

Business at Spalding High School

Department on a page 2025

Staffing:

- **Miss L Goulding:** Head of Business – teaches GCSE and A-level
- **Mr J Blackburn:** SLT responsible for Assessment and Reporting – teaches GCSE Business
- **Mr R McAlinden :** Teacher of Business

The department all work together as a team to plan schemes of work, lesson materials and assessments to ensure good practice is shared and high standards maintained.

The department's lesson observation feedback reinforces the department's subject knowledge strength and provides evidence that students are actively involved in lessons and an engaging learning environment has been created by staff. The results for the department are excellent and the department always scores highly for work scrutinies and in relation to student feedback.

The Business Department:

The aim of the business department is to develop and expand each student's knowledge of business and the global capacity in which they operate so that they can understand and appreciate the business world and its relevance to current issues and their futures. We aim to create an atmosphere where pupils are actively involved in lessons and wish to learn and expand their knowledge.

The department is well stocked with textbooks and resources for GCSE. At KS4 and KS5 the department utilises internally made booklets that cover the core content and are full of engaging activities and strong links to assessment materials. All resources used by the department offer the opportunity for self, peer and teacher led assessment.

The department has a growing section in the school library with business related books and journals. We have also purchased a large number of specialist materials for staff development.

Key Stage 4:

At KS4 Business is a very popular option and we currently average 140 students following the GCSE course across Years 10 and 11:

- Students follow the OCR syllabus. The GCSE course consists of 7 units which are taught over the two years. The students sit two papers at the end of Year 11. One of which assesses the course content of Year 10 and the second which assesses the course content covered in Year 11.
- In Year 10 students cover 3 units: Unit 1 Business Activity, Unit 2 Marketing and Unit 3 People.
- In Year 11 students cover 4 units: Unit 4 Operations, Unit 5 Finance, Unit 6 Influences on Business and Unit 7 The Interdependent Nature of Business.
- There are currently three classes in both Year 10 and Year 11.
- Classes are taught by a single teacher for 5 lessons per fortnight.
- There is a strong common assessment and feedback structure
- In 2024, 99% of GCSE candidates achieved a grade 4 or above and 51% of students achieved a grade 7 or above.

Key Stage 5:

At KS5 Business is a very popular option and we currently average 40 students following the A-level course across Years 12 and 13.

- Students follow the AQA syllabus. The A-level consists of 10 units which are taught over the two years. The students sit three papers at the end of the Year 13 – all of which assess the 10 units.
- There are two classes for Business in each of Years 12 and 13.
- In Year 12, students cover 3 units with Miss Goulding for 5 lessons per fortnight and 3 units with Mr McAlinden for 5 lessons per fortnight.
- In Year 13 students cover 1 unit with Miss Goulding for 5 lessons per fortnight and 3 units with Mr McAlinden.
- There is a strong common assessment and feedback structure in place for the course.
- The A-level course has maintained a 100% pass over the last eight years.
- 56% of our students in 2024 achieved A*-B – compared to the national average of 45%.

Away from the classroom:

- Business prefects are strongly engaged with supporting GCSE students and the department.
- Students in Year 10 and Year 12 partake in work experience which enhances their understanding of the business world.
- Depending on funding, we are hoping to introduce the Young Enterprise Scheme with local business support.
- We are currently in the process of forging stronger links between the department and Bakkavor.
- From September 2025 there will be collaboration between SHS and SGS with Year 12 Economics and all Year 12 Business classes being taught at SHS.
- The A-level Business specification is being updated for first teaching in September 2026, when we plan to change to the OCR specification to bring the A-level teaching and assessment in line with what students have experienced at GCSE.