



Noadswood

January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Business Studies

I am writing to update you regarding Business Studies this academic year and the recent mock exams. This year we are very fortunate to be in the position of having two Business Studies teachers to deliver the course.

The mock paper was on Theme 1 (Year 10 content) and due to the pace of the course, there hasn't been the opportunity to revise much of this content so far in lessons. The students were provided with revision notes on all these topics and given tips on where to best focus their revision. Some students may have been a little disappointed with their results, but due to shifting grade boundaries, the marks needed for each grade were higher in this set of exams (compared with the same mark/content in previous papers). Marking has become more stringent and recent teacher training on mock papers has indicated this. Students now have the opportunity to see where they can/need to make improvements before their next mock exam in March.

This term, we will be having a particular focus on the 9- and 12-mark essay style exam questions in order to deepen the understanding of how-to best answer these. Each Wednesday, students will be given a homework of either a 9- or 12-mark question which will be due in the following Wednesday. Failure to hand in this homework or handing a piece of work that is only a few sentences long will result in time after school to go through requirements of the essay and check understanding before being asked to complete the work.

In the 9-mark questions, students are given 2 options and asked to justify one option, linking it to the exam case study. For example:

To expand its business in response to the growth in the cycling market, On Your Bike is considering two options:

Option 1: open a second shop

Option 2: start to use e-commerce on its website.

Justify which one of these two options On Your Bike should choose.

In the 12-mark question, students are asked to give an evaluation, again, linking it to the case study they are given in the exam. For example:

Evaluate the extent to which Loco will be able to compete with large manufacturers of SUPs. You should use the information provided as well as your knowledge of business.

Students are not given any case studies ahead of the final exam. These are included with the exam paper to ensure that all students sitting the exam are on equal terms.

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Last term we have had a focus on the 3-mark exam question as the exam board had mentioned this was particularly important. Consequently, students generally performed well on this style question in the recent mocks, and we are hoping that we will see the same improvement next term with the new focus.

After school revision sessions will continue this term and will be on a Thursday of Week A in M18. All students are welcome and indeed encouraged to attend.

Please do contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Stevens
Curriculum Leader of Business Studies