

# Religious studies

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The study of religion is one of the oldest academic disciplines and the specification builds on this tradition by offering a systematic study of religious belief whilst relating this to current themes and issues.

In the first year, two components will be studied:

1. Philosophy of Religion and Ethics which will include an exploration of different arguments for the existence of God and their value today. The problem of evil and suffering will be studied as well as the nature of religious experience, whether they can be verified and how they have been challenged by science. The ethics part of this component will look into key moral principles (e.g. equality, justice and honesty), the Christian religious identity as well as the relationship between religion and ethics. In addition, three ethical theories will be covered in detail: Natural Moral Law, Situation Ethics and Virtue Ethics. These theories will be applied to issues of human life and death (abortion, euthanasia, embryo research, cloning, capital punishment) and also to issues of animal life (status and rights of animals, animals in research, farming and for food).

2. The Study of Religion - Christianity. Students will examine different sources of wisdom and authority, the nature of God and issues of self, death and afterlife. Key moral principles and what is considered as good moral conduct will be studied as well as

expressions of religious identity (Baptism, The Eucharist).

During the second year, the components of the first year will be revisited and topics will include: dialogue between religion and science, the dialogue between Christianity and secular society, the role of women in church and society, sexual ethics and the application of Utilitarianism and Kantian Ethics to issues of money wealth and social justice. In the Philosophy part of the course religious language and the role of miracles will be explored.

## WHAT NEXT?

Whilst many students continue on to study subjects including philosophy, religious studies, theology and sociology or psychology, others have gone on to study law or even medicine. This course provides a strong grounding for those wishing to pursue many other subject areas at degree level.

Alternatively, students may consider direct entry into employment or further training.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Exam (100%)

## **DURATION**

2 years

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Standard entry requirements to include grade 5 in GCSE English and grade 4 in Maths.

## **EXAM BOARD**

AQA