A Level Business (Edexcel)

84% A*–B in 2026

Head of Department: Mr D Kearns

The Business and Economics department regularly achieves excellent results and has received awards from the Good Schools Guide for its performance nationally. It is important to note that you do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE in order to take the A Level, and the performance of students is equally impressive regardless of whether or not they took GCSE Business. It is more important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in business and economic affairs and a desire to explore new ideas and challenge your views on the world today.

The Edexcel Business syllabus consists of four themed modules; themes 1 & 2 comprise the first year of the A Level course, whilst themes 3 & 4 are only studied in the second year. Themes 1 & 2 introduce entrepreneurial and managerial concepts from generating business ideas and assessing market potential, through financing and start up, to managing and growing a business in the UK market; themes 3 & 4 develop a greater depth of understanding with a focus on strategic decision making, managing change, competitiveness in international markets and global economics. Businesses are the principal source of wealth creation in society and, as such, their performance and management is crucially important. The investigation and study of real-life business lies at the heart of this course which has been designed to analyse the management and behaviour of firms within a competitive market and investigate their interaction with consumers, competitors and government, both domestically and internationally.

The A Level course is examined at the end of Year 13 through three exams – Paper 1 covers themes 1 & 4, Paper 2 covers themes 2 & 3, and Paper 3, which is based on a pre-release context, draws from all themes. The four main areas of study are:

- **Theme 1: Marketing and People**

This theme covers the characteristics you need to develop to be successful in business and how businesses generate and test their ideas through market research to develop an effective marketing mix; it also considers how best to manage people in organisations.

- **Theme 2: Managing Business Activities**

Here we look at the activities in which you may be involved if you were to set up and manage any size of business. It introduces key management tools in Operations and Finance and considers revenue generation and external influences such as competition, the economic climate and the government.

- **Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy**

Through this theme, you will learn how to assess the competitiveness of a business through performance indicators and analyse corporate objectives and strategy; you will also consider the cause and effects of change on business and examine effective risk management.

- **Theme 4: Global Business**

The aim of this theme is to introduce you to the world of international business, global economics and the issues facing multi-national corporations. It covers identifying new markets, global branding and the increasing economic power of China and India.

Accepted by all the major universities, including Oxbridge and LSE, as a foundation for further Business or Economics studies, the course examines the link between theoretical perspective and successful business decision-making. Business subjects are now the most popular courses at university, and their graduates command some of the highest salaries. They open the door to careers in management, sales and marketing, accountancy and finance, economics, human resources and the most prestigious and highly sought after graduate career, management consultancy.

