



**Watford Grammar School for Girls**

## **Department Information**

### **Economics**

Economics is an important part of the Social Science Department; a diverse and collaborative Academic Department within the school. Subject specialisms are currently Economics, Psychology and Sociology. Economics classes are taught by two specialist teachers, who split the five hours of teaching per week between them. Currently, all the Social Sciences are only offered at KS5.

Most members of the Social Science Department are lead teachers of one of the subject areas, and are responsible for creating schemes of work and assessment for their subject. All colleagues are subject specialists with all or some content of their degree being in the subject they teach and who are able to focus their teaching to meet the needs of different students. Department members are constantly updating their knowledge of developments in their specialism and have developed contacts with subject teachers in other schools. The Department members pride themselves in their organisation and innovation as well as in their subject knowledge and wider pedagogy.

The department has a strong collaborative element, where colleagues work together to support and encourage each other. We have departmental meetings several times a term where we discuss areas of good practice, department focuses, deadlines and matters of shared interest. Although we are individually responsible for different subjects, we have a strong group ethos and make sure that we communicate with one another and all contribute to the smooth running of the department. There is a head of department who oversees all three subjects and supports colleagues in their work.

Economics is only taught at KS5, and there are two classes in both year 12 and 13 presently. We do offer AS Economics to students as the Edexcel specification is co-teachable although the vast majority of students study the subject to A Level. Students in years 12 and 13 are taught for a total of five hours per week, with an additional dedicated study period for the subject.

Results for Economics A-Level are outstanding, with 53% of students achieving A\*-A last year and 79% gaining A\*-B.

One of the main challenges within the department is how to maintain our impressive level of academic rigour with an increasing uptake of students, despite most pupils having never been exposed to our subjects before. Department members have offered online enrichment and catch up sessions during the pandemic and normally would also give a number of enrichment activities and ask our prefects to help communicate the appeal of our subjects to prospective students.

The department is well resourced. Each subject has the option of relevant and topical journal subscriptions and other printed and on-line material. We have a range of relevant literature in the library. We arrange a range of extra and cross-curricular opportunities including trips and lectures in school by academics and professionals.