



# Westcliff High School for Boys

## UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

### Careers across the curriculum

#### in POLITICS

#### Soft Skills Development (these are the skills we are committed to developing in the Careers Department)

<b>In Sixth Form</b>	We develop <b>communication and teamwork</b> by encouraging debate within the classroom. All Political issues are open to discussion; what matters is how you use evidence to turn mere opinion into reasoned argument.
<b>In Sixth Form</b>	We develop <b>time management</b> skills by having a demanding examination format that is entirely based around extended writing. Answers are required as essays or multi-paragraph responses. Source questions require fitting a number of separate tasks into a limited time period.
<b>In Sixth Form</b>	We develop <b>creative thinking</b> by exploring issues and concepts that by their very nature are open to debate and interpretation. The challenge for the student of Politics is to craft their own argument in response to a specific question which demonstrates their knowledge and understanding of key concepts, the ability to analyse, compare and contrast evidence and to draw reasoned conclusions that reach a valid judgement using criteria to support their evaluation.
<b>In Sixth Form</b>	We develop <b>problem solving</b> by posing questions in the form of a debate. There are no right or wrong solutions, only well-argued and poorly-argued ones. Comparative analysis is at the heart of every paragraph the student writes.
<b>In Sixth Form</b>	We develop <b>networking</b> by making use of extensive on-line resources. We subscribe to Prechewedpolitics.com in order to access videos and case studies. Additional case studies come from Politics Explained. Students are encouraged to use websites such as BBC News and US equivalents, following informed sources such as Politico, newspapers and university-based websites and podcasts or similar. Alumni also play a key role in our networking.

#### Development of Subject Specific Skills which are Relevant to Next Steps / the Workplace

Promotion of debate and argument is central to the study of Politics. There is skill in marshalling evidence – choosing the more apposite and relevant example from a mass of information - to present a more persuasive or convincing argument, whether on paper or orally in class. These are skills that translate well to the professional world of work with many of our Sixth Formers choosing to further their studies in Politics and International Relations, or more vocationally perhaps in Law and Jurisprudence. Those who do not, often take a life-long interest in political ideas and concepts with them, plus an understanding of US Politics and Government, into their professional careers.




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#### Extra-curricular Opportunities

Annual visit to the Palace of Westminster and UK Supreme Court	An opportunity to see inside two important institutions that influence all of our lives, whether making legislation, raising taxation and spending public money or interpreting laws.
WHSB Law Society	A lunchtime society to promote legal interests and debate with numerous visiting speakers and an opportunity to visit top law firms and barristers' chambers. We pride ourselves on our links to Old Westcliffians across different generations who are all engaged in different aspects of the legal profession.
Senior School Debating teams for the Oxford and Cambridge Union and English-Speaking Union	The capacity to listen, to formulate arguments and to present a case and the confidence to do so in front of an audience is often hugely relevant to many careers.