

## Sixth Form Politics at Dauntsey's School

Introducing A Level Politics - Bridging Materials for the Summer between V Form and LVI Forms

A Level Politics is a fascinating course new to us here at Dauntsey's. You'll need to keep very abreast of current developments - politics can change by the hour! As 1960s and 70s Labour PM Harold Wilson once said "A week is a long time in politics"!

**Papers 1 and 2** of our course cover a huge range of concepts and issues - political parties, democracy and participation, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media and more. But it's not just about politics - it's about government: the constitution, parliament, the PM and cabinet, the supreme court and the European Union.

There is an ideological side to things too: we will look at the theory and application of liberalism, conservatism, socialism as well as one more political ideology.

On top of that in **Paper 3** we'll also study American politics and contrast it with that of the UK. You'll explore the US constitution and federalism, Congress, the presidency, the supreme court and civil rights as well as US political parties, interest groups and its electoral system.

There is no coursework.

We hope to run a trip to the heart of government in Westminster and to meet some key players too, so there is much to look forward to.

### *Specific Tasks for the Summer*

**Keep a political diary.** Buy a notebook in which you can jot down ideas as time passes. This is essential on the course – but it will really help you to engage in contemporary politics before September.

**Watch a good political TV show each week. Make** this a habit; even if shows are not on during the summer recess as frequently as they normally are. Laura Kuenssberg on Sunday mornings BB1 and Sophy Ridge on Sky News are great. So is Robert Peston on ITV1 (Wednesday nights).

**For an American / UK comparative perspective,** BBC News Channel Mon – Thu nights at 9pm with Christian Fraser is superb.

**Start listening to a political podcast.** Again, BBC Newscast is great – but there are tonnes of others. Try to get some more biased material too: quality magazines like The Spectator (centre right) or the New Statesman (more left of centre) are superb.

**Find out who your local MP is** and which party they belong to. Read up about their beliefs by visiting their website.