



## Religious Studies

**Room: Shades Café**

### What the Students Say

*"I think everyone should take RS as it is the only subject that doesn't teach you what to think; it teaches you how to think" (Year 13)*

*"Mind blowing. Opens up the world at a whole new level" (Year 12)*

*"It's fascinating and there is no other subject that requires the same style of thought" (Year 12)*

*"RS has allowed me to reach a deeper state of thinking that I never thought I could" (Year 12)*

*"If you love contemplating your existence, RS is the subject for you" (Year 12)*

*"We have to use our brains a lot" (Year 12)*

### What Is This Course About?

Religious Studies has three papers that focus on the Western religious/philosophical tradition:

1. Philosophy of Religion
2. Religious Ethics
3. Developments in Religious Thought

The aim of A Level Religious Studies is to encourage critical reflection on so-called '*ultimate questions*' that have intrigued and challenged some of the finest minds throughout history, as well as considering the sometimes controversial place of religion in contemporary western society. The course develops skills in analysis of complex material, debate and extended essay writing through challenging students' own understanding of the world and encouraging them to look more deeply at themselves and the philosophical/ethical dilemmas facing humanity. In a step up from GCSE-level study, attention is focused on improving students' ability to present coherent and persuasive arguments that pivot on their understanding of differing philosophical viewpoints, rather than reliance on their own opinion. It is NOT necessary to have studied RS at GCSE level to be successful on this course.

### What Will I Learn?

- *Philosophy* includes - Ancient Greek Philosophy (Plato & Aristotle); The Nature & Existence of God; The Mind-Body Problem; The Problem of Evil
- *Ethics* includes - Ethical Theories; Meta-Ethics; Conscience; Applied Ethics - Euthanasia, Business Ethics, Sexual Ethics
- *Developments* includes - Pluralism & Secularism/Religion in Society; Gender issues/Feminist Theology; Religion & Politics - Liberation Theology, Marxism



## Where Will It Take Me?

Religious Studies is a well-regarded A Level that will keep students' options open and facilitate entry to many university courses. It can lead to a wide variety of professions and career paths:

- Law
- Medicine/Nursing/Care
- Teaching
- Social Work
- Charity work
- Youth Work
- The Police
- Business Management

## What Other Opportunities Exist Outside of Class?

Attendance at student conferences is the main type of 'trip' at A Level. These might be local, hosted at a school in the area where outside speakers are brought in to help students to sharpen up their subject knowledge and/or exam technique. Conferences can also be run outside of the local area, perhaps in London, by exam boards or well-known philosophers who are experts in their field.