

THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

The Economics Department is a vibrant, ambitious and highly regarded part of the School, known for its strong academic outcomes, dynamic teaching, and excellent relationships between staff and pupils. It enjoys a particularly strong reputation within the School community, frequently cited by both current pupils and Old Albanians as one of its leading departments.

Economics is offered as a GCSE option to Fourth Form (Year 10) pupils and as an A Level option in the Sixth Form. It is an extremely popular subject at both levels, with many pupils choosing to study it in the Sixth Form without prior GCSE experience. The Department follows the Edexcel specification at both IGCSE and A Level, with pupils achieving consistently excellent results in public examinations.

Currently, over 180 pupils study IGCSE Economics across the Fourth and Fifth Forms, and more than 130 Sixth Form pupils take A Level. Teaching in the Sixth Form takes place in small sets, typically averaging around thirteen pupils, allowing for a high level of individual support and meaningful academic discussion. Pupils study microeconomics and macroeconomics in parallel, taught by different members of staff, ensuring a breadth of expertise and perspective.

A defining feature of the Department is its discursive and intellectually engaging approach to teaching. Lessons are characterised by debate, discussion, and the integration of current affairs, enabling pupils to develop a deep and applied understanding of economic concepts. Pupils are curious, ambitious and collaborative, and there is a strong culture of academic dialogue within classrooms. Many go on to study Economics, Business or related disciplines at leading universities, with these among the most popular degree pathways for leavers.

The teaching team is collegiate, supportive and academically diverse. Colleagues bring a range of experience, including those who have worked in industry, those who trained within the School, and those who have pursued teaching as a career from the outset. This breadth enriches the Department's teaching and underpins a strong culture of shared planning, collaboration and innovation. There is also a balance of expertise across microeconomics and macroeconomics, contributing to the Department's overall strength.

Beyond the classroom, the Department offers a rich programme of academic support and enrichment. Weekly after-school clinics provide targeted one-to-one support, while Academic Challenge sessions encourage Sixth Form pupils to explore the subject beyond the curriculum. The student-led Economics Society offers pupils the opportunity to present on topics of interest, and the Department regularly hosts guest speakers to broaden pupils' perspectives. Past speakers have included Larry Elliott, Economics Editor at *The Guardian*, and Tamim Bayoumi, Deputy Director at the IMF. Educational trips, including past visits to Prague and the JCB factory, further enhance the learning experience.

The Department comprises seven members of staff, including one member of the Senior Leadership Team. Teaching takes place in well-equipped classrooms in Aquis Court, alongside the Sixth Form Centre, with modern multimedia facilities throughout. Staff benefit from a dedicated departmental office, and resources are extensive, including materials on the School's VLE, subscriptions to the *Financial Times* and *The Economist*, and strong library provision.

The Department offers a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment in which both pupils and staff thrive. New colleagues are supported to develop professionally, with opportunities

to teach across GCSE and A Level, contribute to a wide-ranging enrichment programme, and play an active role in shaping the future direction of the Department.