

## What our students say about studying Politics

*"Politics at Pate's gives me the confidence to not only express my own ideas but question them and gain a more rounded view of the world. I have had some amazing opportunities including running a debating club, hosting mock hosting including students portraying the main party leaders and running a school wide mock election. The teachers make the work fun and engaging and I really look forward to our lessons."*

*"Initially I was extremely nervous, worrying I didn't know enough about current affairs or whether I would be able to hold my own in a debate, but these are all skills that I have learnt from taking the plunge and I have developed my confidence so much as a result. I have since applied to do HSPS (Human Social Political Sciences) at Cambridge University so think that demonstrates how glad I am that I did the course, despite the initial nerves!"*

*"I couldn't choose a favourite part of the course because it is all so fascinating, particularly as the political scene is changing all the time. The most interesting to study, however, has probably been the global politics topic in year two, since it has given me a broader understanding of how politics works on an international scale. This means that with events such as the US election last year, Brexit, the distribution of Covid-19 vaccines and so on, I am constantly seeing what I have learnt about in the classroom make headlines, and can see the theory I have studied in action."*

*"Politics is definitely my favourite subject at Pate's because it is so fascinating, and the teachers have such a passion for it. I was able to take countless opportunities in sixth form like talks and debates and one of my favourite things about it is that every little thing, like reading the news or discussing global and domestic issues with friends, all help with the subject."*

*"Politics is definitely one of the most interesting subjects you can hope to study at A-level, and I think now more than ever it's important to stay abreast of current affairs and how they can affect you. Plus there's always the chance to voice your views on important issues via a passionate debate! For me, the subject has not just developed my tolerance of different political standpoints, but has also allowed me to use that progression in critical thinking and analysis towards other areas of my life/education."*

*"With the world as it is I think a strong understanding of politics is vital for everyone so they can understand why decisions that will change their lives have been made."*

*"In the politics department I love the fact that debates are not an afterthought, they are at the heart of every topic and every lesson."*

*"In my class at least, I know that everyone's viewpoint is accepted and I know that whatever the person next to me thinks, we can be civil and friendly in our dialogue."*

*"The study of politics is timeless as it is a study of people. I found that it lives and breathes in every aspect of my life, and it can give one a strong sense of justice, helping to clarify what you yourself believe."*

*"My favourite thing is the debates and slightly off topic tangents that we have in class, taking time at the beginning if something interesting happened in the news to discuss it or just ending up in a big debate over something on the PowerPoint. It's great that we can have these conversations openly and are able to properly share our opinions."*

*“Politics has also given me tons of great experiences such as joining CLC politics society, doing multiple MUNs and also going to European Youth Parliament. It also just helps to build confidence in yourself and your own opinions as well as public speaking because you end up throwing yourself into things like running assemblies without even thinking about it. ‘My favourite thing about politics is discussing recent news stories and debating with the class. It is super fun and makes you challenge your own views and understand other people’s viewpoints as well.”*

***“The votes are in, and it’s clear that politics is the clear winner.”***