

## Y12 Induction Session

### **Getting ready for A-Level Politics!**

**The best thing you can do over the summer is to listen/read/follow as much about politics as you can. We will have a y12 document to keep track of events next year, but it is a good idea to make a note of anything that stands out as useful.**

**Politics is a unique subject in that so much of the knowledge you will give in your exam answers comes from what is happening right now (and hasn't even happened yet!), so you will give yourself a huge head start if you get those playlists sorted, twitter accounts followed and apps downloaded!**

**A warning...it can become addictive! One of the best parts of Politics is watching significant events play out in real time. We are about to witness a general election on 4 July 2024 - this will form a key case study for next year, so get involved and watch as much of the analysis as you can!**

### Twitter

Great for fast news. But just be careful - as there is definitely an 'echo chamber' and often news comes in too fast to be fully analysed

Most politicians have their own accounts. Useful to follow party accounts too.

Make sure you join our own twitter account! We will use this to add examples as they happen so it will become a really valuable exam example tool! Look at the accounts we follow as they will also be good ones for you to follow also

Address is: @Politics\_AHS

### Podcasts

I find these incredibly helpful, and probably my main way of getting in-depth knowledge. I tend to download episodes to listen to as I do other things - useful for your bus journeys!

The News Agents daily podcast which is absolutely perfect for our course!

The A-Level Politics show - amazing and focused on our exam. Lots of free episodes - but for £1.99 a month you can upgrade which is very worth it as some really useful additional episodes

The Guardian Politics Weekly - Really useful for digging into current political issues and events (I also like their 'Today in Focus' although that tends to be broader in scope)

The Rachel Maddow Show MSNBC - I find this extremely useful as it really zooms in on current events in American Politics. New episode every weekday (we get them first thing in the morning)

MSNBC - there are lots of other great shows such as All In and the Last Word which also give a summary of the day's events

The Rest is Politics - goes with 'the rest is history', useful for background, and good fun to listen to as hosted by two people on opposite sides of the political spectrum, so you get a good sense of what the different debates are

Coffeehouse shots - spectator is useful as well as being short and daily

Talking Politics - now ended, but lots of great back content to listen to

### **Newspapers and news reports**

These still have their use! Definitely download an app to your phone that will give you alerts as news comes in.

The BBC is a good app to get as is free and in theory neutral

Most British newspapers now have paywalls (fair enough as they don't sell physical copies anymore!) But the Guardian is still free, very informative, and has a really easy to use app too (but definitely not a neutral source!)

For America, I tend to use the New York Times as it has excellent coverage. You do need to pay to get unlimited access - but you get a certain number of free articles to read each month

Politico is a great on-line resource for US Politics

Lots of good TV news programmes - BBC News 24 is very useful, especially as big events play out, there is also BBC Parliament and my personal favourite is Channel 4 News at 7pm each evening.

Radio - the Today programme on radio 4 6-9am is always really useful (if you are able to tune in!) Very high profile, so tends to get lots of significant interviews and will often shape subsequent news. Links to specific sections can be found on BBC Sounds (another great source of material)

Sunday morning news programmes! Always useful for UK politics.