To become a good student of Politics you need to be up to date with current affairs. What are those politicians up to? What have they been saying in parliament or on twitter?!

These are just a handful sources you can use to keep up to date with what is going on. Over the summer start to keep a log of events that happen. How do key politicians respond, what do they say? You don’t need a lot of depth. Below is a sample of how you could set this log out. For more inspiration, see the back of this booklet for a list of TV shows and podcasts.

Date:
Event:
Politicians involved:
Brief details of what happened:

You will need to be doing this throughout the course so why not make a start now...
Why do you think the wording of the question and options were changed? Why do you think the wording is so important?

Some research about the referendum:

Who were the main campaigners for Brexit?  Who were the main campaigners to Remain?

The result-Complete this information:

Remain □% of the vote  Leave □% of the vote
Voter Turnout □%

Why do you think the turnout percentage is so significant?
Three men have been arrested after costumed Fathers 4 Justice protesters scaled a Foreign Office balcony overlooking Downing Street.

The Robin, Batman and Captain America protesters timed the stunt to coincide with Labour’s announcement on "family-friendly" working on Monday. They unfurled a banner saying: "Don't let Labour stop you being a Superdad." The trio spent Monday afternoon and evening perched 50ft above the junction of Downing Street and Whitehall.

Just before 2200 GMT, one of the protesters climbed into the Foreign Office, where police were waiting. The two others followed later, Scotland Yard said. A police spokeswoman said there had been "no breach of security", and the men could not have accessed the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or any of the buildings within Downing Street. The campaign group has already breached security at Buckingham Palace and the House of Commons in its campaign for fathers to have better access rights to their children.

The London co-ordinator for Fathers 4 Justice, Richard Castle, said the three men were "hardened protesters" who had planned to stay up on the balcony as long as possible, having got onto the building via a ladder mounted on a flatbed truck. He added that the person dressed as Batman was Jason Hatch, who was behind the Buckingham Palace protest. And he pledged the campaign group would undertake a series of stunts in the run up to the general election, predicted to be held on 5 May. "What we are trying to highlight is that rather than helping families and children, the government is failing families," Mr Castle said. "They are producing a generation of McDads - fathers who only ever see their children in McDonalds once every few weeks."

Extract from BBC website 1st March 2005

What are the positives and negatives of protest groups like Fathers 4 Justice pulling off attention grabbing stunts in order to get their message across?
Use the time over the summer to fill yourself in on some key facts and figures about the current state of affairs in British Politics. This will help form essential background knowledge for any student of Politics.

Find out the % of the vote each party received.

- Labour = %
- Conservatives = %
- Lib Dems = %
- SNP = %
- Plaid Cymru= %
- Green = %
- UKIP = %
- DUP = %

How are the 650 seats in the House of Commons are divided up amongst the parties?

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<th>Party</th>
<th>No. Seats</th>
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Something to think about......

- Are you surprised that the % of the vote received at the General Election is not in proportion to the number of seats they have in Parliament?
- Do you think Theresa May had the right to form an agreement with the DUP to give her a majority?

This is something we will think about when we study election systems..
Who's in May's Cabinet?

The cabinet are the senior politicians who collectively make decisions with the Prime Minister. Find out who currently fills these key positions?

- **Defence Secretary:**
- **Justice Secretary:**
- **Home Secretary:**
- **Chancellor of the Exchequer:**
- **International Trade:**
- **Foreign Secretary:**
- **Health Secretary:**
- **Education Secretary:**
- **Brexit Secretary:**

What do the main parties stand for?

Explore the websites of the three main parties. Can you summarise three of their current policy ideas?

**Labour**

**Conservatives**

**SNP/Lib Dems/ UKIP/ DUP**

Research one of these:

NB: Until recently– this was a space for the Liberal Democrats– who would you now consider the 3rd party of British politics? SNP/Lib Dems/ UKIP/ DUP Research one of these:
For those of you who may already feel that Politics is the direction you want to head in, or if you just want to get the most out of studying A Level Politics; have a look at the top tips below. In many ways these suggestions go beyond the scope of the A Level course but would be excellent for demonstrating to universities and employers that you are passionate about politics. Remember that at university Politics can be studied as a single subject or in conjunction with a huge range of other subjects such as History, Geography, Economics, Business and English to name but a few. Beyond university a number of careers will require political awareness and a solid understanding of political systems.

- Keeping up with current affairs is a must for all Politics students but you may wish to take a deeper look. The Economist, Foreign Affairs and The Spectator are some of the best weekly journals. You also can not beat the ‘Today’ program on Radio 4 for daily political coverage- the Podcast is very good. The pages overleaf contain relevant podcasts, TV shows and documentaries - so many ways to stay informed! You will be expected to keep a political scrapbook of events throughout the year—so why not start now?!

- Read some biographies of some recent key politicians- Tony Blair- A journey. Barack Obama- Dreams of my fathers for example. For a more specialised reading lists see Mrs Oldfield.

- There are some excellent political films you could watch and write a review of, including; The Deal, Nixon and The Iron Lady.

- There are also very good TV series that give you an insight into the workings of government- The Thick of it, The West Wing, and a golden oldie- Yes Minister.

- Become a young member of one of the political parties. Attending local meetings and maybe the annual party conference will give you an invaluable insight into how political parties function.

- If not a political party, then get involved with a pressure group. There are pressure groups who campaign on a huge range of issues so there is bound to be something that sparks your interest.

- You could try and arrange work experience or a shadowing opportunity with a Local Councillor, you M.P. or one of your M.E.Ps. Follow these politicians on their websites and on Twitter- be aware of how they represent you.

- You could run a campaign at School or in Sixth Form where you raise awareness of a key issue.

- Get involved in the student Council- democracy in action in your school!

- Write to your local M.P. a Peer from the House of Lords, Local councilor or M.E.P and invite them to come in to school to talk to your year group.

- Download the weekly House of Commons and Prime Minister’s Questions Podcasts
Political podcasts!

- The Times Red Box: 5 episodes
- The Guardian: 4 episodes
- The Spectator Podcast: 5 episodes
- The New Statesman Podcast: 2 episodes
- Commons People: 2 episodes
- The Week in Westminster: 2 episodes
- Westminster Hour: 2 episodes
- Coffee House Shots: 10 episodes
- Sky News - All Politics: 1 episode
- FT Politics: 2 episodes
- TALKING POLITICS: 6 episodes
- The Political Party: 15 episodes
- Political Gabfest: 7 episodes
- Pod Save America: 21 episodes
- The New Yorker: 14 episodes
- Americano: 8 episodes
- POLITICO's Next: 17 episodes
- What Trump Can Teach Us About Con Law: 20 episodes
- Can He Do That?: 11 episodes
- Constitutional: 15 episodes
TV SHOWS

For year 12—UK Politics

- Have I Got News For You (BBC Iplayer)
- Inside the Commons (BBC Iplayer)
- Inside the Lords (BBC Iplayer)
- Yes Minister (youtube)
- Yes Prime Minister (youtube)
- Carry on Brussels: Inside the EU (Channel 4 catch up)
- The Thick of It (Amazon)
- In the Loop (Amazon)

For year 13—USA

- The West Wing (available on amazon prime video) Highly recommended!!
- Trump: An American Dream (available on Netflix)
- Reporting Trumps First Year (BBC Iplayer)
- Inside the American Embassy (Channel 4 catch up)
- The Daily Show (youtube/ Comedy Central)