



CITY OF LONDON  
FREEMEN'S SCHOOL

# Business Studies

Head of Department: Mrs P Brooks

Examination Board: AQA

## **Entry requirement: GCSE mathematics grade B**

Business studies concerns the world around us. Students are encouraged to relate their experience as a buyer of goods and services to business theory and economic events, and to understand how government and business work together. They also learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course, including the important business skills of decision making and planning, which will be valuable in any career and higher education course.

## **What does the business studies course involve?**

The course is not intended to be vocational but aims to make students think about the contribution of business to society in an analytical manner. The syllabus gives a greater emphasis to the service sector rather than manufacturing industry, reflecting the reality of modern Britain. The first year gives an introduction to planning, financing and managing a business. There is the chance to find out about how businesses organise themselves and make decisions. In the second year students learn about aspects of the British and European economy and the effect of economic events on businesses and the people who work for them. In the second year there is an opportunity to examine each of the topic areas in greater depth, and to consider strategic decisions, the wider business environment and change management in preparation for the examinations at the end of the course. The method of study involves work on many case studies taken from the business world to consider real business problems.

## **Wider study and the examination process**

In order to gain an understanding of all aspects of business management, students are expected to follow the news on TV and radio as well as in the press. We will visit many businesses, from local specialist shops to the Mini car factory, during the two year course, and attend business conferences designed for A-level students as well as inviting speakers into School.

There are two modular examinations for the AS-level at the end of the first year and a further two the following year. Pupils will be given the opportunity to act as business advisors to the Young Enterprise companies in Lower 5.

### **Qualifications for taking business studies A-level**

Students should have an interest in learning how a business is organised, operates, plans and makes its decisions, as well as how it interacts with the wider economic environment. It is not necessary to have studied business subjects at GCSE; however, a reasonable level of numeracy and the ability to express a written argument are important and so good passes in GCSE mathematics and English are essential.

Students may not choose to study both economics and business studies at A-level and should consult their tutors as to which of the two might best suit their skills and career plans.

### **Higher education and careers**

Business studies combines well with a range of social science, humanities and mathematical subjects. It could lead to university studies in such areas as business, management, economics, finance and accountancy. The course covers important elements in the examinations of many professional bodies and students will have a head start in careers within marketing, accountancy and human resources. Well over half of our students progress to business management degrees.