



Department Staffing

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KS4 Business

We currently offer GCSE Business Studies that is a practical and useful qualification that is an oversubscribed option at KS4 at North Oxfordshire Academy. The qualification ensures that students are equipped with the knowledge of business applications, problem solving skills and excellent communication skills. The subject does encourage you to think laterally about business concepts; it gives the students an insight into how businesses perceive you as a consumer as well as the structures, legalities and key concepts associated with businesses.

Students learn the core business concepts in Year 10 and produce their controlled assessment practice. The final externally assessed controlled assessment will be produced in Year 11. The students will be preparing for the theoretical examinations in both Year 10 and 11.

Past papers and mark schemes:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html>

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

KS5 Business

We currently offer a vocational option at KS5 and this is the OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate Level 3 qualification. This allows students the opportunity to both perform well in an examination and some coursework in both Year 12 and Year 13. The students work individually on portfolio work in the lessons and are assessed at Pass, Merit, and Distinction. The students are also examined on key concepts, processes and content. The examinations are also graded pass, merit or distinction. If the students achieve Distinctions in all units they are awarded the Distinction*.

The students study 5 units over the two years and these are

Mandatory:

Unit 1 *The Business Environment*

Unit 2 *Working in Business*

Unit 4 *Customers and Communication*

+2 optional units

It will provide learners with the opportunity through applied learning to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the business sector.

The students will apply their practical skills and knowledge in preparation for further study, Higher Education or the workplace. Designed in collaboration with experts spanning the breadth of the sector, the Cambridge Technicals in Business focuses on the skills, knowledge and understanding that today's universities and employers demand.

Further information:

The link below takes you to exam board's website to get a general overview of the course and the breakdown of the units that are offered.

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocational-education-and-skills/cambridge-technicalsbusiness-level-3-certificate-extended-certificate-foundation-diploma-diploma-05834-05837-2016suite/>

KS4 IT/Computing

We offer the course OCR GCSE Computing for students as an option subject for the current Year 11 cohort. As of 2017 we will be offering the OCR Cambridge National Level 2 qualification in IT. Currently we have a vocational option for a small selection of students who were offered to take IT instead of French or Spanish. The course consists of 3 coursework units and one exam unit. The qualification is a great way to develop IT skills in general, as well as develop creativity, communication and organisational skills.

In Year 10 the students will complete the compulsory coursework unit and one coursework option unit. The compulsory unit focuses on a range of functional skills for IT and the option unit ties in with Media.

In Year 11 the students will complete the compulsory exam unit and finish the final coursework unit.

Past papers and course information:

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

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

KS5 IT

We currently offer a vocational option for IT in the Sixth Form. We offer the OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate Level 3. The qualification is designed in collaboration with experts spanning the breadth of the sector, the Cambridge Technicals in IT focuses on the skills, knowledge and understanding that today's universities and employers demand.

The course is broken down into three externally examined units and a further choice of two optional units that are centre assessed and externally moderated. It will provide learners with the opportunity through applied learning to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the IT sector. The students work individually on portfolio work in the lessons and are assessed at Pass, Merit, and Distinction. The students are also examined on key concepts, processes and content. The examinations are also graded pass, merit or distinction. If the students achieve Distinctions in all units, they are awarded the Distinction*.

Further information:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocational-education-and-skills/cambridge-technicals-it-level3-certificate-extended-certificate-introductory-diploma-foundation-diploma-diploma-05838-058422016-suite/>

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

KS4 Media

We currently offer the AQA GCSE Media Studies course as an option to Year 10/11 students. The Media Studies course is a popular option choice for students at North Oxfordshire Academy as it allows the students to show their creative talents as well as their academic achievements.

The current specification is weighted at 60% coursework and 40% examined content. However; the specification is changing next year and the weightings will be as follows 70% examined content and 30% coursework.

The examination content changes on a year-by-year basis the current exam topic for 2017 is TV Game Shows and the 2018 exam topic is Serial TV Drama. The students are given preliminary material two weeks prior to the exam to prepare for the examination.

The subject will encourage thinking creatively and applying new terminology. The subject allows you think about the decisions institutions have made to persuade the audience to consume the media products.

Further information:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/media-studies/gcse>

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

KS5 Media

We currently offer the AQA A Level Media Studies course to the students at North Oxfordshire Academy. The current Year 12/13 students are currently on the old specification that finishes in 2018. The course is broken down into 50% coursework and 50% examinations. They are assessed in both areas in Year 12 and Year 13.

Year 12:

MEST 1: Examination

MEST 2: Non-Examined Assessment

Year 13:

MEST 3: Examination

MEST 4: Non-Examined Assessment

The new specification is being taught from September 2017 and this will be taught in a similar way but with the weightings changed; the examinations will be worth 70% and the coursework worth 30% of the overall grade. There will be two examinations rather than one and the students will be required to engage with set media texts from the examination board.

The subject allows for the students who are creative, analytical and academic to thrive. The subject encourages students to read around the subject and have a good grounding in general knowledge. The subject supports students with aspirations to work within the Media sector or further their studies in higher education learning establishments.

Further information:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/media-studies/as-and-a-level>

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

KS5 Economics

What is Economics?

When most people are asked what they think Economics is, their response is normally one of two. Either a subject to do with business and money, or in truth they just don't really know! In reality Economics can be defined in a variety of ways and historically there have been numerous approaches to what in essence, is a study of the economy. For now, we will say that Economics is a social science that studies how individuals, businesses, governments and nations make choices around the allocation of resources to satisfy their needs and wants. It serves as an interesting study into the big picture of global economies, right down to the narrow perspective of individual consumers like you and me.

As a subject goes, the greatest advantage to studying it is the knowledge you gain that will help you understand and form opinions on what you see in the world around you every day. Full of real world application, you will be able to discuss topics such as the global financial crisis, decisions around the government's spending budgets and the recent EU referendum, with much more confidence and accuracy.

Some of the questions you will be able to answer...

What is the nature of economics?

What determines the demand and price of a good or service in a market?

How do we measure the economics performance of developed and developing countries?

Is income the same as wealth?

What are the causes, costs and constraints of economic growth?

What are the macroeconomic objectives of government?

Some light reading...

Economics: The User's Guide by Ha-Joon Chang – A compressive introduction to the basics of economics. An engaging book that is both detailed and simple to understand at the same time.

Freakonomics by Steven Levitt – A funny and engaging book applying economics to a variety of real life situations, showing that Economics is always relevant. **A little challenge...**

The UK Government's fiscal budget outlines where their income comes from (mostly tax) and where they plan to spend it. See if you can find out what the three biggest areas of expense were in 2015. How much was spent on those areas? And do you agree or disagree with that allocation of money? Thoughts on a postcard...

For more information, speak to Mr Young in the Sixth Form.