



Business & Economics Department Profile

The aim of the Business Department at Coloma is to ensure that students learn about Business in a dynamic and engaging way. The specification is largely holistic and enables students to learn about a wide range of topics including units that cover core business functions as well as the external influences that affect business activity and operations. Many of the discussions in lessons enable students to consider the actions of real-life businesses and the effect this has on different stakeholders as well as how businesses have responded to pressures arising from the external environment. Students are taught in mixed ability groups and classes are well structured to cater to the needs of all individuals. Although the department has a main teaching room in 6th form and in the main school, teachers do use different classrooms as required. Business is taught as a GCSE and an 'A' Level subject and follows the AQA specification. The subject has expanded over the last two years and now offers the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business. The department also facilitates and organises Young Enterprise which is a scheme available for any Year 12 student to participate in.

Key stage 4

There are currently three, Year 10 groups and two, Year 11 groups. The AQA GCSE specification covers six units in total over two years and covers each of the core business functions (Human Resources, Operations, Marketing and Finance) as well as a unit which covers how businesses operate in the real world and a unit which covers the external pressures on a business. Students are set a variety of different types of homework tasks (research/investigation, revision for formal assessments and general exam practice as well as written answers required for short and long questions). Students do not have their own text book but teachers follow the AQA GCSE 9-11 Business text book by Surridge and Gillespie. The teachers deliver the lessons so that the specification is closely followed and students have thorough notes in exercise books. Students have the opportunity to take part in the Premier League Enterprise Competition which was a huge success this year. In the past, we have also run Tycoons in School which is a competition run by the Peter Jones Foundation.

Key stage 5

There is currently one Year 12 A Level Business class, one Year 13 A Level business class, one Year 12 BTEC class and one Year 13 BTEC class. The A Level covers the theoretical side of business (for example; the core business functions, leadership, decisions making, elements of the external environment such as globalisation and ethics as well as change management and strategic implementation) and is assessed through examinations only at the end of two years. The Year 12 A Level students are formally examined internally at the end of the first year. The BTEC classes cover two units per year. Three out of the four units are mandatory; one is an optional unit (Recruitment and Selection). One of the four units is externally examined, three are assignment based (assessed both externally and internally). The A Level and BTEC students have the opportunity to participate in the BASE competition run by the Chartered Institute of Accountants and are usually very successful in doing so. The department has organised guest speakers to visit the school as well as organised school visits to different businesses and organisations. These have included trips to the Coca-Cola factory, McDonalds, Metro Bank, The Oval cricket ground and Waitrose.



'A' Level Economics

In Economics we aim to encourage greater knowledge and awareness of economic, social and business related issues. The subject lends itself to academic learning with direct relevance to real life issues, and a solid foundation for a wide range of university and career choices.

Economics is a dynamic subject and much of the learning experience can be linked to current affairs. The use of broadsheet newspapers and supporting web sites are a key component of study, and this is enhanced by a number of trips to student conferences and seminars, combining revision days with, for example, a visit to the Bank of England Museum.

At 'A' Level, Economics is taught from AQA specification over two years with no formal AS examinations in Year 12.

