

Oakwood Park Grammar School

Politics Department details

Politics is a very popular A-Level subject taught at OPGS with outstanding exam results – 70% A*/A grades were achieved last academic year. Students take a deep interest in learning and extending their knowledge about key issues in both UK and USA Politics. The demand for places for the subject has been exceedingly high over the last 5 years. Students taking Politics at A-Level do not need to study it at GCSE with the entry requirement being those needed for the Sixth Form entry at OPGS. Despite the subject not being taught at GCSE, students in Year 10 and 11 at OPGS have been discovering some elements of Politics through taster and Information, Advice & Guidance sessions as well as the school's participation in the Kent Youth Elections.

Students study the Edexcel (Pearson) A syllabus as part of the course. In Year 12, students cover UK Government and Politics along with the ideologies of Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism. In Year 13, students focus on US Politics and Feminism. Students also extend their knowledge through independent research and reading around current political issues with particular emphasis on the US topics of the Presidency, Congress and the Supreme Court.

Students explore the subject combining taught lessons and independent learning done outside of the classroom. The Politics department encourages independent thinking and class debates contribute to the lively and inclusive nature of the subject at OPGS. Students also undertake various extra-curricular activities such as entering for Politics essay competitions, taking part in many class discussions on a wide range of social issues, undertaking Extended Project Qualification related to Politics and attending talks from various speakers. A large number of students taking the course over the previous years have also enrolled to study Politics at some of the top universities in the country. A number of these ex-students have regularly been returning to be involved with enrichment and taster sessions over the recent years.

The Politics department has been working closely with a number of other departments in the school including Sociology and Economics, focussing on Teaching and Learning strategies and sharing of best practice through professional development sessions.