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**RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT THE BOURNE ACADEMY**

**Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 & 9)**

*Religion has always been with us*. Throughout history, it has expressed the deepest questions human beings can ask, and it has taken a central place in the lives of virtually all civilizations and cultures. All the way back to the dawn of human consciousness, we find religion everywhere we turn and we still do! We still find religion on television, in film, in popular music, in our local towns and neighbourhoods. We discover religion at the centre of global issues and cultural conflict. As such we give our Key Stage 3 students knowledge of the religious beliefs and practices from across the world coupled with our main focus on Christianity to reflect British culture, beliefs and values.

**Year 7:** Founders of faith: Abraham, Moses.

Jewish beliefs, values and practices.

Founders of faith: The life and teachings of Jesus.

**Year 8:** Founders of faith: The Buddha,

Buddhist beliefs, values and practices.

Christian, Muslim and Humanist beliefs in creation and the role and responsibilities of humankind.

Christian beliefs in Life after Death

Hindu beliefs in Life after Death

**Year 9:** Human Rights

Rich World, Poor World; Christian teachings on dignity and equality.

Christian Rites of Passage: Baptism, Confirmation

Christian Celebrations; Christmas and Easter

**Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 & 11)**

**Religion Studies WJEC GCSE**

There is no coursework or controlled assessments. You will sit two examinations at the end of Year 11 worth 50% each of your final grade.

Unit 1

* **Relationships** (sex, marriage, divorce)
* **Is it Fair?** (sexism, racism, wealth)
* **Looking for Meaning** (belief and unbelief, life after death)
* **Our World** (what does it mean to be human?)

Unit 2

* **Medical Ethics** (abortion, designer babies, euthanasia)
* **Expression** (how do we express our beliefs and values)
* **Conflict** (war, non-violent protest; Martin Luther King and Gandhi)
* **Authority** (the law, crime & punishment, death penalty)

**Field Trips & Outreach**

We visit Winchester Cathedral and Southampton Medina Mosque to support work on religious identity and religious expression.

We run a bi-annual trip to Rome visiting the Pantheon, the Catacombs and the Vatican Museum and St. Peters Square as part of the experience.

We invite members of the Salvation Army to come and speak to students about their faith and how they put such focus on putting their beliefs into action.

We annually host speakers from LIFE to talk about medical ethical issues such as abortion, IVF and euthanasia.

**Where Can Religious Studies Lead You?**

The study of religion, philosophy and ethics can lead to many different academic pathways*.* We offer students training in a unique combination of skills, including direct observation, informed and balanced opinions, critical thinking, and cross-cultural understanding. Further Education providers recognise and welcome these skills and in many professional fields, such skills are in high demand. The study of religion, philosophy and ethics offers a wide array of opportunities and a firm foundation for a successful and fulfilling career in the Law, Medicine, Education, Social Work, Fund Raising and Care Work.

Please email the Subject Leader Rachel.bennett@thebourneacademy.com if you have any questions about the curriculum or about your child’s progress during the year.