

Business Studies

The Business Studies Department at St Thomas More Catholic School aims to develop the inner entrepreneur within our students. We strive to ensure that our students have a good understanding of a wide range of business concepts and issues, and are able to apply them to a range of different business scenarios. We look to ensure that students from Business Studies are able to take their understanding and use it in either further studies or real-life situations, both business and non-business related contexts.

Key Stage 4

GCSE Business Studies

The Business Studies Department's GCSE curriculum has been built around the following key concepts;

How businesses operate in changing markets	
Starting a business	Growing a business
Creation of a business opportunity and exploiting it, based on informed decision making	Development of an existing business based on informed decision making

The table below shows you the topics pupils will study throughout Key Stage 4:

	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3
Year 10	Starting a business Enterprise and entrepreneurship Spotting a business opportunity	Starting a business Putting a business idea into practice Making the business effective	Starting a business Understanding external influences on business
Year 11	Growing a business Growing the business Making marketing decisions	Growing a business Making operational decisions Making financial decisions Making human resource decisions	Structured Revision

Key Stage 5

Business Studies - A Level

Students studying Business Studies at Key Stage 5 will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE, developing their ability to analyse and evaluate business scenarios. The Business Studies Department's A-Level curriculum has been built around the following key concepts;

How businesses operate in changing markets			
Marketing and people	Managing business activities	Business decisions and strategy	Global business
Human and marketing factors and their impacts on business	Financial and economic factors and their analysis	Tactical and strategic decision making	Operations of a business in a global context

The table below shows you the topics pupils will study throughout Key Stage 5:

	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3
Year 12	Marketing and people Meeting customer needs Market Managing business activities Raising finance Financial Planning	Marketing and people Marketing mix and strategy Managing people Managing business activities Managing finance Resource management	Marketing and people Entrepreneurs and leaders Managing business activities External influences
Year 13	Business decisions and strategy Business objectives and strategy Business growth Decision-making techniques Global business Globalisation Global markets and business expansion	Business decisions and strategy Influences on business decisions Assessing competitiveness Managing change Global business Global marketing Global industries and companies (multinational corporations)	Structured Revision

The Business Studies Department’s Key Stage 5 vocational curriculum has been built around the following key concepts;

How businesses operate in changing markets				
The Business Environment	Working in Business	Customers and Communication	Accounting Concepts	Project Management
Wider external concepts in which businesses operate	Being able to operate successfully within a business environment	Customer, their influence and the need for communication	Ensuring business operates with the legal framework and can analyse finances for success	Planning and developing a project for growth

The table below shows you the topics pupils will study throughout Key Stage 5:

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 4	Unit 11	Unit 16
Year 12	The Business Environment Businesses and their objectives Functional areas Organisational structures Financial health of businesses Businesses and stakeholders External influences and constraints Why businesses plan Assessing business performance	Working in Business Protocols Business meetings Business documents Prioritisation Communicating with stakeholders	Customers and Communication Customers and their importance Communicating with customers Constraints and issues with information Non-verbal and verbal communication Convey messages	Accounting Concepts Why businesses keep accounting records Reconciliation Using the accounting equation Preparing principal documentation Completing cash books Double entry bookkeeping Trial balances	Project Management Skills for project management How and why projects are monitored Factors that influence a project Prepare project plans Stages of project management