



# The Politics Department at Becket Keys Church of England School

## The team

The department is made up of one specialist who works closely alongside the Social Sciences team. The teacher is line managed by one of the Deputy Head Teachers and is supported by The Russell Education Trust network meetings which offer termly meetings to share ideas and teaching materials.

## Teaching area

Politics lessons are delivered in a classroom in the brand new 'Welby Building', which has areas specifically for the Sixth Form and Humanities. Therefore, the department benefits from close access to the Deli Bar, silent study spaces and collaboration rooms with numerous break out spaces for students to take part in small group work.

The teaching room is beautiful and new, it is equipped with an Interactive Whiteboard, PC and all new furniture and decoration.



## Curriculum, Assessment & Student Groupings

Politics is currently taught in mixed groups for A-level. Entry requirements ensure that all students on the course are capable, but students may have varied target grades. We have 6 lessons per week with class sizes of around 12. Students make rapid rates of progress and secure positive Value Added. There is a strong uptake of Politics at KS5 due to our engaging approach that gives students a number of taster days. Our current teacher is a popular History teacher and so many students experience his teaching lower down the school.

Excellent structures are in place, which include assessment, curriculum planning and schemes of work, all of which are published on our website.

This is complimented by our extra-curriculum programme, which currently includes a debating society, public speaking club and current affairs experiences in drop down days and through our tutorial programme and weekly newsletter. We are well supported by our local MP, Alex Burghart.

## Professional Development

As part of the Russell Education Trust (RET), we benefit from a strong Politics network, which provides opportunities for Trust-wide training and sharing good practice with four other schools. Department meetings focus on sharing ideas, jointly planning lessons, moderating assessments and generally making ourselves better at teaching!