A Level Economics (Edexcel - Spec A)

Head of Department: Mr D Kearns

88% A*-B in 2026

Economics is about choice and the impact that our choices have on each other; it relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families, to the world fashioned by governments and businesses. An economic way of thinking can help everyone make better choices.

To study A Level Economics, it is important to note that you do not have to have studied any Business oriented subject at GCSE, however, a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics and 6 in English Language is required; you should also have a keen interest in the world in which you live, the ability to think logically and clearly, and you should enjoy healthy debate where you challenge conventional thinking by researching evidence from which you form your own judgements. Economists often hold differing views on fundamental issues such as employment, price levels, taxation, international trade and poverty and it is this controversy that makes Economics lively and interesting. Economics does require a level of mathematical ability and, because of the nature of the course, you must be comfortable working with numbers, formulae and graphs.

The A Level course is examined at the end of Year 13 through three exams – Paper 1 covers themes 1 & 3, Paper 2 covers themes 2 & 4, and Paper 3 draws from all themes.

Year 12 - **Theme 1**: Markets and Market Failure
This theme introduces the nature of economics and examines how the price mechanism allocates resources in markets, exploring market failure and its potential remedies, and the application of Supply and Demand analysis to real-world situations.
Year 12 - Theme 2: The UK Economy – Performance & Policies
Here, we look at the key measures of economic performance and the objectives and strategies of economic policy. We assess demand and supply-side policies in managing the economy, predicting the impact of such policies and arguing for different approaches and identifying criteria for success.

Year 13 - **Theme 3**: Business Behaviour and Labour Markets
The aim of this theme is to analyse pricing and output decisions in differing contexts, examining the impact of the number and size of firms in a market on the nature of competition, and exploring the concept of government intervention to promote competitive markets.
Year 13 - Theme 4: A Global Perspective
The application, analysis and evaluation of economic models is central to this theme, as well as the ability to assess policies used to deal with economic problems such as poverty and inequality. An awareness of trends and developments in the global economy over the past 10 years will be developed.

Understanding Economics lies at the heart of understanding the world in which we live; the understanding of how individuals, businesses, governments and countries behave and the effect of their behaviour on others within our increasingly globalised society. Our study is clearly focussed on the real world, using the current economic, political and social landscape to illustrate the influence of economic models on decision-makers the world over.

A well regarded, traditional, academic subject, Economics is the cornerstone of successful, highly paid careers in multi-national corporations, government, global NGOs, international finance and law, industry analysis, and environmental/sociological consultancy. Please note that for study at university, Mathematics is often required, but not always, as a complementary A Level.

