



# Government and Politics

## Year 12 Summer Task

Welcome to Politics at St Peter's.

The study of Politics at AS helps you develop your understanding of the way people live together in society and how and why they cooperate and conflict. It will help you make sense of how we are governed, the people who govern us, the way in which those people are chosen and individual people's rights and roles in this process and in society.

The aim of the Politics department is to equip you with knowledge of the above but also to develop the skills you will need to make use of political knowledge. It aims to develop your research and investigative skills by encouraging you to keep up to date with current British political developments. It aims to develop your skills of analysis by encouraging you to look at arguments critically and to develop your ability to evaluate or weigh up other people's arguments in order to reach your own conclusions. You will develop your ability to engage in debate and to develop, argue and justify your own opinion.

Across the two years you will study three units:

- Unit 1 – UK Politics and Core political ideas
- Unit 2 – UK Government and Non-Core political ideas
- Unit 3 – Government and politics of the USA

Successful study in the sixth form is all about developing the right skills, preparation, independent learning and self-motivation. We will do all we can to support you in your learning and would like you to do the same.

In preparation for the first term of study please spend some time on the tasks below so that when you arrive with us in September you can make the best possible start to your studies. They must be completed by the beginning of term and should be brought to the first lesson.

### Task

#### Task 1: What is government and politics?

Based on your personal opinion, respond to each of the questions below. We will be discussing these questions in the first lesson of the year.

- Why are rules needed?
- How should rules be made?
- What is a government for?
- How powerful should a government be?
- How should a government be controlled?

#### Task 2: Historical overview of UK politics

On A3 sheets produce a timeline of all the UK governments from 1945 to the present with the following details included:

- Which party was in government?
- Who was Prime Minister?
- What was their majority (how many more seats did the party in government have than the rest of the political parties put together)?

This will need to be a clearly presented piece of work with enough space to add to it over the course of the year. You will need to use at least two sheets of A3 paper.

### Resources list

In order for you to be prepared for your studies next year please have the following things ready for the start of term. These items will be checked in the first week of term.

- Edexcel AS/A level Politics. Publisher: Pearson – You will need your own copy of the core textbook for this unit. It can be bought on Amazon or ordered in any good bookstore
- A4 lever arch folders
- A4 dividers for each folder (5 in each should be enough)
- Plastic wallets (for hand-outs)
- Pad of file paper (or exercise book(s))
- Pack of highlighters