

# **ECONOMICS**

## **A Level**

### **Where do I start from?**

You will need to meet the School's minimum entry requirements. Please also refer to the Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements for 2019 Entry information sheet. For this subject you will need a minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in English Language or Literature. You will also need a minimum of a Grade 6 if you have studied the subject at GCSE but it is not necessary to have experience of GCSE Economics to start this A Level.

Extended essay writing and the examination of statistics are common themes in Economics.

### **What will I study in Economics?**

Have you seen the news lately? We are bombarded every day with conflicting statistics from politicians and economists arguing about the latest economic problems, for example the on-going issues surrounding 'Brexit'.

In simple terms, Economics is concerned with scarcity and choice. The subject matter is divided into two interlocking parts, Micro and Macro, the former concentrating on individual markets and the latter on the whole economy.

Over the course of the two years you will study the "Operation of Markets and Market Failure" and "The National Economy in a Global Context", working towards 3 examination papers entitled, "Markets and Market Failure", "The National and International Economy" and "Economic Principles and Issues".

### **How will I be assessed?**

It has been said that the examination questions do not change from year to year but the answers do! To some extent this is true, because policies, tools, aims and priorities do change over time and this is reflected in the examination.

The exam papers consist of a mixture of multiple choice questions and opportunities for extended writing with essay questions alongside a data response and a case study question. You will also have termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course, which will reflect the demands of the final examination at the end of the second year.

### **Literacy**

Economists, unfortunately, use a lot of unnecessary jargon! You will have to develop your vocabulary with words and phrases specific to the subject in both oral and written format. You will therefore need to develop, and use, a glossary of key words. You will be assessed on these on a regular basis. A successful Economics student is a student with highly developed literacy skills.

### **How will I study?**

Lessons will vary in style depending on the topic being studied and will involve class discussion, making notes, supported self-study, working in groups and detailed examination preparation. Homework will reflect the wide range of learning opportunities set on a regular basis and is used, in addition to tests, to monitor your progress.

You will be expected to make full use of your non-contact time. The Library has a well-stocked reference section, subscriptions to several specialist journals and a wide range of other materials. Audio-visual, computer software and web-sites are used to enhance learning strategies. Have a look at the websites [tutor2u.net](http://tutor2u.net), [economicsonline.co.uk](http://economicsonline.co.uk), [pajholden](http://pajholden) and [Econplusdal.com](http://Econplusdal.com) for more information.

### **What does the subject combine well with?**

Most obviously with other Social Science subjects such as Sociology, Psychology and Government and Politics, but also with History and Geography and Religious Studies. It can also be studied alongside Mathematics, Sciences and Modern Languages.

Many students have gone on to study Economics at University either as an Arts or Science based Degree.