Politics is a fascinating look at who holds the power and how it is achieved.
What will the course involve?

You will study the following modules:

**Paper 1:**
**Government and Politics of the UK**
This includes the following areas of study: Political Participation and Voting Behaviour; Electoral Systems; Political Parties; Pressure Groups and Protest movements; The British Constitution; Parliament; The Core Executive (Government); Devolution, and Brexit from the European Union!

In year 1 (Lower 6th) the focus is very much on the UK and our political system, but we will also do some work on the government and politics of the USA too. Students are also introduced to politics in the wider political and social context, within which we explore the effect of social class, gender, ethnicity etc on the political system.

**Paper 2:**
**The Government and Politics of the USA**
In this unit the areas of study are: The Constitutional Framework of US Government; The Legislative Branch of Government - US Congress; The Executive Branch of Government - The Office of President; The Judicial Branch of Government - The Supreme Court. In addition, we study American Elections, Parties, Pressure Groups and Voting Behaviour too. We also explore the synoptic relationship between the US and UK forms of government, including political ideology in some depth.

Please note that Paper 2 and its study areas are split over the end of the first year and the beginning of the second year.

**Paper 3:**
**Political Ideas and Beliefs**
The areas of study include: Liberalism; Conservatism; Socialism; Feminism and Nationalism.

This year the emphasis is still on acquiring political knowledge, but equal emphasis is now devoted to the development of more sophisticated critical evaluation skills. Our studies will have a more international flavour, with obvious emphasis on the USA (paper 2) and our “special relationship” with them.

How will I be taught?
The teaching and learning that occurs in the classroom is very wide-ranging and consists of PowerPoint presentations, handouts, exam question practice, group quizzes, watching relevant DVDs, student presentations, the analysis of quality newspaper stories, using websites and research activities, discussion and debates, and textbook based activities. In addition you will have all of the facilities available to you in our Library, which includes additional textbooks, use of computers for politics websites, political journals, DVDs, and quality newspapers.

Indeed the nature of this topic is such that ‘compulsory’ viewing of selected TV programmes about politics is an absolute necessity to keep abreast of contemporary political issues, for example ‘Sunday Politics’ on BBC1.

There will also be plenty of opportunity to research your own particular political interests and issues, and to present your findings to the class initiating discussion and debate too!

Carmel is a place where I can truly be myself. I can share the love of my subjects with like-minded people to really make the most of my experience here.

Studying Politics develops the skills of analysis, critical thinking and articulation of knowledge and ideas; all skills essential for any future career, making it a fantastic subject to study at A Level.

I would recommend Politics because it is so useful to have an in-depth knowledge of how the world around us works. The teaching is consistently of top quality and the support offered is individually tailored; if you are struggling you will get the help you need and if you need more challenge, you will be given resources to help you flourish.

I have been on trips with the department to Washington DC, where we saw all the famous sights including the White House, and to London to visit Parliament as well as visiting numerous museums and St Paul’s Cathedral.

The best thing about Carmel is that you are never short of opportunities and you will be pushed to be the best possible version of yourself. After Carmel, I hope to study English Literature at Cambridge University.

Eva Carroll
Notre Dame
Studying: Politics, English Literature, History
How will I be assessed?
You will sit three exams at the end of the second year in the summer. The exams are two hours duration each and have equal weighting. Mock exams will be taken at the end of the first year too.
You will also be marked regularly on mostly written assignments and given a progress grade with which you will be able to monitor yourself. This will be reviewed on a regular basis between you and your tutor. As an individual, you are only judged against your own minimum expected grade (MEG) and this determines your rate of progress on the course.

What will this course prepare me for?
The course will prepare you for continued study at university degree level and various possible career pathways thereafter. The study of Politics is very useful for a number of careers and is a well-established subject at the most prestigious universities in the UK.

What is the department like?
The Politics department works very closely with all Social Sciences departments in the college. We have access to computers and all rooms are equipped with multi-media projectors and interactive white boards. Course textbooks are complemented by our own college library and their numerous politics texts too. The department has an innovative and dynamic approach, which promotes the pursuit of excellence in all of the teaching and learning elements of the course. The department also actively attempts to cater for all learning styles with up-to-date teaching methods and resources.
Finally, the department will encourage a healthy sense of humour in its work too, with the odd touch of satire!

In my time at Carmel, I have already greatly improved the dexterity of my skills and developed new areas of interest.
I took three new subjects when I started. I had never done any of them before and I have been impressed with the level of support and the standard of teaching provided. You are well led through the course but also granted the freedom and independence to develop yourself.
I have enjoyed Politics, especially listening to new ideas and opinions analysing the political world. I have been engaged in multiple trips and enrichment activities such as Model UN, European Youth parliament and the fantastic trip to Washington DC. All of these are special and unique to the Politics department at Carmel and provide you with the opportunity to have fantastic experiences and meet new people.
Hopefully after my development at Carmel I will go on to study Politics and Philosophy at university and then pursue a career in the Navy. This would not be possible without the outstanding dedication of the college.

Joe Maloney
Cowley
Studying: Politics, Economics, Law
What are the entry requirements for this course?
You will need GCSE grade 5 in English Language.

What support will I receive?
There will be the opportunity to book regular support/extension tutorials, with email back up and regular communication with your tutor. You will also be encouraged to actively develop and contribute to the development of course materials and resources.

There will also be relevant DVDs for you to watch on your own or with fellow students as part of your wider study and research commitments. You will be guided to relevant websites and encouraged to discover additional ones too! The information and materials on politics continue to grow at an amazing rate.

What other opportunities will studying Politics offer me?
We invite visiting speakers into the classroom to talk with students. These visitors have included Steve Rotheram, Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, ex-local MP Dave Watts, European MPs, Officers from the local council, and even ex-Government Minister, Andy Burnham. The annual trip to London in the first year is a great opportunity for you to visit Parliament and the US Embassy. As we also study US Politics, in the second year there is the possibility of a trip to Washington DC and other East Coast cities.

In addition, there are local trips to the Slavery Museum in Liverpool, and to relevant lectures at the Philharmonic Hall and Edge Hill University. As part of the Enrichment Programme, students can get involved in the Mock United Nations General Assembly (MUNGA) which takes place at Liverpool Town Hall every November and the European Youth Parliament debate also at Liverpool Town Hall.

Finally, students are also encouraged to take an interest in Carmel’s Student Council body, which is elected on an annual basis and works on behalf of all the students at Carmel.

How successful are Carmel’s Politics students?

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>A*-B</th>
<th>A*-C</th>
<th>Overall Pass Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<td>2020</td>
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Politics I like to think is the study of the past, present and future. Through critical thinking and keeping abreast of everything going on currently in the world, Politics encourages me to think about and debate real time issues as well as those of yesterday and tomorrow.

My favourite aspect of Politics so far has been delving into the world of voting behaviours; why people vote and the varying factors that ultimately determine the way in which our country is governed. I chose Politics to get a broader perspective on the world and where I fit in. Studying the topics we have covered has given me the opportunity to develop my own political beliefs. Being able to express what you believe accurately and concisely is extremely useful and forces you to really evaluate yourself.

Studying Politics has widened not only my world view, but also the view I previously had of my own generation. Through class debates I have learnt that not all young people have the same values. Debates in Politics are both the most entertaining and infuriating part, but it is, in my opinion, what makes Politics the best!

Mica Skeete
Liverpool College
Studying: Politics, History, English Lit

Steve Rotheram’s visit to Carmel