



Emanuel School

Business & Economics

at Emanuel School





THE DEPARTMENT

The Business and Economics department at Emanuel School aims to instil in all pupils a curiosity and understanding of the world around them. Lessons are academically challenging and stimulating, delivered by staff who are outwardly passionate about their subject. There is a strong sense of camaraderie within the department office and in lessons between teachers and pupils; teachers engage with pupils in debates about the Economics and Business issues of the day, contributing to a real sense of ambition within this prosperous department.

PRE-GCSE

We take innovation and enterprise very seriously at Emanuel and pupils are given plenty of opportunities to get their entrepreneurial juices flowing before considering Economics as an academic option. In Year 8, pupils are encouraged to participate in the Peter Jones' 'Tycoon' programme (a national enterprise competition for pupils in secondary education) in groups of five or six. Entrants submit a business

plan and, if selected, are awarded seed funding for their business. In Year 9, the Business and Economics department runs its own Dragons' Den competition. Groups of entrepreneurs stand up in front of some 'big hitters' from the business world and pitch their business idea to try and win a prize, with past ideas covering an eclectic mix of industries including footwear, confectionery, art and social media.

GCSE

The practical experiences offered to younger pupils inspire many of them to study Economics as one of their GCSE options. Pupils learn the principles of economics: what is a market, how does it operate, and how are businesses and individuals affected by the economy? The course takes pupils through a range of topics to answer these questions and many more, as well as exploring the functioning of a small or 'micro' market to the performance of the overall or 'macro' company. As this subject is new to all pupils in Year 10 and pursued as a chosen option, pupils display a genuine interest in their work and contribute to high levels of discussion in class.



GCSE Economics is a popular and academically strong subject at Emanuel; 30% of the GCSE cohort in 2019 had taken the subject, with 97% of grades achieved at A*-B/9-5.

A LEVEL

At A level, students have the option to take either Business or Economics as one of their three A level choices alongside the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). In Economics, the Edexcel specification is relatively new and is designed to challenge students in a number of key areas, including markets, demand and supply, business growth and the financial sector, among other themes. A level Business provides students a useful grounding in the intricacies of the business world and is geared to teaching and developing the skills needed in later life – especially the management of information and knowledge, analysis, evaluation and decision-making.

In the Lower Sixth, students are encouraged to submit essays for the IEA Economics Award and to participate in the Europe-wide Young Enterprise Competition. Starting at a local level, teams are eliminated through a series of rounds, competing with approximately 950 UK schools each year. Emanuel has a fantastic track record in this competition; we have been within one round of the national finals for two years running, with over 14 schools reaching the national finals each year.

Uptake numbers have been particularly strong at A level in recent years; we currently have two Economics sets in the Lower Sixth and one Business set. In 2019, 96% of the Economics cohort and 100% of the Business cohort secured grades A*-B. Many of our students pursue Economics, Business, Management or related courses at some of the UK's most prestigious universities, with 19 students securing places on related degree courses in 2019.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Students have the opportunity to extend their knowledge beyond the curriculum and gain a real insight into UK and international business and finance through hearing from a range of visiting speakers in professional industries. In 2019, Andy Mollett, Chief Financial Officer at West Ham FC, came in to speak to A level Business and Economics students about his life at the top of UK business. Emanuel's new Goddard Lecture series, launched in 2019, invites top professionals to speak to students of all ages; so far, we have welcomed Jimmy Wales, Co-Founder of Wikipedia, and Yonca Dervisoglu, Chief Marketing Officer of Europe, Middle East and Africa for Google, to speak to students about their areas of industry and the development of their own careers.

In Year 10, all pupils (not just those pursuing GCSE Economics) are invited to take part in the Adam

Smith Economics Essay. This competition is designed to test pupils' interest in the subject, allowing the opportunity to promote their research skills and understanding of real economic issues. In 2019, 21 entries were received, with many going beyond the standard normally seen in A level exam answers.

At Emanuel we are always looking for ways we can help our community by extending our academic provision and facilities to local primary schools. As part of our outreach programme we host a Dragons' Den competition for primary pupils in the school theatre. In 2019, we invited three 'Dragons' to judge the teams' business ideas: Charles Oppenheim (owner and manager of ParkLife), Anna Cusden (Managing Director of Look Fabulous Forever) and Rupert Tong (Head of Innovation and Enterprise at Emanuel). The standard of competition among the pupils was extremely impressive, ranging from smart shopper apps to bio pens.