What will you see in Politics lessons?

A wide range of activities that aim to enthuse our pupils. Politics lessons will be fast paced and require the input of everyone in the room, as subject that changes on a daily basis, students will be expected to discuss current events. Questioning, reading, writing and creative activities are commonplace. Teacher planning is designed to make the students think and to grow as independent learners. Political theories, concepts and institutions form the foundation of student learning, tasks will be shaped around these. Activities require students to explain, analyse, evaluate and judge. As a social science, Politics will involve the study of people and their behaviours, as a result, data analysis is also common in lessons.

What assessment (formative and summative) methods do we use in Politics?

Assessment takes place in every lesson. Teachers use a range of questioning techniques to assess previous learning or to judge the level of understanding. The use of the low stakes quiz is used to assess levels of knowledge and will inform future planning. Written responses enable assessment of understanding of the course content. Exam style questions and group work tasks.

What are the common misconceptions that pupils have and make in Politics that we need to address?

Students are often attracted to Politics due to their own beliefs. A significant aim of the Politics teacher is not to change opinions, it is encouraging students to engage with other viewpoints in order to understand them. Students often have misconceptions with regards to democracy, elections or how blocks of voter's act. As a result, these topics are evaluated indepth in order to created more informed conclusions.

Secondary Politics

Politics is about....

Understanding how we are governed, how laws are made, how they interpreted, how an election works, why people do or do not vote, pressure group activity and where these concepts come from. It deals with controversial issues and characters and teaches students how to reach informed decisions themselves.

What will you see in pupils' Politics files?

A variety of tasks that should reflect our aims. This will include: Detailed notes on a range of topics, extended writing and exam style questions, electoral data, an analysis of theories and political philosophers.

Information from the last 12 months in Politics reveals particular strengths in.....

Those that study Politics often consider it their favourite subject. Students say that they learn 'more' as they often arrive with limited knowledge.

Information from the last 12 months in Politics reveals a particular focus should be on.....

We are always seeking to adapt and develop to the needs of our students. Feedback from students will continue to inform our decisions. As a result of feedback, we have evolved the curriculum to allow for greater exploration of issues relating to political theories, particularly with regards to the comparison of UK and US Politics.

The students that perform the best are those that go out of their way to remain up-to-date with the world of Politics. We are exploring new ways of encouraging this.

What will you see in Politics at Liverpool College that extends beyond the National Curriculum and / or exam specifications?

Teachers have a range of personal expertise; this includes experience working in politics. This allows for detailed accounts of how processes function. A Level students arrange their own elections and conduct the count. We have welcomed a number of local and national politicians to the school to meet with our students. We have engaged in national projects and conferences.

Parents can help their children in their Politics studies by....

Talking to the about their learning. Ask them what they have been doing, encourage them to explain it to them or a younger sibling. Ask questions like 'what's going on in Parliament/Congress?' Encourage students to watch or read the news and make note of examples that link to their learning.