

## **The Business Studies Department**

The Business & Economics Department at Valentines High School is well established and successful. There are four members in the department, all who share a vision to be outstanding by achieving academic and vocational excellence. This is achieved through regularly setting effective and achievable curriculum targets, using technology based resources to improve teaching and learning. The facilities and resources used by the Department are excellent and teachers have a designated, air conditioned classroom with a suite of computers.

Business is delivered at Key Stage 4 at both GCSE and BTEC Level 2. In Key Stage 5, Business is offered as an A Level, BTEC Level 3. In addition to these courses, the department offers A Level Economics. GCSE is taught using the AQA specifications. For A level the department run the new AQA A Level Business as a two year course. All applied courses use the BTEC specifications except for year 10 who have started the new Cambridge Nationals course in Marketing. Economics is being taught using the AQA specification.

The Department strives to stimulate curiosity, interest and enthusiasm in the world of Business. We enable pupils to acquire understanding and knowledge of the concepts, principles and applications involved in all areas of Business and Economics. Our goal is to provide all pupils with an excellent educational experience through well designed schemes of work and visits. We introduce pupils to current business practice and to the ways in which businesses operate. This allows pupils to become confident citizens in an increasingly technological and target-driven world, and be familiar with the language of Business. We aim to support pupils to understand the key skills and process they need to develop and progress. We are constantly developing a curriculum that involves a range of tasks and activities to support and challenge learners of all abilities, and to become independent, life-long learners. The Department work together in planning schemes of work and organising extra-curricular events. In Business Studies we aim to enable every student to leave school with an accredited qualification. We endeavour to reduce the attainment gap between groups of pupils by making effective use of data to inform teaching and learning and by constantly developing our skills as a teaching team.

The Business & Economics Department plays a key part in developing students to prepare them with workplace skills, which in turn will contribute to their economic wellbeing. Our curriculum contextualises learning through the use of real life situations and problem solving scenarios. The Business & Economics Department has developed effective links facilitating the personal and entrepreneurial skills of the pupils. Pupils in the Sixth Form take part in the Young Enterprise programme, receiving mentoring from well-established organisations.

The Department has enjoyed successful results in external examinations. In 2018-2019 at GCSE level students have achieved 86% 9-4 and 85% L2D\*-L2P in Cambridge Nationals in Marketing and enterprise. At A level, students have achieved 85% A\*-C in Business and Economics with a 100% A\*-C. We are proud of our pupils' achievements and the hard work and support of the Department is critical in helping pupils achieve their potential and ensuring that they are challenged and stretched within all lessons.

Business is a popular subject which students actively choose. We are a thriving, friendly and forward thinking department. We are committed to high standards of education and we encourage our pupils to achieve the best they can.