



OXFORD  
HIGH SCHOOL

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GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Sixth Form study options

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A Level Economics

# A Level Economics

## Why study Economics?

Economics is a long-standing and popular subject in the Sixth Form. It has a very high retention rate between Years 12 and 13 and many students have gone on to study Economics or a related-subject at university. The Edexcel board is studied and has been for many years. The aim of this booklet is to introduce you to the subject, provide an outline of the course and ensure that, if you opt for it, you will be aware of what you will be expecting in Years 12 and 13.

Recent Economics students have gone on to study Economics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Engineering, Politics, Business Studies, History and Management.

Mr Mike Gallacher has been Head of Economics since 1993.



At the  
Coca Cola plant  
on the Economics and  
Politics trip to Brussels,  
Strasbourg and Frankfurt

October  
2017

Economics is highly relevant for those students who want to understand how scarce resources are allocated. It provides the chance to look at microeconomic issues on a small scale, such as housing, education, health and the environment. Students will also have the chance to study macroeconomics aspects of the workings of the UK economy, including issues such as unemployment and public finances in the aftermath of Brexit and Covid-19. Students will also study Development Economics, looking at the economies of developing countries.

As a subject, Economics goes very well with Politics, Mathematics, Geography, RS and Psychology, though students opt for a wide range of subjects in combination with Economics. Students do not need to be mathematical to study Economics at A Level, though they often are! Anyone who wants to study Economics at university level though is strongly advised to study Mathematics A Level and even Further Mathematics for certain courses in Economics.

## What skills will I learn on the course?

The general skills you will learn from the course include:

- Knowledge and understanding of economic principles, theories and concepts of the economic processes at work in the UK, European Union and international contexts.
- The ability to identify appropriate economic principles, theories and concepts in order to carry out economic analysis.
- The ability to select and apply economic principles, theories and concepts relevant to economic problems.
- The ability to interpret data and to evaluate alternative economic arguments in order to draw valid conclusions.
- The ability to examine a variety of materials appropriate to an economic issue and organise and present findings in an appropriate manner.

## What kind of student does this course suit?

This course will be of interest to you if:

- You want to find out about markets and how they work.
- You are interested in real world issues, such as health, transport and the economies of developing countries.
- You want to find out how the economy works with issues such as interest rates, exchange rates and oil prices.
- You are numerate and enjoy interpreting graphs as well as prose data.
- You want the chance to study a new subject. Economics gives you that chance.



At the  
New York Knicks  
basketball game in  
Madison Square Garden  
in New York on the  
Economics, RS and Politics  
trip to New York and  
Washington DC

October  
2018

Students are encouraged to read a quality newspaper, especially the business section from one of The Times, The Financial Times (which is free at school on-line), The Guardian, The Independent (on-line) and the Telegraph. On a Sunday, The Sunday Times, and The Observer are worth reading and there are many quality television and radio programmes that are worthwhile. These include, subject to changes in programming:

Television:	
Panorama	BBC
Dispatches	Channel 4
Question Time	BBC 1 10.35pm Thursday
Newsnight	BBC2 10.30pm weeknights
Channel 4 News	Channel 4 7pm
The Apprentice	BBC
Dragons' Den	BBC

Radio:	
The Today Programme	BBC Radio 4 weekday mornings & Saturday mornings
Any Questions	BBC Radio 4 Friday 8pm/ Saturday 1pm

## What is studied?

### Year 12 includes the following topics:

- Demand and Supply
- Health
- Education
- Environment
- Inflation
- Unemployment
- Economic Growth
- Balance of Payments
- Economic Development

At the Ajax stadium visit on the Economics, Politics and RS trip to Amsterdam, the Hague and Brussels  
October 2019

### Year 13 includes the following topics:

- Growth of Firms
- Advertising
- Cartels
- Labour Markets
- Exchange Rates
- Balance of Payments
- Single Currency
- Government Spending and Taxation

## Resources

There are many sources of information available to you during the course.

### Textbooks

- Theme 1 Introduction to markets and market failure
- Theme 2 The UK economy: performance and policies
- Theme 3 Business behaviour and the labour market
- Theme 4 A global perspective
- Edexcel Economics 1
- Edexcel Economics 2
- Essential Maths skills for Economics
- Business Economics
- Development
- International trade and globalisation

The Library is also well stocked with up-to-date Economics books. It also contains back issues of Economics Review, which are catalogued by topic. Students can also subscribe to four current editions of this excellent A Level Economics journal for a price of about £14 per year. There are also back issues of the Economist in the Library.

There is a huge amount of material on the internet and the following websites may be directly useful:

<a href="http://www.bized.ac.uk">www.bized.ac.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.telegraph.co.uk">www.telegraph.co.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.tutor2u.com">www.tutor2u.com</a>	<a href="http://www.independent.co.uk">www.independent.co.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.oecd.org/">www.oecd.org/</a>	<a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk">www.guardian.co.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.economicsuk.com">www.economicsuk.com</a>	<a href="http://www.news.bbc.co.uk">www.news.bbc.co.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.ft.com">www.ft.com</a>	<a href="http://www.channel4.co.uk">www.channel4.co.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.the-times.co.uk">www.the-times.co.uk</a>	



## Planned Economics visits abroad for 2020 onwards (Covid-19 permitting)

**Economics, RS and Politics trip to New York and Washington DC:** Rescheduled to Thursday 29th July to Thursday 5th August 2021.

