

Religious Studies at KS3



Year 7

During year 7 the students will explore the foundations of faith, in particular Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Each term we will focus on significant key characters and stories behind how the different faiths developed and grew. We will look at places of worships and key features of the different religions. We will then explore the different religious practice. This will give the students a sound foundation to support them if they decide to continue this subject at GCSE level.

Year 8

Students will initially focus on Buddhism, exploring how it started and how it is practiced. They will then look at ethical topics to give them a taste of the GCSE curriculum, starting with human rights. We will look at how human rights evolved and to what extent they are implemented in different countries. We will then focus on key figures, such as Martin Luther King and study the impact they have had on human rights. We will investigate life after death in the summer, exploring and analysing different beliefs and theories. Finally, the last half term will focus on prejudice and discrimination, focusing on how the media can impact upon this.

Year 9, 10 & 11.

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics GCSE 2018-2021

This is a three-year course; there is no coursework or controlled assessments. You will sit three examinations at the end of Year 11.

Component 1: Written examination: 2 hours, 50% of qualification

Christian, Islamic and non-religious viewpoints on

- **Issues of Relationships** (sex, gender equality, marriage, divorce)
- **Issues of Life & Death** (creation, medical ethics, life after death)
- **Issues of Good & Evil** (crime & punishment, good & evil, forgiveness)
- **Issues of Human Rights** (social justice, prejudice & discrimination, wealth & poverty)



Component 2: Written examination: 1 hour, 25% of qualification

The study of Christianity's answers to the following questions:

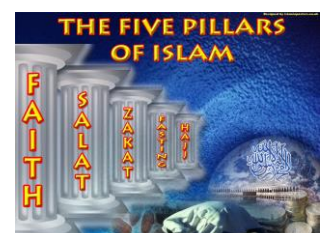
- Who or what is God?
- How did we get here?
- Who was Jesus Christ?
- What authority does the Bible have?
- What happens when we die?



Component 3: Written examination: 1 hour, 25% of qualification

The study of Islam's answers to the following questions:

- Who or what is Allah?
- What is the importance of prophets and angels in Islam?
- What happens when we die?
- What are the foundations of the Islamic faith?
- What is jihad?
- How is Islam celebrated through festivals?



Why study Religion, Philosophy & Ethics?

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 music, in our communities. We discover religion at the centre of global issues and cultural conflict.

The academic study of religion, philosophy and ethics aims to treat all religious traditions objectively. This GCSE course offers a unique opportunity to ask fundamental questions about the creation of the universe, the nature of being human and what happens when we die.

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.

Please email Hannah.hardcastle@thebourneacademy.com if you have any questions about the curriculum or about your child's progress during the year.