

## Business Studies GCSE (Optional)

Board: Edexcel

### Skills and Knowledge

The course helps develop a range of marketable skills and subject knowledge. The GCSE is designed to develop problem solvers and leaders and will support you in making informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

If you have ever seen 'The Apprentice' and thought you could do better, or 'Dragon's Den' and thought you had better ideas and were more creative, then this course gives you the knowledge and skills to succeed. Student skills include actively engaging in the study of business and economics to develop as an effective and independent student and as a critical and reflective thinker with an enquiring mind; exploring your own ideas for starting a small business and understand the processes and decisions involved.

Business analyses and evaluates the decisions (business strategy) that firms have to make in order to achieve their objectives. It includes the use of business tools like marketing and accounting. The course focuses on the issues and skills of starting and running your own business in Year 10 and moves on to the key concepts, issues and decisions in managing a growing business in Year 11. This is a great course for those who want to be accountants or senior managers in large multinational organisations or for budding entrepreneurs who want to apply their creative ideas to a successful business enterprise in the future!

The Business course includes important Economic content, particularly regarding the Macro-economic environment, which covers a range of government policy and intervention in managing the economy. Students will study key economic factors and models and apply these to business scenarios and situations to analyse and evaluate the impact on business performance and strategy.

Business is a topical subject so an interest in current events (political, economic, technological (products and processes) and legal issues, including issues such as globalisation and how businesses compete internationally) is key, and the course also has a problem-solving focus so would suit students who like to explore the key issues and make their own recommendations in a business situation.

### Assessment

Examinations (taken at the end of Year 11)

| Unit    | Title                         | % of GCSE | Assessment   |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Theme 1 | Investigating small business* | 50        | 1 Hr 30 mins |
| Theme 2 | Building a Business*          | 50        | 1 Hr 30 mins |

\*The question types will be a mixture of multiple-choice, calculation based, short answer and extended answer questions based on business scenarios and case study materials.

For further details, please see Mr Harris (Head of Economics and Business)