

## Economics and Business Studies

### Nature of the Department and Courses Offered

The Economics and Business Studies Department currently has sixteen members of teaching staff.

Departmental provision for the 2023/24 academic year includes:

Business	(Eduqas) A Level	2 & 1 year A level courses	In 2022/23 approx.450 students
Applied Business	(AQA) AG Cert/Extended Cert	1 & 2 year course	In 2022/23 approx. 80 students
Economics	(Eduqas) A Level	2 year course	In 2022/23 approx. 260 students
Accounting	(AQA) A Level	2 year course	In 2022/23 approx. 145 students
Financial Studies	(IFS) Certificate/Diploma Level 3	1 & 2 year courses	In 2022/23 approx. 325 students
Business Studies	(BTEC) First Award level 2	1 year course	In 2022/23 approx. 15 students
Lessons in Financial Education	(IFS) Level 2	1 year course	In 2022/23 approx. 50 students

Arising from recent Government announcements relating to their 16-18 qualifications reform ('de-funding') plans the offering of the AG Applied Business course will be discontinued from the 2024/25 academic year

The Department's results have been consistently strong including strong levels of value-added achievement and student retention. Very positive student feedback has been received.

There are links with local industry and visits are part of the programme of opportunities available for students. The department encourages the use of a variety of teaching methods and there is strong support for those wishing to develop new approaches. Progression to related subjects at university is high and we encourage students to find apprenticeships.

More information regarding each of the specific courses can be found in the Course Information Sheets which can be located via the Courses tab on the College website home [Link](#). Information is also available on the College YouTube site relating to courses and guidance for prospective students. [YouTube Link](#)

## ICT and Computing

### Nature of the Department and Courses Offered

The Computing and ICT Department currently comprises four full-time and one part time members of staff.

The Department currently offers the following courses: BTEC level 3 Certificate/Extended Certificate ICT and BTEC level 2 ICT and A level Computing. Members of the Department also contribute course offerings to the College in the form of Additional Studies programme and Extended Project Qualification. abilities.

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## Law

### Nature of the Department and Courses Offered

Law teaching at the College is within a discrete Law Department comprising seven teaching staff. The department offers A level Law (OCR), BTEC Certificate/Extended Certificate in Applied Law and also leads the Extended Project Qualification opportunities across the College. Approximately 350 students follow A Level Law courses and approximately 150 students' study BTEC Applied Law courses. Most of the teaching of A Law groups is split between two members of staff.

The department adopts a wide range of teaching and learning styles when teaching the subject. The department is committed to the development of resource-based learning and has a variety of online resources to enable further independent student research. In addition to the courses offered by the

department a very popular 'Lawyers' additional study is offered. giving careers support and the opportunity to participate in mock trial competitions. Subject related staff development includes the opportunity to visit various law conferences and seminars. Good general staff development opportunities are available including an induction programme, an IT programme and excellent opportunities to undertake both external training and engage in a strong in-house training programme.

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## Mathematics

### Nature of the Department and Courses Offered

There is likely to be a team of 16 teaching staff in the department for the 2023/24 academic year. The team provides teaching and learning on a relatively wide range of Maths courses at A Level, Core Maths, GCSE Maths and other L2 and L1 Maths courses. Full time staff have designated responsibilities, but all staff are involved in the duties of the department and there is a culture of critical evaluation and improvement. Colleagues are keen to look at ways of improving teaching and learning and student performance in the department and act on them.

Approximately 300 students currently study one of the A level Mathematics courses in year 12 and approximately 280 students study a Maths course to A Level in year 13. Keen and very able mathematicians are also offered Maths Challenge/Olympiad opportunities and STEP preparation. In addition, around 100 students per year 're-take' GCSE Mathematics to seek to improve the grade 3 they achieved in Year 11 at school. There are also approximately 30 students per year who have grade 2 or 1 at GCSE on entry who take L1 stepping stone qualifications in preparation for a GCSE resit. In Core Maths, the Critical Analysis and Statistics options are offered with around 200 Year 12 students studying the subject across the two options – with the exams and assessments completed at the end of Year 12.

The department currently uses the OCR 'A' specification for the A Level Mathematics and Further Maths courses. Students who choose to study Further Maths alongside A level Maths take AS Further Maths at the end of year 12. Students taking 'double Maths' are taught in discreet groups.

The A level Statistics course currently uses Edexcel specifications, and we use AQA for the GCSE and Edexcel for the L2 and L1 Maths courses

The department offers GCSE Mathematics to appropriate students at both Higher and Foundation level depending on their previous level of entry and grade achieved. These are linear GCSE courses offered by AQA with examinations generally taken in the summer period. However, we also run accelerated groups where students who achieved a GCSE grade 3 at the end of Year 11, but feel it was a 'near miss', sit papers in the November exam series. Higher Level students may be offered a November resit opportunity in certain circumstances. Number award Level 1 & 2 and Functional skills Level 1 are also offered.

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## Physics

### Nature of the Department and Courses Offered

The A Level Physics and Electronics subject areas are managed within the Physics Department. In September 2023 the department is likely to have a team of seven teachers. The work of the department is supported by a specialist technician and also supported by other science technicians when the needs arise.

The department will offer the following courses for 2023/24:

Physics	A (OCR B Advancing Physics Syllabus)	Approx. 200 students
Electronics	A (Eduqas)	Approx. 60 students

Department members have contributed to the teaching of BTEC Level 2 Science, EPQ and a range of maths courses. The department supports students undertaking Extended Project Qualifications in the field of Physics and STEM and one of the departmental team is the College EPQ Co-ordinator. The department provides a range of academic support enrichment and wider activities for students of all abilities.

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## **Psychology and Criminology**

### **Nature of the Department and Courses Offered**

A level Psychology (AQA) is an enormously popular subject, with approximately 800 students at the College studying the course. It is assessed through external examinations.

Level 3 Criminology (WJEC Level 3) is an increasingly popular subject choice with over 400 students currently studying the course. It is assessed through examinations and non-exam assessments.

There are currently 20 teaching staff within the Department and Psychology and Criminology examination results have been consistently strong, as indicated by the level of pass rates, percentage of high grades and levels of value-added achievement and retention.

The department has good resources for its two courses including detailed schemes of work, e books and student study packs. An extensive range of teaching and learning materials/resources are also available. The approach to the subject is varied; it involves a wide range of teaching and learning styles and there is an emphasis on a student-centred approach.

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## **Sociology**

### **Nature of the Department and Courses Offered**

The Sociology Department offers A level Sociology (AQA), Applied General Certificate/Extended Certificate (BTEC) level Health and Social Care and GCSE Citizenship courses. There are currently approximately 500 students studying A level Sociology and around 180 students studying Applied General Health and Social Care. Approximately 40 students are studying the one-year GCSE Citizenship.

For the 2023/24 academic year the department is likely to have a team of thirteen teachers – most are full time but some part time. Departmental staff work in a range of specific course teams as well as working as a department as a whole to ensure high quality delivery of teaching and learning in all course areas. There are well developed schemes of work in place for the Sociology, Health & Social Care and Citizenship courses. The department uses resource-based teaching approaches to a significant extent, although a wide variety of teaching and learning strategies are adopted. Teams and Moodle (VLE) are used as a support to teaching and learning. Some departmental members contribute to the teaching of courses in other departments e.g. Criminology.

The department has achieved excellent examination results, including in value-added terms, and also sustains high levels of student retention. The department have offered students a series of wider curricular related experiences including trips to universities and Sociology conferences.

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