

January Press Release 2016

TWO POLITICAL BIG BEASTS VISIT ST AMBROSE ON CONSECUTIVE DAYS

Politics students at St. Ambrose College listened to the whys and wherefores of two big local political beasts on consecutive working days at the Altrincham Catholic grammar school.

On Friday, Altrincham M.P. and Chair of the Conservatives' 1922 Committee, Graham Brady, gave the low down on life inside the Westminster bubble.

Then on the following Monday, Labour M.P for Sale and Wythenshawe, Mike Kane, now the Shadow Minister for International Development, told of his circuitous entry into political life and his aspirations for modern Britain.

It was the first time a Labour MP had visited the grammar school in its 70 year history, Mike Kane initially focused on his unconventional route into politics via labouring on building sites to retraining as a primary schoolteacher, becoming a councillor and then heading a think tank for David Milliband.



He said: “Growing up my mother had multiple sclerosis and I was radicalised into politics through the issues of the disability. I saw how difficult it was for her to get the necessary support and I wanted positive change.”

He added: “I do not see any lack of interest in politics from today's young, though their interest

might not translate into votes or indeed traditional party politics but into issues and matters of principle, such as the Green movement, the Charities' movement and the anti-war lobby.”

He added: “Though I did not vote for Jeremy Corbyn his election has been a galvanising force for the Labour party and has seen yet another injection of new members.

“In particular he speaks for the younger generation and I am delighted three of students I met at St. Ambrose, I already know very well as they work for my office in Sale and Wythenshawe and are very valuable members of the team.”

Graham Brady said of his early political ambitions: “Margaret Thatcher was in Downing Street and her radical brand of conviction politics appealed to me. The creation of a more open, entrepreneurial society in which people could succeed by their own efforts, not because of family connections or wealth inspired me. A belief in opportunity, freedom and responsibility is at the core of my politics. The immediate thing that got me involved was campaigning to save my grammar school. It is great

that Trafford still retains its selective system and its grammar and high schools together achieve probably the best results in the country.”

On the young's involvement in politics, he added: “I think young people have always cared about politics and about the world around them, but all too often they feel a growing disenchantment with the political process and democratic institutions. You can see this trend in all the mature democracies of the world. We need to make sure that people who care about getting the best outcomes can have faith again in the ability of our political institutions to deliver.”

Then on Jeremy Corbyn, Mr Brady concluded: “Jeremy Corbyn always strikes me as honest and sincere and I respect that. Unsurprisingly, I don’t share many of his views but he is providing a voice for the real socialists who felt marginalised in the ‘New Labour’ years. His immediate problem is that he lacks the support of the vast majority of Labour MPs. If he survives as leader to the next election, I think he will find that his politics has a fairly narrow appeal.”

Aside from Eton, Harrow, Westminster and the like, St. Ambrose has one of the strongest representations in today’s parliament, with three current M.Ps, conservatives Paul Maynard and Damian Hinds and Liberal Democrat Greg Mulholland, all former pupils.

Head of Politics at St. Ambrose David Lindsay, who currently has 34 students taking the subject at A Level, said: “Our young men are passionate about politics and understanding how their own futures will be shaped. Their political opinions cover a wide cross section of philosophical thought but regardless of their own views they are eager to know how decisions are made and where power genuinely rests.”



Graham Brady MP is with three students and Principal James Keulemans