



# Government and Politics Review

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The Government and Politics hosted and took part in a number of interesting and educational experiences during the last academic year.

On October 4th Year 13 students attended the COP 27 Simulation Negotiation event in Belfast City Hall, organised by the British Council. The 4 students represented the interests of Bangladesh and the USA and they took part in live discussions with representatives from London and Egypt where strategies to reduce CO2 emissions, to reduce the temperature of the earth and each country's respective action plans were discussed.

In November Year 13 students participated in the Learn with the Lords programme, where we had an online meeting with the Labour peer, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath. We had a very informative afternoon where Lord Hunt answered questions on the role of the House of Lords, his nomination and work as a life peer and the prospects for future reform of the Lords. This was immensely beneficial to our AS studies.

February saw us again work with the Learn with the Lords programme and we welcomed Viscount Brookeborough

to Banbridge Academy. Viscount Brookeborough spoke to Year 13 and 14 pupils studying Government and Politics. Viscount Brookeborough is one of 92 hereditary peers in the House of Lords, he is also a member of the Royal Household as a Personal Lord in Waiting to the Monarch as well as serving as the Lord Lieutenant of Fermanagh, where he also presides over the family ancestral home of Colebrook Estate. Viscount Brookeborough delivered a very interesting presentation on the House of Lords which was both informative and useful to the Politics students present. He then participated in a question and answer session with the students where he was willing to talk about all aspects of his work, including life in the House of Lords, his work as both an hereditary peer and a crossbencher, the reform of the House of Lords and his experience as a Personal Lord in Waiting. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the visit as it gave them a real insight into the House of Lords. They were fascinated by Viscount Brookeborough's stories and anecdotes and the range of people he has met



through his work. We really appreciated Viscount Brookeborough's willingness to give of his time to the students.

The final event of the year was a follow up to the Good Summit event which Politics students attended in Dublin last year. The Rev Harold Good OBE visited to share his experience of peace building in Northern Ireland. We were joined by Politics students from Our Lady's Grammar and the Abbey CBS and the Rev Harold Good told his story of US civil rights, the NI peace process, the decommissioning of IRA and ETA weapons and a lifetime of work facilitating difficult conversations. Pupils availed of the opportunity to ask questions and appreciated the Rev Good's honesty and openness.

These events help to add depth and understanding to the syllabus and they bring the study of Politics to life.