

Entry Requirements

Students should have achieved a minimum of 5 GCSEs (Please note that subjects can only be counted once); national data shows that this course is not suitable for students with an average GCSE points score of less than 40.0. Many of our students are direct entry and achieve a high pass rate. A large proportion of students continue from GCSE to A-Level. Roughly 15% of the course uses students' skills learnt in maths, for example break even calculations and percentage changes (we do spend lots of time going over these calculations). There is also a strong core of problem solving within both the AS and A2.

Course description

The AS course is designed to introduce students to the following: enterprise, entrepreneurs, small business start ups and the types of finance available to small businesses. Unit 2 of the AS is centred on managing a small business, what would you do "if" scenarios, using the theory learnt from Unit One.

The A2 course looks at growing the small enterprise into larger organisations. How is this done? What effects does it have on the organisation and the people who work in the organisation? The final unit looks at external factors that effect large organisations, such as "credit crunches", technology, personalities and motivation.

Learning Style

The course is taught at Kingsmead Technology College. A mixture of teacher led activities and student lead activities are used. We have a large resource bank of materials available to students including new text books. A large amount of the teaching revolves around answering exam questions which is a skill in itself and one that as a department we are keen to develop. We encourage all students to maximise the opportunities to develop their independent learning skills. The business studies department run an annual revision visit in conjunction with Tutor2u and the principal examiners of AQA.

Assessment

- The AS course is assessed by two formal exams, one in January and one in June. The January exam is worth 20% and the June exam is worth 30%.
- The A2 course is also assessed by two formal examinations. These are also sat in January and June of Year 13. Both exams are worth 25% of the A-Level.

Career Opportunities and Pathways

Our previous students have used this 'A' Level in a number of ways. Some went directly into employment; others have gone onto Higher Education (Aston, Warwick, Birmingham, Manchester University to name a few) studying Business, or Business Management and often Business with another subject. The content and skills developed by this course allows students to become productive employees early on in their careers and thus gives them an edge when it comes to career progression.

Subject staff contacts for further information

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