democracy and participation, elections and voting and political parties
- Political ideas to include: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and one other, from your choice of Multiculturalism, Feminism, Nationalism, Ecologism or Anarchism
- Comparative government and politics of the USA to include: the US constitution, Congress, the President, the Supreme Court, Democracy and participation and civil rights



Visiting the White House on the US trip in Washington DC on the Politics, RS and Economics trip to New York and Washington DC October 2018

Resources

There are many sources of information available to you during the course. This includes textbooks:

Textbooks

- UK Government and Politics for AS/A-Level
- Political Ideas
- US Government and Politics
- Edexcel AS/A-Level Politics

The Library is very well-stocked with up-to-date British and US books. Students can also subscribe to four current editions of this excellent A-Level Politics journal for a price of about £15 per year.

Students are encouraged to subscribe to the Washington Post, which is useful for American Politics.

There is a huge amount of material on the internet and the following websites may be useful:

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| www.Parliament.uk | www.news.bbc.co.uk |
| www.number-10.gov.uk | www.realclearpolitics.com |
| www.labour.org.uk | www.270towin.com |
| www.conservative-party.org.uk | www.democrats.org |
| www.libdems.org.uk | www.gop.com |

Students are encouraged to read a quality newspaper daily as a hard copy or online from a list of The Times, The Telegraph, The Independent, The Guardian and The Financial Times. On a Sunday, The Sunday Times, The Observer and The Independent on Sunday are most relevant. There are many quality television and radio programmes that are worthwhile. These include, subject to change:

Television:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| The Andrew Marr Show | BBC 9am Sunday |
| Panorama | BBC |
| Dispatches | Channel 4 |
| Question Time | BBC 1 10.45 Thursday |
| Newsnight | BBC2 10.30 weeknights |
| Channel 4 News | Channel 4 7pm |
| Have I Got News for You | BBC 1 9pm Friday |
| The Parliament Channel | Sky |
| CNN | Sky |

Radio

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Today Programme | BBC Radio 4 weekday mornings |
| Any Questions | BBC Radio 4 Friday 8pm/Saturday 1pm |

Planned Politics visits abroad for 2022 onwards

**Economics, Psychology and Politics trip to New York and Washington DC:
October 2022 to be confirmed.**

This trip is for current Years 11 and 12 and is now full and includes planned Politics visits to:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| United Nations | (New York) |
| 9/11 Memorial | (New York) |
| White House | (Washington DC) |
| Capitol Building | (Washington DC) |
| (House of Representatives and the Senate) | |
| US Supreme Court | (Washington DC) |
| Pentagon | (Washington DC) |
| Holocaust Museum | (Washington DC) |

This will also include planned Economics and Psychology related-visits to, Meet the Finance Professional, the World Bank, Hershey's Chocolate World, a lecture on terrorism, a Psychology lecture and Arlington Cemetery. We also plan to see a Broadway show, a boat cruise round Manhattan and have time for sightseeing and shopping.



**At the White House in Washington DC on the Politics, Economics and RS
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**Economics, Psychology and Politics trip to Prague:
October 2023 To be confirmed:**

This trip is for current Years 8, 9, 10 and 11. It is desirable, but not essential that the students are or are planning to study Politics, Psychology and/or Economics This trip should include Politics-related visits to the following:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Czech Parliament | (Prague) |
| Museum of Communism | (Prague) |
| Cold War Museum | (Prague) |

This will also include planned Economics and Psychology visits to the Skoda car plant, and Economics lecture, Czech invest, a glass factory, a 5 star hotel, Terezin concentration camp and the Lidice memorial. We also plan to have a river cruise and dinner, a mystery activity, a day trip to Karlovy Vary and attend an ice hockey game.

Politics in School

Students regularly participate in Mock Elections on Open Evening (which has become a high-profile feature of the night). They have also organised a superb student-led and run conference on Women in Politics which included three prominent politicians. This year they are organising a US foreign policy conference featuring many leading academics. Students have entered essay competitions organised by the UK Supreme Court after a highly enjoyable visit to the UK Supreme Court and visit to the House of Commons.



**Year 12 and 13 Politics students on a trip to the House of Commons
and the UK Supreme Court January 2019**

Quotes from former students

"Thank you for all of your inspirational teaching in Politics. Before coming to study it I hardly knew anything but now even my parents ask me over political matters."

A former student studying Politics at university

"I honestly can say I never thought I could enjoy lessons so much"

A former Politics student studying Politics at university

"I cannot thank you enough for all the help and support you have given me. You have been an inspiring teacher with lessons we all look forward to."

A former Politics student studying Natural Sciences at Cambridge

"I hope to pursue politics in the future in some form or another and I probably would not have considered this without you firing up my interest."

A former student studying modern languages at Oxford



**In Amsterdam on the Politics, Economics and RS trip to
Amsterdam, the Hague and Brussels October 2019**

Politics at University

Oxford High School students have gone on to study the following Politics based courses at university:

- Human Social and Political Sciences
 - Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Politics
 - Politics
 - Politics and History
 - Politics and International Relations
 - Politics
 - Politics and International Relations
 - Politics and History
 - Politics
 - Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - European Social and Political Studies
 - Politics
 - Politics and International Relations
 - Politics
 - Politics and Economics
 - International Relations
 - Politics and History
 - Politics and Economics
 - Politics and International Relations
- Cambridge
 - Oxford
 - Leeds
 - Durham
 - Edinburgh
 - Manchester
 - London School of Economics
 - Warwick
 - Warwick
 - Sheffield
 - Durham
 - University College, London
 - Exeter
 - Nottingham
 - Edinburgh
 - Nottingham
 - Exeter
 - Manchester
 - Bristol
 - SOAS



Opposite the Washington monument in Washington DC on the Politics, Economics and RS trip to New York and Washington DC October 2019