ECONOMICS
Exam Board: AQA

Sixth Form

Where do I start from?
For this subject you will need a minimum Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in English Language or English 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.

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

What will I study in Economics?
The theoretical aspects of the course applied to real world examples will enable you to develop an enquiring, critical and thoughtful 'economist's mind'. The subject will provide you with the skills needed to analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of government within it.

In simple terms, Economics is concerned with 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 topics such as the "Operation of Markets and Market Failure, "The National Economy in a Global Context", "Markets and Market Failure", "The National and International Economy" and "Economic Principles and Issues".

How will I be assessed?
You will be introduced to the format of the examinations as you move through the course. However, you can expect questions to reflect both the micro and macro elements of Economics:

- Should the NHS be accessible to all for free?
- What is the government's role in managing markets in the UK economy?
- How do banks 'create' money?
- How is the market for petrol different to the market for potatoes?
- How might government spending of £1 million increase demand the economy by, for example, £5 million?

Economists use a lot of extremely technical jargon and you will be expected to develop a working glossary of these terms across the course and will be tested on them at regular intervals.

The exam papers will consist of a mixture of multiple choice questions, extended responses and longer essay questions alongside data response and case study tasks. You will also have termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course which will reflect the demands of the final A Level exams.

How will I study?
Lessons will vary depending on the topic being studied and will involve class discussion, making extensive notes, supported self-study, working in groups and detailed examination preparation. Homework will be set on a weekly basis and is used to monitor your progress.

You will be expected to make full use of your study periods and will be directed to a range of online resources and journal content to underpin extensive independent research.

What does the subject combine well with?
The course is a natural companion to other Social Science subjects such as Sociology, Psychology and Government and Politics, but also has strong links with History, Geography and Religious Studies. It is also typically studied alongside Mathematics, Sciences and Languages.

What could this course lead to?
Many students have gone on to study Economics at University either as an Arts or Science based Degree. Students typically go on to study Economics, Management, Law, or other business related courses.

Students often study combined courses with subjects such as History, Maths or Languages because of the interdisciplinary skills. Studying Economics at university often demands A Level Maths as part of the entry requirements.