



SOUTH WILTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Business Studies & Economics

The department currently consists of one full time member and one part time member of staff. This position has arisen due to the rising popularity of both these subjects at A Level. Although this is a part time position, if you able to offer another subject then a full-time post may be considered.

Business

The A level Business course has been designed to provide students with a critical understanding of the following:

- The internal functions of contemporary business organisations of all types
- The dynamic external environment within which businesses operate and the effects this can have upon decision-making within a business
- Major topical issues that can generate change for business organisations and the ways in which businesses respond to these issues
- The range of stakeholder perspectives that can be taken on business activities.

It encourages students to acquire a range of important and transferable skills:

- Data skills – candidates will be expected to manipulate data in a variety of forms and to interpret their results
- Presenting arguments and making judgments and justified recommendations on the basis of the available evidence
- Recognising the nature of problems, solving problems and making decisions using appropriate business tools and methods
- Planning work, taking into account the demands of the task and the time available to complete it
- Conducting research into a specific theme in preparation for one or more tasks
- Challenging their own assumptions using evidence that has become available.

Economics

The aims of this course are to:

- actively engage in the study of economics to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish between fact and opinion, build arguments and make informed judgements
- apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts
- understand the perspectives of a range of different stakeholders in relation to economic activity
- consider the moral issues that arise as a result of the impact of economic activity on the environment and economic development
- recognise that their economic knowledge, understanding and skills helps them to understand current events and provides a basis for their role as citizens, and for the possible further study of economics.

The school is moving to a two-week timetable from September 2023. The school day will be divided into 5 one-hour periods (25 period week). The allocation for Business and Economics based on a two-week timetable is as follows:

Curriculum Overview

- KS5 A Level Business is currently following the AQA specification (7132). The course will have 9 one-hour periods over two weeks. Currently one group in both Years 12 and 13. Though it is likely this will increase to two groups in Year 12.
- KS5 A Level Economics is currently following the AQA specification (7136). We are planning on switching exam boards to Edexcel from September 2023. The course will have 9 one-hour periods over two weeks. Currently we have two groups in Year 12 and one group in Year 13. We plan to have two groups in each year from September 2023.

The department is proud of its strong and varied extra-curricular offer. The school has a rich heritage in offering a Year 12 Enterprise club, for 6th Formers to set up and run their own business for a year, selling a variety of goods to parents, students and staff and running the business as a social enterprise, with profits being donated to a charity of the students' choice. This is student led but guided by a member of staff and previous Enterprise students, now in Year 13. Newly established in 2021-22 is the 6th Form Business, Economics & Politics Society. Again, student led but staff guided, speakers both online and in person have included economists from the Bank of England and local and national politicians, including John Glen MP. Trips and visits feature prominently in the department these have included visits to the Bank of England for Economics, and Wilton Carpets and the Jaguar Land Rover and JCB factories for A Level Business.

There is also a strong record of success in various competitions in the department. These have included regular success for A Level Business students in LIBF's Student Investor competition and consistent success in the ICAEW's BASE competition for A Level Economics and Business students, with four National Final appearances in 6 years.

