

# Curriculum Overview

## Business Studies

### Intent:

London continues to be ranked the leading financial capital of Europe and along with New York and Hong Kong is in the world's top 3. Students know that Beacon High is only a short bus ride to the “square mile”. Students also know that a degree in Business is now the “top earning degree” with an average salary five years after graduation higher than degrees in law, computing or medicine. These two facts alone go some way to explaining why Business Studies is the most popular option choice at Beacon High. Over half of all students in the school choose Business and of these students, over half go on to AS / Level 3 courses at Post-16, making it the most popular pathway by far. Since its introduction over 13 years ago, Business Studies has been the best performing subject in the school and this year two thirds of all students achieved at least a Merit (the equivalent to a Grade 6/7) with one third achieving the highest Distinction grade (equivalent to a Grade 8/9). For many students, Business is the subject that keeps them engaged at school and the opportunity to continue with Business at college and then university gives them a reason to work hard in their other subjects. We aim to use Business as a key to motivating as many students as possible.

### Implementation at Key Stage 3:

Business Studies is not part of the KS3 Curriculum, however due to the success and popularity of the subject, students are offered a “taster course” during Year 9. Around  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the current Year 9 have opted for this. Just like the KS4 course, there are no work books, text books or even single sheets of paper. All work in Business Studies is now completed using Google Classroom. This has been part of a borough wide change and other subjects in the school such as DT and Computing also use this. It means that students can never lose their work and can complete their homework using any device that has access to Google. Students are given written feedback in Google Classroom, letting them know exactly what they need to do to improve their work. Marking of work is linked to “Commitment To Learning” grades which are used in a competitive way through the class seating plan.

### Implementation at Key Stage 4:

Students all study the NCFE Level 1/2 V Cert Technical Award in Business & Enterprise. V Cert Technical Awards are an alternative to GCSEs with equivalent levels of rigour and challenge. Colleges recognise them as an equal to GCSEs. The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise is designed to provide learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding of the applied study of good business and enterprise practices and an understanding of working in the sector.

## **Overview of Key Stage 4:**

The course comprises of 2 units:

### **Unit 1 Introduction to Business and Enterprise - 40% - Written Examination**

The written examination is 1 hour 30 minutes paper with a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions. Students get 2 attempts at the exam; one in November of Year 11 and then another in March. The best mark from both attempts is carried forward. If a student does well in the November attempt, they do not need to resit in March.

### **Unit 2 Understanding Resources for Business Planning - 60% - Coursework**

The coursework project (a.k.a. the Synoptic Project) is 21 hours of supervised time. The synoptic project is externally set by NCFE and is different every year. The project is designed to assess the learner's ability to effectively draw together their knowledge, understanding and skills from everything they have learned during Year 10. Students will do the project in December of Year 11 on computers in their normal classroom.