

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 and BTEC Level 2. 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 with Economics 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. At GCSE level students have achieved 78% A*-C and at A level, students have achieved 94% A*-C in Business and 100% A*-C in Economics. 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.

The Computing & ICT Department

The Computing & ICT Department at Valentines is an innovative and popular department with an excellent record of success. Attainment in all key stages is well above national average. The department provides students with outstanding learning opportunities through a wide range of methods and strategies. Standards in the department have continued to improve over the last academic year and we are looking to maintain this level of progress. Colleagues within the department strive to develop classroom practice and raise aspirations and as a result improve student progress and outcomes, enjoyment and engagement within Computing and ICT. The Department are provided with many opportunities to advance their CPD both within the Teaching School programme at Valentines and with external providers, such as the OTI and OTP programmes.

Structure

The Computing and ICT Department consist of a Head of Department with BTEC responsibility and two other members of staff, all of whom are specialists. The department is energised by the excellent relationships between staff and students which characterise the atmosphere within the team. All members of the department contribute to the development of the new Computing curriculum, which has been changed to incorporate Programming in Python and App Development, therefore knowledge of a programming language such as Python is essential. Maintaining high standards, marking, assessing and reporting pupil progress are an important part of the Department's Policy. The department actively promotes the use of the Firefly VLE to share lesson resources, set homework, develop Flip Learning and communicate with students.

Computing is taught in mixed ability option blocks in Key Stage 3 and is a popular choice for options in Key Stages 4 and 5. GCSE Computer Science and BTEC Tech Award is an option for students at Key Stage 4 with about least 40% of the whole cohort selecting to do the course.

Computer Science is offered as an A-Level course which has also been a popular choice. An additional Level 3 BTEC IT qualification is also delivered within the department, where staff work collaboratively to deliver this qualification. All members of the Department are expected to contribute to the development of Schemes of Work, participate in sharing good practice and work in teaching partnerships, either formally or informally.

The successful applicant for this role will be an ICT/Computing specialist; a passionate advocate for high quality teaching and learning; imaginative, dynamic and energetic, and an excellent communicator committed to enhancing the life chances of our young people.