



GCSE Citizenship Studies

Head of Faculty: Miss H Pritchard

Email: H.Pritchard@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

Why study GCSE Citizenship Studies?

Citizenship Studies is about how people understand and take an active part in democratic politics and work together for a better society, locally, nationally and globally.

What does the course involve?

The course content is divided into five themes: A: Living together in the UK, B: Democracy at work in the UK, C: Law and Justice, D: Power and Influence and E: Taking citizenship action.

Students will learn about society, power, democracy, the operation of government and the legal system as well as the role of the UK in the wider world. They will explore and learn about different controversial and topical issues with political, social, ethical, economic and environmental dimensions in local to global contexts. Most importantly, they will experience taking citizenship action and learn from trying to make a difference themselves.

This qualification will require students to demonstrate the ability to:

- form their own hypotheses, create sustained and reasoned arguments and reach substantiated conclusions
- present their own and other viewpoints and represent the views of others
- critically evaluate the effectiveness of citizenship actions to assess progress towards the intended aims and impact for the individuals, groups and communities affected

Theme A: Living together in the UK

- How have communities developed in the UK? What is identity? What are democratic values? How does local democracy work? What are our rights and responsibilities?

Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK

- Who runs the country? How does Parliament work? How is power shared between Westminster and the devolved administrations? How does government manage public money?

Theme C: Law and Justice

- What is the law for and how does it affect us? How does the justice system work? Is crime increasing in society?

Theme D: Power and Influence

- What power and influence can citizens have? Roles and influence of the media. Does the UK have power and influence in the wider world?

Theme E: Taking citizenship action

Students must carry out an in-depth, critical investigation leading to citizenship action as described above. The investigation and action can be based on any aspect or issue arising from the course content and should be designed to have an impact locally, nationally or globally.

How will I be assessed?

Progress throughout the course will be monitored by regular assessments, the external assessment will be in the format of two 1 hour 45 minute exams which will examine the taught topics in one paper and the research topic in the other.

What are my progression routes?

Citizenship is an ideal preparation for A level subjects like Law, Health and Social Care, Philosophy, Government and Politics and History. Careers in the Law, the Public Sector, Politics, Diplomacy, Social Work, Local and National Government would all be well served by Citizenship Studies.