FORGE VALLEY SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

Economics

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Curriculum Intent

We develop confident, analytical economists who can interpret data and evaluate real-world economic issues. Our A-Level curriculum builds a secure understanding of microeconomics and macroeconomics, alongside the disciplinary thinking required to analyse evidence, question assumptions and form balanced judgements.

Students engage with real-world contexts and quantitative data to explore how markets operate, why they fail, and how governments respond to economic challenges. We challenge and support all learners to think critically, apply their knowledge to contemporary issues, and communicate ideas with clarity and precision. Our aim is to equip every student with the knowledge, skills and intellectual curiosity to succeed in examinations and beyond, as informed and reflective participants in the modern economy.

	Core Knowledge	**Procedural Knowledge**
	Topic	**Pupils will**
Year 12	**Microeconomics:** • Introduction to Microeconomics & Demand • Supply & Market Equilibrium • Behavioural Economics • The Market Mechanism and Market Failure • Resolving Market Failure and Government Failure **Macroeconomics:** • Introduction to Microeconomics & Demand • Supply & Market Equilibrium • Behavioural Economics • The Market Mechanism and Market Failure • Resolving Market Failure and Government Failure	• Construct, interpret, and evaluate economic diagrams (PPF, AD/AS, supply & demand) • Calculate and interpret economic data (elasticities, index numbers) • Apply economic theory to real-world scenarios • Develop chains of reasoning and written arguments • Begin writing extended responses and essays

		• Analyse and evaluate government policies
Year 13	**Microeconomics** • Production, productivity, and costs • Revenue, profit, and business objectives • Market structures (perfect competition, monopoly, oligopoly) • Competition and contestable markets • Labour markets and wage determination • Inequality, poverty, and income distribution **Macroeconomics:** • Globalisation and international trade • Protectionism and trade blocs • Balance of payments and exchange rates • Economic development and growth • Financial markets and banking • Macroeconomic policies in a global context	• Analyse complex economic issues using multiple models • Write synoptic essays combining micro and macro • Evaluate policy decisions using evidence • Interpret data and case studies • Apply economic reasoning to unfamiliar contexts • Demonstrate strong exam technique across all papers

Homework:
Homework is set weekly to reinforce learning, develop exam skills and deepen students' understanding of real-world economics.

- Regular exam-style questions and data response practice
- Retrieval practice using knowledge organisers
- Independent reading of economic articles and current affairs
- Use of online platforms and applied case studies
- Past paper practice across Papers 1, 2 and 3
- Synoptic essay writing to develop evaluation skills
- Independent research into contemporary economic issues

Assessment:
Students are assessed through three AQA A-Level examinations, each lasting 2 hours and contributing 33.3% of the final grade:

Paper 1: Markets and Market Failure
Focuses on microeconomics, including how markets operate and why they fail.

- Data response questions
- Extended essay

Paper 2: National and International Economy
Covers macroeconomic performance, policy and the global economy.

- Data response questions
- Extended essay

Paper 3: Economic Principles and Issues
Synoptic paper drawing on both micro and macroeconomic knowledge.

- Multiple-choice questions
- Case study analysis
- Extended written responses

All papers assess students' ability to apply knowledge, analyse data and evaluate economic arguments in real-world contexts.

Links to Personal Development:
Economics supports students in developing the knowledge, skills and awareness to engage confidently with the world around them.

- Builds financial literacy and supports informed decision-making
- Develops global awareness, including trade, inequality and economic challenges
- Strengthens critical thinking, reasoning and evaluation skills
- Prepares students for higher education and future careers

How is my knowledge further developed in Year 13?
In Year 13, students extend their understanding by applying core microeconomic and macroeconomic models to more complex, real-world and global contexts. There is a strong focus on synoptic thinking, particularly in preparation for Paper 3, where students integrate knowledge from across the course to analyse and evaluate unfamiliar issues.

Students refine their exam technique through extended data response and essay writing, developing more sophisticated chains of reasoning, supported by precise use of data and real-world examples. Greater emphasis is placed on evaluation, judgement and the ability to construct balanced, well-supported arguments under exam conditions.

How is knowledge developed beyond Year 13?
Students are prepared for:

- Further study in subjects such as Economics, Finance, Law and Business
- Analytical and research-based careers
- Applying economic theory to real-world problems and decision-making