

THE BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The Business Studies Department is a thriving curriculum area in both Key Stage 4 and 5. It is well-resourced and innovative, offering a range of qualifications to suit the aspirations of students.

At Key Stage 4 students currently follow AQA Business Studies courses. Business Studies is an extremely popular GCSE option choice, with up to four classes running in both Years 10 and 11. All classes are taught by subject specialists and a large proportion of students continue their studies into Key Stage 5. In terms of GCSE outcomes, the results over the last couple of years have been impressive:

- In 2024, 66% of students achieved at least grade 5, 48% achieved a grade 6 and above, 30% achieved a grade 7 and above, 9% achieved a grade 8 and above, and 4% achieved a grade 9.
- In 2023, 66% of students achieved grade 5 and above, 50% achieved grade 6 and above, 28% achieved grade 7 and above, 21% achieved grade 8 and above, and 8% achieved grade 9.

These outcomes reflect the high standards expected and the dedication to student success within the department.

At Key Stage 5 students are offered a variety of qualifications including A-Level Business, A-Level Economics and the BTEC Extended Certificate qualification in Business Studies. The A-Level subjects follow the AQA specification, and the BTEC qualification is Pearson Edexcel. The results for these qualifications have been consistently outstanding and above the national average. In 2024, A-Level Economics saw 71% of students achieving grade C and above, with 59% achieving grade B and above, 47% achieving grade A or above and 6% achieving A*.

For the BTEC Extended Certificate in Business Studies, the department has maintained a 100% pass rate year on year, with 92% of students achieving Merit and above, 80% achieving Distinction and above, and 32% achieving Distinction*.

These exceptional results are well above the national average and demonstrate the department's commitment to academic excellence.

This year's cohort will be the first to receive results for A-Level Business, and we are confident they will continue this high standard of achievement.

Business and Economics are both extremely popular subjects, with many of our students choosing to pursue higher education to study the subjects further. They often go on to enroll in degree courses such as Business Management, Economics, Finance, Marketing, Accounting, International Business, and Entrepreneurship. Additionally, some students opt for apprenticeships in areas such as Financial Services, Business Administration, Digital Marketing, Project Management, and Human Resources, allowing them to gain practical experience while furthering their education.

To support students in these endeavors, teachers provide comprehensive guidance throughout the application process. This includes running mock interviews to help students develop their interview skills and gain confidence. Teachers also organise personal statement workshops, where they assist students in crafting strong, tailored personal statements that highlight their strengths and aspirations. This personalised support ensures that students are well-prepared for both university applications and apprenticeship opportunities, giving them the best chance of success in their future studies and careers.

We have good links with local businesses and universities, and in recent years, the Business Department has been actively involved in a variety of extracurricular activities that enhance students' learning experiences. These have included participation in prestigious business competitions, where students have showcased their entrepreneurial skills, as well as exciting corporate visits to local businesses, offering valuable insights into real-world business operations. The department has also organised enterprise events, allowing students to develop and pitch their own business ideas. Additionally, career talks have been a regular feature, with industry professionals visiting to provide guidance and inspire students about future career paths in business. To further support students' career development,

the department offers interview preparation and job application support, including CV writing workshops to help students stand out in the competitive job market.