Welcome to the Business & IT Department

Our Aims

We develop our students practical and creative skills in the Faculty through offering a range of subjects that directly link to the demands of today's world, which also supports student awareness of employability and educational pathways. We pride ourselves on our dedication to student development and progress in ensuring that each young person not only meets but exceeds their potential.

Department Information

The Business and IT department currently consists of 4 members of staff including a Subject Specialist for Computer Science. Situated on the first floor (with Economics in the Sixth Form Centre), lessons are taught in 4 dedicated classrooms. Each classroom is fitted with an Interactive Whiteboard and/or projector, and have a suite of computers that allow access for whole group teaming at KS3 and KS4.

Department Staffing

Anna Willett - Head of Faculty
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Ella Rivett – Subject Specialist for Computer Science KS3-KS5
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Jason Young – Head of Year 12 and Subject Specialist for Economics
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Iona Corbett –Quality Nominee Vocational Learning Teacher of Business Studies KS3/4
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Business & IT Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3

In Year 9, students have the opportunity to choose a Business and Computer Science Taster Course as an option to study in Year 9. The students will be able to learn about Business for two terms, then Computer Science for two terms. In the final two terms there will be an Extended Project where all new knowledge from both subject areas will be put together and showcased. The Year 9 mock assessment and end of year assessment will test their learning and application of knowledge over the academic year in February and June.

What you will learn

Business: Students will learn about all aspects relating to capability and enterprise. This will be taught through different approaches and students will require problem solving skills and creativity.

Computer Science: Students will learn about basic computer programming and computational thinking. Students will learn how to use and apply this creativity to solve problems and develop products.

There are some students in Year 8 who will also have the opportunity to study IT instead of French or Spanish. These students will be offered places at the end of Year 7. In Year 8, the selected students will be learning about the features and functions of different software, and how computers affect us in society.

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource.

Homework is set weekly by classroom teachers and is in-line with the topics being studied at that time. The homework tasks are normally 30 minutes – 1 hour a week at Key Stage 3.

Business Studies Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4

GCSE Business Studies is a practical and useful qualification that is an oversubscribed option at KS4 at North Oxfordshire Academy. The qualification demonstrates to future employers that you have knowledge of Business applications, problem solving skills, and that you have excellent communication and knowledge of team working. The subject will encourage you to think laterally about business concepts; it will give you an in-sight into how businesses perceive you as a consumer as well as the structures, legalities and key aspects within the Business arena.

We are consistently working hard to think of new ways to deliver the GCSE Syllabus. The inclusion of Extended Projects, group work and event organising challenges, have proven to be really popular with students. Students have various opportunities where they can creatively apply knowledge in practical outcomes and this supports their success in exams.

Students will learn the key Business concepts in Year 10 and produce their controlled assessment practice. The final controlled assessment will be produced in the winter term in Year 11 and students will then prepare for their theory exam.

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource.

Homework is set weekly by classroom teachers and is in-line with the topics being studied at that time. The homework tasks are normally at least 1 hour a week at Key Stage 4. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement.

To enable students at KS4 to work in their own time please use the link below to provide access to past examination papers and mark schemes.

Past Papers & Mark Schemes

http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/Business/Business/Pages/default.aspx

The link above takes you to information on the whole course including past papers, mark schemes and Controlled Assessment information.

Computer Science Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4

GCSE Computer Science is a qualification that is highly regarded in the STEM employment areas. Students who are looking for a possible career in Computer Science, Computer Programming, Design or CAD Development, or in the fields of Engineering, Science and Maths will find this to be an advantage. The qualification demonstrates to future employers that you have a sound knowledge of how computers process data, the hardware involved in doing this and how computers can be programmed to achieve particular results. The subject will encourage you to become a problem solver and build on your computational thinking skills; you will continue to build and enhance Science and Maths application and should be confident in these subjects to option this course at KS4.

Currently we follow the **Edexcel GCSE** syllabus. Students will sit an examination at the end of year 11 and will be expected to carry out a practical project focussed on programming during this year.

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource.

Homework is set weekly by classroom teachers and is in-line with the topics being studied at that time. The homework tasks are normally at least 1 hour a week at Key Stage 4. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement.

Information Technology Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4

There is a selection of students that are offered to take a Vocational option for IT instead of French or Spanish. The qualification we offer is the Cambridge Nationals in IT and consists of 3 coursework units and one exam unit. This qualification is a great way to develop IT skills in general, as well as develop creativity, communication and organisational skills.

In Year 9, students will complete the compulsory coursework unit and one coursework option unit. The compulsory unit focusses on a range of functional skills for IT, and the option unit ties in with Media.

In Year 10, students will complete the compulsory exam unit and have the opportunity to sit this at the end of Year 10. There will also be an opportunity to start the final coursework unit that will be completed in Year 11.

In Year 11, students will complete a unit linking to Programming, and have the chance to re-sit the exam if necessary.

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource.

Homework is set weekly by classroom teachers and is in-line with the topics being studied at that time. The homework tasks are normally at least 1 hour a week at Key Stage 4. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement.

What do you need to study this course?

You will need at least 5A*-C at GCSE including Maths and Science at grade B or higher.

Qualification Link

http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals-ict-level-1-2-j800-j810-j820/

The link above takes you to overall course information, past papers, resources and Assignment Briefs.

