

NHGS – Politics - Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact

Intent (Aims and purpose)

We aim to create the very best thinkers, analysts and communicators. The aim of the Politics curriculum is to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to be able to understand the ever changing world around them and to be able to communicate their analysis of current events. We want students to be able to navigate the best course for themselves through an understanding of power and influence in the 21st century and to appreciate how decisions are made that affect their lives.

Our curriculum at NHGS goes far beyond what is taught in lessons, for whilst we want students to achieve the very best examination results possible, we believe our curriculum goes beyond what is examinable. Cultural capital is developed in the Politics department by students engaging with the news and regularly having to report back to the rest of the class to share their learning. All politics students also go to Parliament during the course of their A-level and have an opportunity to take part in a Q&A session with the local MP. Students are instructed to consume high quality information by taking part in a range of activities such as listening to Reith Lectures and reading articles from leading political commentators.

Our curriculum in Politics supports the ethos statement of the school as students are constantly challenged to think independently when engaging in debates in class. Manners, respect and tolerance are always exhibited in Politics lessons which allows students to express themselves in a confident manner.

As a knowledge-engaged curriculum we believe that knowledge underpins and enables the application of skills; both are entwined. Knowledge is delivered to students and then built upon through the practice of essays, with regular quality feedback being given to support student progress. The knowledge acquired then allows students to develop their analytical and critical thinking skills.

Implementation

Detailed and thorough curriculum planning lies at the heart of what we do in the department. We use all available resources to ensure that students have a comprehensive knowledge of the specification and are capable of going beyond what is taught in lessons. Techniques to help develop long-term memory and help students master subject content are embedded in the curriculum.

To complement the schemes of work students also engage in politics through a visit to parliament and meeting the local MP. These activities allow students to gain valuable insight into the subject that is only available through participatory experiences.

Impact

We know our curriculum is working in the Politics department through the engagement of students throughout the school both observed and recorded in student voice across the school. Numbers are healthy at A-Level and a number of students go on to study the subject at university.

Examination results are consistently above the national average and among the best in the school at A-level.