

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religious Studies not only prepares you for life in a multi-cultural society, it also encourages you to think about important philosophical and moral issues.

The course raises some fundamental questions and you will be encouraged to argue and to develop your own point of view. You will also find that there are useful links with other subjects such as Science, Geography, History, English and Economics.

## COURSE CONTENT

The aim is to provide a thought-provoking and challenging course for all students, whatever your background or beliefs. During Year 10 you will study the key beliefs and teachings of two world religions. In Year 11 you will study four from six units.

- Relationships and families: sex, sexuality, marriage, family, divorce, gender equality.
- Religion and life: scientific and religious views on the origins of the universe, the use and abuse of the environment, abortion, euthanasia, animal experimentation, life after death
- The existence of God and revelation: arguments for and against God's existence (including the philosophical 'Design' and 'First Cause' arguments, miracles, evil and suffering, science), the nature of the divine and revelation.
- Religion, peace and conflict: peace, justice, forgiveness, reconciliation, violent protest, terrorism, war, Holy War, pacifism, nuclear weapons and religious responses.
- Crime and punishment: reasons for crime, attitudes to law breakers and aims of punishment. Christian attitudes to forgiveness and different forms of punishment.
- Human rights and social justice: prejudice and discrimination, wealth and poverty, exploitation of the poor and religious freedoms.

## KEY QUESTIONS

Discussion and debate play a large part in GCSE Religious Studies. You are encouraged to share ideas, with emphasis being placed on respect for the views of others. The course will not supply any definite answers, but we will consider questions such as:

Should religious people ever fight?

Is sanctity of life more important than quality of life?

When does life begin?

How did the universe begin?

Does God exist?

Why does God intervene to produce miracles for some but not for others?

Have humans evolved or are we made 'in the image of God'?

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it

ARISTOTLE

## CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## ASSESSMENT: AQA 8062, SPECIFICATION A

You will be studying the AQA syllabus for the GCSE Full Course in Religious Studies.

There will be two papers at the end of Year 11, each lasting for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Paper 1 will focus on your knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs and practices. Paper 2 will focus on philosophical and ethical issues.