

Business Studies

Intent

- Business Studies at GCSE and A Level is designed to cover the appropriate content in a practical way, using real life examples to underpin learning. Crucial to this is the inclusion of wider contextual knowledge, with up to date examples of business, enterprise and economics.
- Business Studies aims to equip students with the skills needed to access complex exam questions, and to be able to translate the assessment objectives. The understanding of language of learning in Business Studies is woven throughout the schemes of learning at GCSE and A Level.
- Teaching in Business Studies will ensure thorough lessons are devoted to coverage of content and key themes, and importantly regular coverage exam technique skills, particularly to ensure students can develop analytical and evaluative skills.
- Learning will pivot around opportunities for all learning types, including tasks designed for independent learning, active learning, thus enforcing personal and collaborative development. Linked to this is access to real life opportunities to practice the skills covered in the course, to support learning, such as Young Enterprise.
- Opportunities for Business Studies to permeate the whole school, and not simply at GCSE and A Level. There is provision for students to become accustomed to the skills of finance, enterprise and entrepreneurship from KS3.

Implementation

- Shift from worksheets to colour coded printed booklets for each sub-topic of the course. This includes lesson materials, wider reading and integrated regular home learning tasks (and directed study tasks for A Level). This provides greater opportunity for flip learning and more insightful questioning within lessons.
- End of topic tests are carried out for each sub-topic, ensuring regular assessment of learning, supported by data analysis across the classes. This is followed up with regular contact home by the Head of Department about over and under achievement. Students are also required to re-sit tests if underachieving.

- Integrated whole feedback lessons within the scheme of learning, with the specific intent of putting the onus back on students to revisit and annotate their answers using the mark schemes. Also ensuring students are more regularly using the language of learning in Business Studies. Exemplar answers are also provided after every test, alongside feedback grids.
- Students at GCSE and A-Level also have opportunities to attend weekly drop-in sessions with the Head of Department in the Spring and Summer Terms. Some students are referred to these sessions by class teachers. Students are also provided with fortnightly paper clinics in the build up to exams.
- Students consistently revisit skills and question types throughout the course, with skills lessons integrated regularly throughout the scheme of learning. During these lessons students are encouraged to analyse and mark exemplar answers, encouraging them to read and utilise the language of assessment mark schemes. Students are also regularly required to peer assess work.
- Attendance of regular CPD by the Head of Department to keep up with curriculum changes in the subject e.g. launch of new 1-9 GCSE and new A-Level.
- In KS3 students have the opportunity to take part in enterprise and entrepreneurship activities, which builds the foundations of basic business and finance skills, preparing them for the GCSE.
- In KS4 students are introduced to new question types and answer structures including BLT. Wider contextual understanding, skills developed, and understanding of assessment objectives then unpins A –Level Business Studies.
- In KS5 students are encourage to carry out more independent learning, including wider reading, research tasks, and research lead assessments, which prepares them for post 18 education.
- PP students are provided with free materials, including revision guides and key terms booklets.
- At A Level, students who are new to Business Studies are equipped with GCSE basics packs and offered maths skills workbooks to aid learning.

Impact

- Attainment is demonstrated by regular evaluation of data using SISRA and feedback of this to Head of Faculty. Continued monitoring of key groups including PP, lower ability, and high ability lead to focus group lead intervention to ensure progress is made by all pupils.
- Development of knowledge and skills is clearly identified in assessment review sheets at the front of all folders. Here students can monitor their own progress, as well as giving themselves specific knowledge and skills based targets to ensure further progress in future assessments.
- Business Studies lends itself to skills development over time, as the basic themes developed in Year 10 are frequently revisited and built upon in Year 11 and in the A Level. For example, maths skills such as costs and revenue form the basis of more complex formulae later in the course.
- Business, finance and enterprise education nurture skills that are essential for employability and equip students with the necessary understanding to thrive in the working world. Our students demonstrate wider impact of Business Studies throughout their time at the college. For example, students are first introduced to enterprise and entrepreneurship in a whole school curriculum day in Year 8. This is followed by an extracurricular opportunity to hone these skills in Year 9. These skills are then used to underpin those students who take up the GCSE. Furthermore, students can demonstrate learning in action, by applying for further extra-curricular finance, enterprise and entrepreneurship opportunities in Years 10, 11 and 12. All of these opportunities also provide students with life skills that can be additions to their CVs and applications for further education.
- At the end of KS3 all students will be familiar with the concepts of enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- At the end of KS4 all Business Studies students will be confident in how small and big businesses function, as well as having wider contextual understanding of businesses in the world, and how the economy can affect business.
- At the end of KS5 all Business Studies students will be able to analyse the impact of business decision making within the context of global business. Students will also have a strong understanding

of business finance, as well as their own role within the working world.