



KINGSTON  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1561



ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

# THE CURRICULUM

Pre-U is a well-regarded alternative to A Levels and is accepted by universities in the UK and around the world.

Much of Economics concerns market forces: how markets work, why they sometimes fail to work as well as we might wish and whether, when and how governments should intervene. We aim to engage students in the application of economic thinking to current issues. At present, and for some time to come, we will be considering questions such as:

- Was the Government's furlough scheme a success?
- How concerned should we be about rising government debt?
- What does it mean to 'level up' the economy, and how might government go about it?
- What are the best and fairest ways to distribute a vaccine?

These questions merit serious consideration not simply for their intellectual interest but also because they have an important bearing on human welfare.

Universities and employers regard Economics as a 'numerate' discipline. It has the reputation of being a demanding subject. Since the 2007/08 crisis, there has been an increase in the number of students taking 'hard' A Level subjects including Economics ('Students opt for maths and economics', The Independent, Thursday 20 August 2009). Sixth Formers at KGS combine Economics with a wide range of other A Level subjects. Maths and Economics are an obvious and popular pairing. Economics sheds light on a number of issues studied in



History, Politics and Geography. The rapidly growing field of Behavioural Economics is one where Economics and Psychology overlap. Perhaps more surprisingly, students studying Medicine or Engineering at university are likely to encounter some Economics in their degree courses. If you are thinking of studying Economics at university, you should be aware that Maths or Further Maths A Level are either required or preferred for the highest-ranked courses.

The first year of the KGS Economics course covers elementary economic theory and applied work. In microeconomics, demand and supply analysis is applied to a wide range of markets. The analysis of market failure includes environmental economics. In macroeconomics, students become acquainted with the main indicators such as growth, inflation and unemployment, and they learn to make sense of their movements



by using an aggregate supply and demand framework. The second year of the course returns to these issues in greater depth and adds new topics including international economics. Successful students learn how to communicate technical arguments clearly. The course includes independent study of Behavioural Economics, which is assessed in the Pre-U Investigation paper.

We have joined the CORE project, which provides our students with an online textbook and a wide range of further resources. CORE now forms the basis of the first year of undergraduate Economics courses at universities including UCL, Bath, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester and Warwick. Our students enrol in the Financial Times online and we subscribe to the online edition of The Economist, which students can access at school and at home. Journal articles may be obtained through JSTOR. We have our own Economics webpage, including audio and video clips, and we make current materials available on Teams. In December, our students will attend an 'Economics in Action' conference held in London.

Of the 100 Upper Sixth students who studied Economics from 2016 to 2020, 38 went on to read Economics in single or joint honours at university.





	2020	2019
A Level A* - B	82%	90%

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