

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Religious Studies department is small but lively and passionate about its subject. Its main aim is to encourage deep thinking on a variety of philosophical, cultural and spiritual issues to help foster an environment of respect and open mindedness. The department highly values active learning and makes great efforts to enthuse and encourage learners of all types and ages.

Key Stage 3

Within key stage three pupils study a wide range of religions as well as starting to get to grips with some philosophical and ethical issues. Year 7 also take part in a multicultural day. The theme of this event changes each year but it is an excellent chance for the students to meet people from different cultures and religions and learn about their beliefs and practices first hand.

Key Stage 4

The department follows the new AQA Religious Studies course, focusing on two modules: The first is Philosophy and Ethics. Within this section of the course the students study 4 different themes over a variety of topics. These include relevant and deep thinking issues such as the problem of evil, abortion and euthanasia, life after death, science and religion, crime and punishment and arguments for the existence of God

The second unit allows students to study and analyse 2 different religions in detail. Candidate will look at the beliefs, teachings, practices of Christianity and Hinduism. They will also look at how these impact the life of a believer in the modern world. www.aqa.org.uk

Sixth Form

At AS and A2 the department follows OCR Religious Studies course (H573). Both the AS and A2 level courses are split into three modules of Philosophy, Religious Ethics and Development of Christian Thought, with the second year building on the knowledge gained in the student's first year of study.

The Religious Ethics course provides an opportunity to study ethical theory from its Greek origins to the present day and then apply these concepts to issues such euthanasia, sexual relationships and business ethics. They will also investigate the area of meta-ethics. The A2 level of study adds more depth to the understanding of these moral concerns as well as focusing on concepts of conscience and virtue ethics.

The Philosophy of Religion module provides an opportunity to study the philosophy of the Ancient Greek's Plato and Aristotle, evaluate traditional arguments for the existence of God, consider and analyse the problem of evil and examine ideas about life after death. The second year of study delves into the nature of God and religious language, as well as adding depth to the issues discussed in the AS level of the course.

The Development of Christian Thought module looks at the sources of religious wisdom and authority, practices that express religious identity and historical variations in belief, teaching and practices. The A2 level of study will look at social and historical developments in theology as well as the relationship between religion and society.

www.ocr.org.uk