Course Start

Course Start is independent learning you need to complete as a fundamental part of your introduction to the course. It should take you approximately 5 hours to complete.

Course Name	**Economics A Level**
How this **Course Start** fits into the first term of the course	One of your first topics of study will be on demand and supply in different markets, you will be looking at prices and how these are determined by the interaction of demand and supply.
How will my **Course Start** learning be used in lessons?	You will use your study on commodity markets as a case study to demonstrate the application of theory in the real world.
Course Start learning objectives	• To research a commodity market • Analyse the impacts on supply and demand • Explain how these interact to impact prices for the commodity
Study Skills	• Research skills • Analytical skills • Numerical and graphing skills • Presentation of data

Expectations for: Economics A Level

Our specification is: [AQA Economics A Level]

What this course involves
Completing Planned Study (independent learning) of 5 hours per week.
Writing tasks involving a range of practice exam questions (e.g. short answers of one paragraph up to essays of 2-3 sides, these are 40 mark questions.)
Application of numerical skills including analysing graphs and data, plus using statistical analysis, simple calculations like percentages and averages.
Multiple choice questions in Paper 3.
Engaging in discussions and presentations based on the themes studied.
Studying a range of issues in economics, from what is economics right through to globalisation and international development. See syllabus for more details here.
Developing independent learning skills (e.g. time management, preparing for each week's lessons, completing learning tasks outside lessons)
We will be taking part in trips from college and bringing in guest speakers, these are designed to support your learning and enhance your understanding of the subject.

Course Start Activities: Economics A Level

Task 1: Commodity Prices

Watch this video on commodities:

How to trade commodities with IG

Produce a PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation covering the following:

1. Choose a commodity you are interested in e.g. zinc, wheat, coffee, gold or orange juice.
2. Introductory slide (your name and a picture of the commodity)
3. Give a bit of background on the commodity. Where does it come from, uses, types etc.
4. Explain four factors that might influence the demand for this commodity
5. Explain four factors that might influence the supply of this commodity
6. Use demand and supply analysis to explain why the price of the commodity may rise
7. Use demand and supply analysis to explain why the price of the commodity may fall
8. Find a graph showing recent changes in the price of the commodity
9. Using research evidence, explain reasons why the price of your commodity has changed
10. What do you think will happen to the price of this commodity in the future? Justify your answer.

Please upload your presentation to your new Economics Classroom in your first week.

Research Links:

- Primary markets
- What are commodities and how are their prices determined
- What drives Commodity Price Changes?

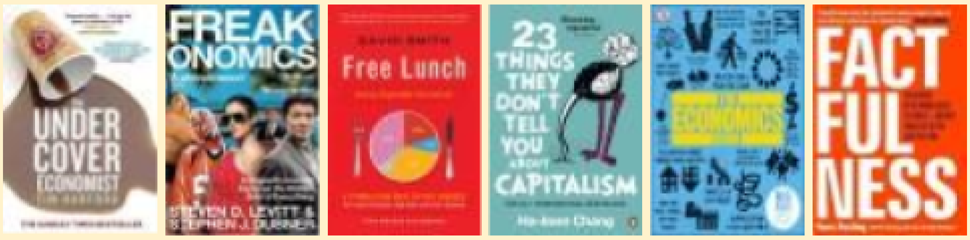
Task 2: Becoming an Economist

At Varndean College we encourage our students to think beyond traditional economics. There is a world of practical economics going on. There are a huge number of resources that are accessible.

We have selected a number that we think make a great start to understanding how economics works in the 'real' world. Some of these are serious, some of them are great fun, but all of them shed a light on how we can use economics to understand the world we live in.

Our suggestion is that you get stuck into one item from each of the categories – just dip your toe into the water! Enjoy!

Books



Newspapers

FT FINANCIAL TIMES

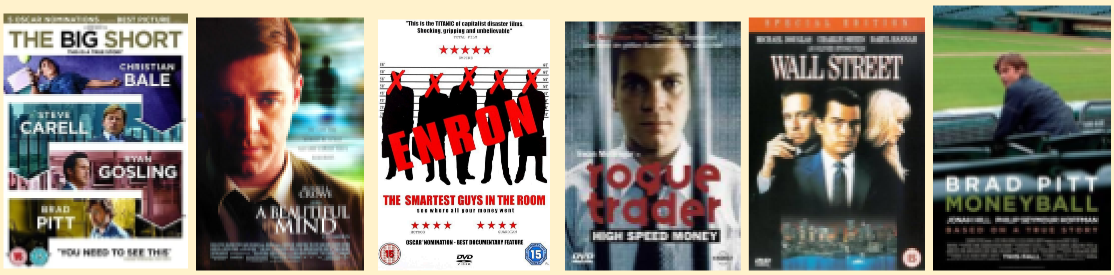
The Economist

BBC NEWS

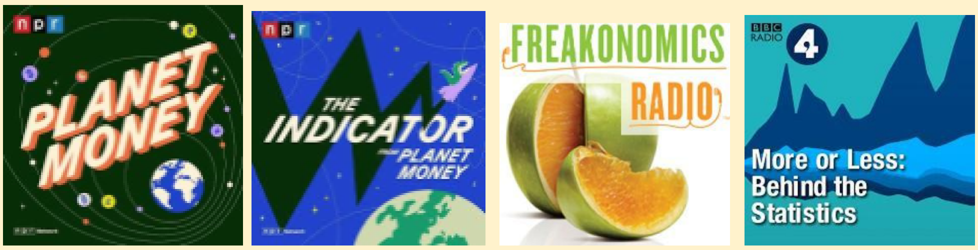
The Guardian

INDEPENDENT

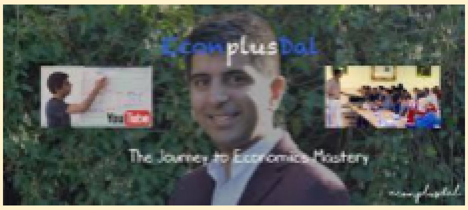
Films



Podcasts



YouTube channels



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For what it's worth, our selections would be:

- **Book:** Freakonomics, because it's brilliant and funny in many places.
- **Newspaper:** The Guardian, because it always provides reliable and insightful analysis.
- **Films:** Moneyball, because it's about sport and economics.
- **Podcast:** More or Less because it busts the myths behind some of the stats we're fed.
- **Youtube:** No contest here, EconPlus Dal, a brilliant site for all your economics needs.

Task 3: Getting yourself ready to study

Get yourself an A4 folder, dividers and paper and bring it to your first lesson.