

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr A. Brown

27 March 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian,

## GCSE Business

There are just over 7 weeks until the first GCSE Business examination and so I am taking this opportunity to outline the final preparations that we have made to help your son/daughter to do their very best in their final examinations.

## Additional Mock Exam

I am conscious that the recent GCSE Business mock exam results were inflated, leading to many students gaining an unrealistic expectation of their expected performance in Business. I believe a combination of some generous marking, alongside students sitting papers they had seen before, has led to far too many of our students feeling that they no longer need to work hard in Business and are guaranteed to achieve a Grade 8 or 9. I also believe that this may explain why only a handful of students are regularly attending the Unit 6 sessions I have been delivering on Friday after school.

It is worth pointing out that in real exams (i.e. non-COVID years), only **one KSA student** has achieved a Grade 9 in Business and only two others have achieved a Grade 8. Last year, no student achieved higher than a Grade 6. It is **very hard** to achieve the top grades in GCSE Business. I clearly want to give all students the chance to achieve the higher grades and would like nothing more than a record number of 7s, 8s and 9s this year!

Therefore, on **Tuesday 2 April at 10 AM in the Assembly Hall** I have asked the Exams team to put on an additional business mock exam. This will be a **full paper** which the students have not seen previously. I will then personally grade these papers (using my 20 years of experience teaching and marking GCSE) and email their individual result to the students during the Easter holiday. I will also come into school on **Wednesday 10 April, between 1 PM to 3 PM in 4U08** and meet with students to deliver personalised 1:1 feedback, showing them what they still need to do if they do want to achieve the very top grades. Mr McCall will be in school at the same time (in 4U09), delivering a revision class for all GCSE Business students. This additional mock exam will be available to **all GCSE Business students** but for the reasons outlined above, I believe it **essential** that those students seeking to achieve a 7, 8 or 9 take advantage of my offer. I will give up 2.5 days of my holiday to mark and provide feedback, if the students are willing to do their bit!

## Business Unit 6

We have now had 9 Business unit 6 sessions on **Fridays from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM**. There will be two sessions on Marketing on 19 and 26 April and a final session on Finance (running until 5 PM) on Friday 3 May.

I hope you will encourage your son/daughter to take advantage of these opportunities in order to help them achieve their very best outcome in GCSE Business.

Yours Sincerely



Mr. Kevin Abbott

Assistant Headteacher