

Business Studies: Curriculum Statement

The Business course offered is **OCR Business J204**.

The lessons broadly follow the two year scheme of work recommended by OCR. Units 1 to 3 are taught in year 10 and units 4 to 7 in year 11. Finance is taught before operations to allow more time for retrieval practice on the topic, this is because this is the topic which historically pupils find the most challenging.

All businesses have an ethical and environmental responsibility. This is becoming a more significant issue for business as they are asked to reflect upon the morality of how they operate and to be able to justify their business decisions to stakeholders not only in terms of profitability but also wider responsibilities. The external influences business face such as these, are taught at the end of year 11 however as we are studying this curriculum in a Catholic school, firmly rooted in Gospel values, we reflect throughout the course on the responsibility of business owners to balance the need for profitability and social conscious. The impact of faith is also explored in the trip to Cadbury World as that business grew out of the need for a product that met popular demand but was also acceptable to a strong Quaker family.

From very early on in the course, pupils are taught and practice, the key skills of applying theory to different businesses and evaluating data to make business decisions. Pupils do this by discussion in the classroom and in writing when practising how to structure a business decision which is firmly rooted in appropriate theory.

Regular reference to business news encourages pupils to see the subject in a wider context and apply their knowledge. This also give pupils the opportunity to widen their knowledge of the impact of business and finance in the wider world.

This course attracts a wide spread of academic ability and all pupils are supported to achieve their full potential. Some pupils will be supported to concentrate on theory recall using word lists and application using a range of differing examples whilst higher ability pupils will be encouraged to engage in effective business decision making using more complex sources of information or higher level discussion.

Assessment

This course is split into six modules. In addition to the Year 10 exam and Year 11 mock, formal assessments are held as each module is completed. These end of module exams always contain past GCSE exam questions and are structured in the same way as the final exams, to gain familiarity and confidence. Pupils are given a percentage and exam grade based on previous OCR grade boundaries which is used to track their progress. Throughout the modules, classwork and homework is assessed for progress. Some of this work is written and some is electronic on packages such as E Revision.