**MOUNT ST MARY’S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

**BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

The Business Department is part of a Faculty which includes Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science.

New members of staff to the Faculty will be surrounded by a large team who each possess varying levels of experience and expertise. There is a strong ethos within the Faculty to work collaboratively and cohesively to deliver an outstanding provision to students across the whole school, by embodying the school vision of being ‘stronger together’.

Business Studies itself is a well-established foundation subject that continues year on year to be incredibly popular with students considering their GCSE options. There are currently two members of staff delivering Business content to Key Stage 4 and building a very strong working partnership in all aspects of the delivery and planning of the curriculum is vital to the department’s ongoing success. Lessons are delivered in specialist classrooms, all of which are fully equipped with interactive screens and visualisers. There is also access to four bookable ICT suites and the school library.

There is a well-planned and structured Key Stage 4 curriculum in place that begins with Year 9 developing skills and creating a platform to be able to achieve in Years 10 and 11. The curriculum is fully developed with a clear intent and implementational strategy, which involves a developed curriculum map and centralised lessons to support the delivery of exciting, vibrant lessons. The curriculum ensures that there is challenge within the classroom, opportunities to discuss and debate and opportunities for students to develop core skills such as resilience and reflection within their own work. As a department we have worked hard to develop an assessment strategy that engages, motivates and develops students’ love of learning. This strategy uses retrieval techniques to encourage students to be aware of their own learning journey and places value in students developing independent skills to become reflective learners. Last year the average grade in Business was 6.05, which was an average of 1.51 grades higher than expected attainment. The department continues to have an upward trajectory of examination results, culminating in an outstanding set of results last academic year, which saw 38% of students achieve grades 7-9 and 95% of students achieve grades 9-4 on the GSCE Edexcel examination papers.

The department prides itself on a range of enrichment opportunities that contribute to the ongoing personal and academic development of students studying the subject. As a school and a department, we have created strong links with external companies such as BDO, as well as companies based in Wellington Place, which is set in the heart of Leeds’s Business district. We are also proud of our collaboration with Sian Gabbidon, winner of BBC’s The Apprentice, who has delivered a number of workshops inspiring young entrepreneurs of the future. Enrichment activities such as this build a cultural capital with our students that prepares them holistically, so they are well placed to succeed in the world of work. It is testament to the commitment demonstrated by all involved within the Business department, that we see many of our students progress onto A-Level and universities to study subjects such as Business, Accountancy and Economics.