



# Business Studies Learning Area

## LEARNING AREA

The Business Studies Learning Area uses the Business Learning Base and Independent Learning Centres which are equipped with interactive smartboards and computers, or study rooms which all have interactive whiteboards.

The Business Studies Learning Area has a creative, dynamic and vibrant team. As a result, the subject area is consistently popular with students at both Key Stages 4 and 5.

## STAFFING

Currently six teachers work within the Business Studies Department. Responsibility within the department is under the Head of Business and overseen by a Deputy Head.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

Key Stage 4 results in 2019 exceeded national averages in both GCSE and BTEC. 33% of GCSE Business students, following the Edexcel syllabus, achieved grades 7+. 81% of students taking the Level 2 BTEC First in Business gained a merit or above. In both qualifications students have exceeded national averages for the past few years.

For Key Stage 5 in 2019 we had 82% at A\*-B for the A level, following the AQA syllabus. Key Stage 5 Business had one of the best value added of all departments for the third consecutive year in 2019. Key Stage 5 Economics also follows the AQA syllabus and 33% of students achieved A\*-B grades, again showing added value in this qualification. There was also a 100% pass rate for the BTEC National in Business Extended Certificate, with 45% of students achieving a distinction or above.



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## TEACHING AND LEARNING

At Key Stage 4, the Learning Area group students from Year 9 to take account of their ability and learning approach. This allows students the opportunity to be assessed by a method that enables them to achieve their target potential with an appropriate level of support. There are two parallel bands of groups in Years 11, 10 and 9.

This approach to understanding our students' needs continues at Key Stage 5 where students are directed towards the course that is most suited to their prior attainment and ability. Currently there are double and single award groups of BTEC Business Studies and one group of A level students. Students also have the opportunity to study Economics, following the AQA syllabus and AAT Level 2 and 3 Accounting qualifications.

### Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 students study either GCSE Business Studies or BTEC Enterprise. The examination board for both is Edexcel. Students in Year 9 follow an induction programme covering key concepts and terms as a foundation to build on when they start their qualification courses. From Year 10, students will then follow either the BTEC or GCSE programme according to their ability and learning style. Both courses look at enterprise skills, different types of business, finance, recruitment and training and how businesses grow from start-up to multi-national corporations.

### Key Stage 5

In the Sixth Form students study either the AQA AGCE Business Studies or the BTEC Level 3 Nationals Extended Certificate or Diploma in Business. BTEC students take an in-depth look at how businesses are structured, their purpose and success, personal and business finance, recruitment and marketing. AQA AGCE Economics aims to give students an insight into the many difficult decisions that are made in society relating to crucial issues such as health care, education, interest rates and minimum wages. AAT Accounting qualifications help prepare students to either study this subject at university or prepares them to enter the profession via the apprenticeship route, having already attained Level 2 or 3 Foundation Certificate or Advanced Diploma in Accounting. From September 2022 we will also be offering the T-Level in Management and Administration, further broadening our portfolio of qualifications that offers students breadth of choice within our subject specialism.

## ENRICHMENT

The Business Studies Learning Area offer a range of enterprise competitions to various year groups. All year groups benefit from a combination of industry visits or inspirational talks from industry experts to bring the subject alive. Businesses visited include Alton Towers, Morgan Motors, and Pizza Hut. AAT students complete work placements as part of their qualification.