|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A Level Business** |  |

Students of this course should study business in a variety of contexts (e.g. large/small, UK focused/ global, service/manufacturing) and consider:

The importance of the context of business in relation to decision making

The interrelated nature of business activities and how they affect competitiveness

The competitive environment and the markets in which businesses operate

The influences on functional decisions and plans including ethical and environmental issues

The factors that might determine whether a decision is successful e.g. the quality of data and the degree of uncertainty

How technology is changing the way decisions are made and how businesses operate and compete

The impact on stakeholders of functional decisions and their response to such decisions

Use of non-quantitative and quantitative data in decision making (including the interpretation of index numbers and calculations such as ratios and percentages).

**Course Structure:**

The A-Level is split into a number of examined elements which are:

1 What is business?

2 Managers, leadership and decision making

3 Decision making to improve marketing performance

4 Decision making to improve operational performance

5 Decision making to improve financial performance

6 Decision making to improve human resource performance

7 Analysing the strategic position of a business (A-level only)

8 Choosing strategic direction (A-level only)

9 Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies (A-level only)

10 Managing strategic change (A-level only)

**Course Delivery:**

Lessons are a based around small group work and lecture style learning. Students will be asked to research and present, debate and listen. Students are required to apply a wide range of theories to real world examples and analyse and evaluate the decisions that were made.

**Assessment:**

Externally assessed through 3 exam papers taken at the end of Yr13

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Paper 1 | Paper 2 | Paper 3 |
| Improving business performance | Making strategic decisions | Managing strategic change |
| 2 hrs | 2 hrs | 2 hrs |

**Resources:**

There are several books and resources that we recommend, 2 of the most popular are:

* Business AQA AS/A-Level Year 1 Coates & Wolinski
* Business AQA A Level Year 2 Coates & Wolinski

**Progression:**

Business studies really does suit anyone and everyone. As the course is so varied it can lead to a wide range of areas into further education or taking up a full time job. The majority of our students go on to take Business and Business management degrees allowing them to take a high quality graduate job at the end of their studies. Alternatively we have had students who begin higher apprenticeships in a wide range of Business faculties including finance, management, HR, sales and many others.

**Minimum Entry Requirements:**

Business A-Level:5 or Merit in Business Studies if taken, 5 in English and Maths