This trip is for current Years 12 and 13 and is now full and includes planned Economics visits to:

Meet the Finance Professional	(New York)
Hersheys Chocolate World	(Hershey, Pennsylvania)
World Bank	(Washington DC)
Development talk	(Washington DC)
Bureau of Engraving and Printing	(Washington DC)

This will also include planned Politics and RS related-visits to the United Nations, the 9/11 Memorial Museum, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the White House, the Capitol Building, (which has the US House of Representatives and the Senate), the US Supreme Court, Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery and the Holocaust Museum. We also plan to see a Broadway show, a boat cruise round Manhattan, visit the One World Observatory in New York, visit museums in Washington DC and take advantage of sightseeing opportunities in both cities.

**Economics, RS and Politics trip to Prague:**  
Sunday 24th October to Thursday 28th October 2021:

This trip is for current Years 9, 10, 11 and 12. It is desirable, but not essential that the students are or are planning to study Economics, RS and/or Politics This trip should include Economics-related visits to the following:

Skoda Car plant	(Prague)
Economics lecture	(Prague)
Czech Invest	(Prague)
5 star hotel	(Prague)
Glass factory	(Karlovy Vary)

This will also include planned Politics and RS visits to St. Vitus Cathedral and Prague castle, the Czech Parliament, the Communism museum, Terezin concentration camp and the Lidice memorial. We also plan to have a river cruise and dinner, a mystery activity, a day trip to Karlovy Vary and attend an ice hockey game.

## Enrichment

Our A Level Economics students, as members of the Economics Society, have invited leading economists into school. We have a second student-led and student run conference being planned on the economy and the environment which has attracted leading economists to participate from Oxford and Cambridge universities. Students have also entered several essay competitions and written Economics blogs and are writing an Economics magazine.

## Quotes from former students

***"Economics lessons have been the best."***

A former OHS student studying Geography at Cambridge

***"Every lesson has been a joy. There are many things I will miss about Oxford High, but Economics is top of the list."***

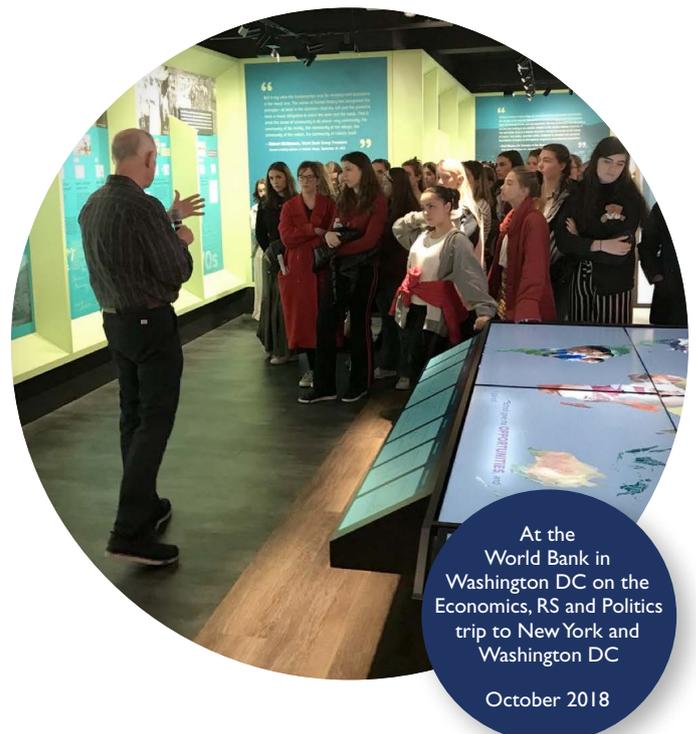
A former student studying Economics at Nottingham University

***"I was never really good at anything until you taught me and I wanted to thank you for all your help."***

A former student studying Economics at Cambridge

***"Thank you for getting me really excited about a subject which I hope to use in my future career. You have been such an inspirational teacher."***

A former student studying Business Economics at Westminster University



## Economics at University

OHS students have gone on to study the following Economics-based courses over the last five years:

Economics and Political Science	Birmingham
Philosophy, Politics and Economics	Oxford
Economics	Cambridge
Economics, Psychology and Sociology	Cambridge
Economics with a year abroad	University College, London
Economics	London School of Economics
Economics	Exeter
Politics and Economics	Manchester
Financial Economics	Southampton
Economics and Management	Bristol
Philosophy, Politics and Economics	Durham
Economics and Politics	Oxford Brookes
Business Economics	Exeter
Philosophy, Politics and Economics	Manchester
Economics	Nottingham
Business Economics	Westminster University
Economics	King's College, London
Economics and French	Durham
Economics and Management	Oxford
Economics and Politics	Bristol
Economics	Warwick



At an escape room in New York on the Economics, RS and Politics trip to New York and Washington DC

October  
2018

