

St Mark's C of E School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Bryant

Head of School Primary: Mrs Lorraine Hoad

Head of School Secondary: Mr Ben Godber



Wednesday 26th March

Dear Parents / Carers,

GCSE Business Studies

I am delighted to say that we have managed to appoint a new colleague for next year who is an experienced Business Studies teacher. This means we can now add this to our range of options for September 2025.

If your child wishes to pick Business Studies instead of their current 4th option preference, then please complete the section at the bottom of this letter and return it to Mr Godber by Friday 28th March. Should your child wish to change a different option to Business Studies rather than their 4th choice, please add a note to this letter to explain this.

I confirm I wish my child to change their GCSE option choices to include Business Studies.

Parent name & signature		
Child name & signature		

Yours sincerely,

Ben Godber
Head of Secondary

GCSE Business Studies

Overview

GCSE Business is not a course about how to run your own business. This is a frequent misconception and often means students select it for the wrong reasons. On the course students will learn about how the world of business works and its relevance to almost every aspect of modern society. Amongst other topics, they will learn about employment law, marketing, finance and economic. The GCSE in Business looks to inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in one of the many business disciplines, such as marketing, finance, sales, recruitment or retail.

The qualification also supports progression to a more specialised level 3 academic or vocational business course or an apprenticeship. Business related courses are currently the most popular university degrees in both the UK and the U.S so this will give students the first steps on this educational path. This course will also allow pupils to see how real businesses operate through case studies about the world's most famous brands. They will also have the opportunity to visit businesses to learn more about them as well as hear from local entrepreneurs who will be invited in.

Topics Covered

Students will cover a variety of different topics within the subject of business including:

- Marketing
- Enterprise
- Business planning
- Production
- Finance
- Economics

Assessment

The OCR GCSE Business assessment is as follows:

- Two exams: 'business activity, marketing and people' and 'operations, finance and influences on business. Both exams are 90 minutes and worth 50% each of the total course.
- Some questions will be extended writing to test your ability to explain why you made a particular decision.
- Both exams are marked out of 80. At least 10% of these marks are awarded for quantitative skills, with the rest being based on a pupil's ability to demonstrate knowledge, apply theory to business contexts and analyse / evaluate business decisions.

Maths skills are essential	The ability to work independently and have experience of Business settings outside of the school environment is helpful	Well established reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are really important.
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