Business Studies Key Stage 5

AS/A Level Business Studies is a popular and challenging subject to study in Sixth Form. A keen interest in creative thinking and problem solving is essential. Students will study 4 units over the two year course; this course is made up of 100% externally assessed exam.

During the first year of the course you will be completing *Developing New Business Ideas*, in which you will learn the characteristics needed to be successful in business and how new or existing businesses generate their product or service ideas and test them through market research. You will also complete *Managing the Business*, where you will learn key activities which may be involved if you were to set up and/or manage a business whether small, medium-sized or large. It also introduces you to some basic management tools and models.

On the successful completion of year 1 you will build upon the work you have done with a further 2 units; *International Business* and *Making Business Decisions.* This will open you up to the world of international business and issues which a company trading internationally would have to consider, as well as ways to create strategies to overcome competitors and manage risk.

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

It is an expectation that students in Sixth Form partake in 3 hours additional study per subject per week. This can be easily organised into 3 sections: wider reading, exam practice, and revision on current topics. Teachers will set the homework tasks on Show My Homework and will be uploaded regularly.

What will you need to study this course?

To study Business Studies AS/A Level, you will need 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE, or equivalent.

Further information
http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/bus-stud/Pages/default.aspx

The link above takes you to the overall course specification, past papers, mark schemes and resources for study.

Economics Key Stage 5

AS/A Level Economics is a social science that studies how individuals, businesses, governments and nations make choices around the allocation of resources to satisfy needs and wants. It is an interesting study into the wider picture of global economies, and the narrower picture of the individual consumer. The course will look at topics such as Supply and Demand, Government failure, Macroeconomic objectives and the features of developing countries. It will prove to be a fascinating look into how the world works and be a tool for explaining topical issues such as the recent global recession and financial crisis. The course has a straightforward and simple structure, being made up in total of four units. There are two compulsory units for the AS and an additional two units for the complete A-Level. The units are all externally assessed through each having one exam over the two years, with regular practice papers and written assessments as we move through the course.

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

It is an expectation that students in Sixth Form partake in 3 hours additional study per subject per week. This can be easily organised into 3 sections: wider reading, exam practice, and revision on current topics. Teachers will set the homework tasks on Show My Homework and will be uploaded regularly.

What will you need to study this course?

To study Economics AS/A Level, you will need 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE, or equivalent, with at least a B in Maths.

Further Information

http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/economics/Pages/default.aspx

The link above takes you to the overall course specification, past papers, mark schemes and resources for study.

Computer Science Key Stage 5

Computers are everywhere! If you study A-Level Computing you will find that it can help you to access higher education, not only in the computing field, but also supports science, engineering, medicine, business and even graphics.

There are local apprenticeships available within the computing field; a good grade in A-Level Computing will help you stand out above other applicants.

AS/A Level Computer Science is an upcoming subject that is grabbing the attention of universities and employers. It involves an analytical and creative mind-set in order to understand theoretical and practice topics.

AS Computer Science

01 Computing principles

This component will be a traditionally marked and structured question paper with a mix of question types: short-answer, longer-answer, and levels of response mark-scheme-type questions. It will cover the characteristics of contemporary systems architecture and other areas including the following:

- Operating systems
- Introduction to programming
- Data types, structures and algorithms
- Exchanging data and web technologies
- Using Boolean algebra
- Legal and ethical issues.

02 Algorithms and Problem solving

This component will be a traditionally marked and structured question paper and will include a mix of question types: short-answer, longer-answer, and levels of response mark-scheme-type questions.

There'll be a short scenario/task contained in the paper, which could be an algorithm or a text page-based task, which will involve problem solving.

Other areas covered include the following:

- Elements of computational thinking
- Programming techniques
- Software development methodologies
- Algorithms
- Standard algorithms.

A Level Computer Science

01 Computer systems

This component will be a traditionally marked and structured question paper with a mix of question types: short-answer, longer-answer, and levels of response mark-scheme-type questions. It will cover the characteristics of contemporary systems architecture and other areas including the following:

- Software and its development
- Types of programming languages
- Data types, representation and structures
- Exchanging data and web technologies
- Following algorithms
- Using Boolean algebra
- Legal, moral and ethical issues.

02 Algorithms and Programming

This component will be a traditionally marked and structured question paper with two sections, both of which will include a mix of question types: short-answer, longer-answer, and levels of response mark-scheme-type questions.

Section A

Traditional questions concerning computational thinking.

- Elements of computational thinking
- Programming and problem solving
- Pattern recognition, abstraction and decomposition
- Algorithm design and efficiency
- Standard algorithms.

Section B

There'll be a scenario/task contained in the paper, which could be an algorithm or a text page-based task, which will involve problem solving.

03 Programming project

External postal moderation or repository.

Students and/or centres select their own user-driven problem of an appropriate size and complexity to solve. This will enable them to demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the Assessment Objectives. Students will need to analyse the problem, design a solution, implement the solution and give a thorough evaluation.

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

It is an expectation that students in Sixth Form partake in 3 hours additional study per subject per week. This can be easily organised into 3 sections: wider reading, exam practice, and revision on current topics. Teachers will set the homework tasks on Show My Homework and will be uploaded regularly.

What will you need to study this course?

To study Computer Science AS/A Level, you will need 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE, or equivalent, with at least a B in Maths.

Further Information

http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-computing-h047-h447/

The link above takes you to the overall course specification, past papers, mark schemes and resources for study.