



## Subject: Economics

### Intent

The aim of the Economics curriculum is to develop students' understanding of how the national and global economy works through analysing economic issues, challenges and institutions that affect everyday life. We have adopted the Edexcel 'Economics A' 2-year linear specification.

We have adopted a pedagogy which helps students understand economic theory; and how to apply this to a variety of real-world case studies. Students should be able to think conceptually and analytically; reach logical conclusions based on data; and make judgements on future changes to markets and the economy.

In support of the ethos of Holy Cross, students are constantly challenged to work collaboratively and think independently when engaging in all lesson discussion. Through teacher modelling, we encourage our students to respect diversity and demonstrate manners and tolerance in our lessons. This allows students to feel secure and express themselves in a confident manner.

Lesson resources are designed to promote topical discussion, where possible, and encourage students to develop a curious and analytical mind. As a knowledge and contextual-based curriculum, we believe that knowledge underpins and enables the application of skills. Content is delivered to students and then built upon through a variety of practice questions, with regular feedback being given to support student progress.

We investigate the impact that influential economists have had on the world we live in; and students are encouraged to make links between their studies and real-life examples. Students undertake this whilst developing an increased understanding into current events happening globally.

Our curriculum design includes revisiting and building on existing knowledge. We ensure the level of challenge is high enough for the most able, with scaffold and support available for students who need it.

### Diversity, Inclusion and Equality

Economics as a discipline has a diversity/image problem: it is often seen by teenage girls as being just about money and 'boring white men' in suits.



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In education more generally, one in six boys compared with one in 17 girls, studies Economics at Sixth Form. This gender gap at A-level is still increasing: Economics lags behind Psychology and most STEM subjects in the representation of girls and women. Holy Cross Sixth Form Economics has much better balance than this, but it is still 'boys-heavy'.

In the long term, in addition to any teaching strategy, Holy Cross aims to address this wider image problem ahead of the sixth form. We will aim to reach girls who would otherwise not even consider it.

The Economics Department will tap into wider initiatives in economics, including:

- The Government Economic Service (GES) has a new apprenticeship scheme to attract students who might otherwise not think of going to university.
- The Royal Economic Society (RES) is launching a new three-year campaign to increase diversity in economics - aiming to attract more women, minority students and students from state schools and colleges to study the subject at university. The aim of the campaign is to change perceptions of economics and what economists really do.
- Taking advantage of the resources on the RES *Discover Economics* website - which is a campaign to increase diversity amongst economics students (for example, outreach events, which bring together students from a wide range of schools for interactive games and discussions, and to hear from economists).

## Implementation

Through detailed planning, we use all available resources and teaching strategies to ensure that students have a comprehensive knowledge of the syllabus specification, and also have the motivation to go beyond what is taught in lessons. Techniques to help develop long-term memory and help students master curriculum content.

In Economics we also implement our curriculum through using a variety of teaching strategies as well as more traditional skills practice. We make full use of the Google Classroom and its associated applications for education and all students use this to access the departmental resources both in the classroom and remotely.

## Impact

This subject was new to Holy Cross in 2020; and we aim to keep a critical eye on its impact; and share our findings with the school. We aim to increase the number of students choosing to study Economics at A-Level; and encourage a high number of our students to go on to study the subject further at university. Moreover, as the department progresses, we hope that



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students enjoy Economics, acknowledge the quality of teaching they have received, and appreciate the knowledge and study skills they have gained from the department.