

Welcome to the Business Studies Department

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Subject Overview

The Business Department aims to engage students at Key Stage 4 and 5 to inspire creative thinking, instil a passion for business enterprise and stimulate an understanding of the business environment. Students will be encouraged to analyse concepts and theories, to question traditional methods of business practice, and to become innovative thinkers. We aim to develop their entrepreneurial skills and for them to have the confidence to take calculated risks.

Teaching Aims and Objectives

We teach students a range of topics and encourage them to apply the knowledge taught in the classroom to the wider world, for example, how marketing affects our choices as consumers, and how businesses compete to provide innovating products and services.

Many concepts are addressed throughout KS4 and KS5, ranging from business operations, marketing, international business, and entrepreneurial thinking. The Business Studies Foundation Year in Year 9 has been designed to prepare students for the GCSE or BTEC course by incorporating the exam board specification alongside a wider, richer curriculum. For example, they will learn business terminology, ethical business behaviour and business finance, but also how to prepare CVs, manage a personal budget, and run an enterprise activity.

Students will be able to transfer the knowledge and understanding from Year 9 to make rapid and sustained progress in Year 10 and 11. In KS5, students will be exposed to more challenging concepts such as business strategy, financial and operational management and organisational culture.

We have high expectations of students to prepare them for future education, training and employment. We begin this in our curriculum in Year 9 where economic and personal wellbeing (such as budgeting, building a CV and career planning) are taught alongside elements of the GCSE course. In Years 10 and 11, knowledge and skills are developed to be able to access the examinations confidently.

Course Information

Key Stage 4

Exam Board: AQA (GCSE); Pearson (BTEC)

In Year 9, students will complete a Foundation Year in Business Studies, covering some key topics from the GCSE curriculum as well as topics such as Personal Finance and Business Ethics. Students will learn in a combination of individual, pair and group work. Assessments will be at the end of every term in the form of a short test or a project. Based on end of Year 9 PPE results, and ongoing teacher assessment of students' learning style, students may then be entered on to the GCSE or BTEC pathway.

In Year 10 (GCSE Business pathway), students will officially start the linear GCSE (9-1). There are 6 sections in total ranging including:

1. Business in the Real World
2. Influences on Business
3. Business Operations
4. Human resources
5. Marketing
6. Finance

There will be two written exams for students to complete for the full All parts of the course are externally examined at the end of Year 11. GCSE.

In Year 10 (BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise pathway), students will complete one examination (worth 40% of the qualification) and two coursework units. The components are as follows:

- Component 1: Exploring Enterprises (coursework)
- Component 2: Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity (coursework)
- Component 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise (examination)

All parts of the course must be completed for students to achieve the full qualification at the end of Year 11. The BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise is equivalent to one GCSE.

Sixth Form

Exam Board: AQA

Year 12 to 13

Year 12 students will follow a linear A level for Business Studies. This means that all content will be assessed at the end of Year 13 in three exam papers. The subject content for Year 12 is as follows:

- What is a business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making.
- Decision making to improve marketing performance.
- Decision making to improve operational performance.
- Decision making to improve financial performance.
- Decision making to improve human resource performance.

In the A level exams, all Year 12 knowledge is assessed in addition to the content below:

- Analysing the strategic position of a business (A Level only)
- Choosing strategic direction (A Level only)
- Strategic methods: How to pursue strategies (A Level only)
- Managing strategic change (A Level only)

Homework Expectations (Including ICT resources and websites)

At Key Stage 4, students are set homework every week and are expected to spend between 45 minutes to one hour on the task set. Homework can range from wider reading, an activity based on a lesson, or research. At A level, students are set homework every week and are expected to spend 5 hours a week outside lessons on extending their knowledge and conducting wider reading. The level of commitment should increase over time with regards to homework and independent learning.

Marking and Assessment

The school policy for Key Stage 4 and 5 is that students have assessed work every 3 weeks. This can be in the form of self-assessment, peer-assessment, or teacher assessment (for example, an end of term test, or an assessed essay question in books). The expectation is that students respond to feedback in green pen in order to further their learning.

Examinations

[GCSE specification](#) and subject content (AQA)

Paper 1

90 marks

1 hour 45 minutes

Tests knowledge on Business in the Real World, Influences on Business, Business Operations and Human Resources.

Paper 2

90 marks

1 hour 45 minutes

Tests knowledge on Business in the Real World, Influences on Business, Marketing and Finance.

[BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise specification](#) (Edexcel)

60 marks

2 hours

This external examination builds on knowledge, understanding and skills acquired and developed in Components 1 and 2. The assessment is available twice a year in February and May.

[A Level specification](#) and subject content (AQA)

Paper 1

100 marks

All content assessed

Section A: Multiple Choice Questions (worth 15 marks)

Section B: Short answers (worth 35 marks)

Section C: Essay answers (choice of one from two, and one from two) [25 marks each]

Paper 2

2 hours

100 marks

All content assessed

Three compulsory data response questions (worth roughly 33 marks each)

Paper 3

2 hours

100 marks

All content assessed

One compulsory case study with six questions.