



6th Form 2025 Summer Transition Work

SUBJECT:	Politics
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Politics at St John Fisher School is an excellent choice for those wanting to embark on a journey of self-discovery, and for those looking to go into a career in public life. You will learn about the British political system, which will provide you with rich opportunities to consider the big issues of our time, for example, education, environment and law and order. We look at how the political system works so that you can then become active, educated members of society, aware of the importance of politics and your role in it, so that you can be a part of the changes that you would like to see in the world.

Listed below are the pre-reading and preparatory tasks you should complete prior to commencing your 6th form course. These tasks are designed to help you transition smoothly and succeed academically and personally in your new environment.

Task	Resources or Guidance
The most useful preparation for year 12 is to immerse yourself in current affairs and political ideas. Below are some useful books: • Plato, The Republic • Machiavelli, The Prince • Hobbes, Leviathan • Rousseau, The Social Contract • Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto	<i>You do not have to read all of these books, you can either pick one and write a summary, or you can use the internet to research the books and write a summary for each.</i>

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<u>Useful news websites:</u> BBC News - www.bbc.co.uk This is the best place to go for unbiased and neutral news reporting. In particular, if you look at their Politics section there is political news from around the world and keep an eye out for coverage of Question Time. The Economist - www.economist.com There are plenty of interesting articles to access for free which are not just to do with economics but to do with global politics and current affairs. The Guardian - www.guardian.co.uk In particular, the Guardian 'Long Reads' section has lots of interesting in-depth journalism on some controversial areas. The Independent - www.independent.co.uk This newspaper is great for both UK and US politics and also has a good section called 'Climate Blogs' The Telegraph - www.telegraph.co.uk This newspaper is good for current affairs but also has some interesting opinion pieces written by its columnists.	1. Visit the BBC website and write a weekly summary of: • What the main news items are • What the government has done in its' 1st year in office. 2. Choose one other website from the list and read through it's main news items, writing down: • What news items it focuses on • How it reports these (is it bias? Does it support particular groups/opinions?)
Carry out research on the websites below: • Conservative Party members' blog – www.conservativehome.com • Left Foot Forward (left wing blog) – www.leftfootforward.org • Labour List – www.labourlist.org • Coffee House – The Spectator – www.blogs.spectator.co.uk • Politics.co.uk – www.politics.co.uk • Oxford University Politics Blog – www.blog.politics.ox.ac.uk • Total Politics – www.totalpolitics.com	<i>This is just for extra reading. Read through and write down anything you find of interest.</i>

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St. John Fisher

CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

"Deo Reddite Dei"

"Give back to God what belongs to God"

• The Today Programme on BBC4 - www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qj9z	
Watch at least one of the following: • Newsnight on BBC2- www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mk25 • Panorama - www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t14n	Again, just for research and to get you in good habits to become a political animal.

Summer Project / Activity	Resources or Guidance
Create a 5 minute presentation explaining why you have chosen to take Politics at A' Level and what you have read about over the summer.	This could either be a power point presentation or a word document. Please have it ready for your 1st lesson in September.

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