

# Business / Economics at Spalding High School

## Department on a page 2026

### 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 and Economics.
- **Mrs Fairham:** Subject lead for Business at Spalding Grammar School.
- **Mrs Davidson:** SLT responsible for Assessment and Reporting at SGS – teaches A-level Economics.

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 150 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 2025, 97% of GCSE candidates achieved a grade 4 or above and 35% of students achieved a grade 7 or above in comparison to 18.9% national average for OCR business.

### Key Stage 5: Business

At KS5 Business is a very popular option and we currently average 60 students following the A-level course across Years 12 and 13.

- A-level Business is now taught in collaboration with Spalding Grammar School. From September 2026 onwards, Year 12 students will have 50% of their lessons taught at Spalding Grammar School and 50% at the High School.
- Students will follow the new AQA A-level course. The A-level consists of three units which are taught over the two years. The students sit three exam papers at the end of the Year 13.
- Currently there are two Year 12 classes and two Year 13 classes. As of September 2026 there will be three Year 12 classes.
- In Year 12, students study 'Managing people and operations' with Miss Goulding or Mr McAlinden for 5 lessons per fortnight and 'What is business, marketing and finance' with Mrs Fairham for 5 lessons per fortnight. All student are also timetabled for one independent learning session per week.
- In Year 13 students study 'Analysing the strategic position of a business' with Miss Goulding for 5 lessons per fortnight and Choosing strategic direction, Strategic change and Managing strategic change with Mr McAlinden for 5 hours per fortnight .
- 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.
- 70% of our students in 2025 achieved A\*-B – with a 100% pass rate.

### Key Stage 5: Economics

At KS5 Economics is a very popular option at Spalding Grammar School and is becoming increasingly popular at the High School. We currently have 27 students taking Economics in Year 12.

- All Year 12 Economics has been taught at the High School by Mr McAlinden this year. As from September 2026 both Year 12 and Year 13 Economics classes will be taught in collaboration with Spalding Grammar school.
- From September 2026 onwards, Year 12 students will have 50% of their lessons taught at Spalding Grammar School and 50% at the High School. The same will apply to Year 13.
- Students will follow Edexcel Economics which consists of 4 themes / units which are taught over 2 years.
- Currently there is one class of Year 12 Economics which is taught at Spalding High School and one Year 13 class of Economics that is taught solely at Spalding Grammar School. As of September 2026 the number of Year 12 Economics groups will increase to two.
- From September 2026 in Year 12, students study 'Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure with Mrs Davison at Spalding Grammar School and 'The UK economy – performance and policies' with Mr McAlinden at Spalding High School. Year 13 students will study "Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market' with Mrs Davison at Spalding Grammar School and 'Theme 4 A global perspective' with Mr McAlinden at Spalding High School.
- There is a strong common assessment and feedback structure in place for the course.

### 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.
- The A-level Business specification has been updated for first teaching in September 2026, and we are excited about the developments of the new schemes of work and creating a new updated and engaging business course suitable for modern learners.
- We are also excited that we have also been given a second designated classroom for teaching Business in and are looking forward to creating a subject environment our students can engage with and take pride in.