



## THE PHILOSOPHY, BELIEFS & ETHICS (PBE) FACULTY INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

### 1. Staffing:

RE is named Philosophy, Beliefs and Ethics (PBE). The Head of PBE is also the Head of Psychology and Sociology. Humanities teachers work together to deliver their own discrete subjects although some teaching is cross-faculty where required. Staff are also able to teach Psychology or Sociology if they would like.

### 2. Accommodation:

The subjects are housed in one main area of the new school building. All classrooms have interactive whiteboards. There is also a Humanities hub where staff can work outside of their classrooms.

### 3. Curriculum and Organisation.

#### a) Key Stage 3:

Students receive one hour of PBE teaching a week. All students take the full GCSE course. Students begin their GCSE in Religious Studies in Year 9 to give them sufficient time to cover all the content. Students study the AQA Religious Studies A course.

Students are taught in mixed ability groups in all year groups. The breadth of ability is considerable, ranging from the most able to a fairly large number of students with Special Educational Needs.

Topics studied at Key Stage 3 include:

**Year 7** Ancient Greece, including the study of myth and philosophy  
Judaism, including the study of Shabbat and Passover  
Buddhism, including the study of ahimsa and climate change  
Being human, including the study of personal identity  
Sikhism, including the ethics of war and charity work  
Indigenous Beliefs, including Aborigine belief

**Year 8** Islam, including the study of Islamophobia and the 5 Pillars  
Christianity, including the study of famous preachers and the Incarnation  
Medical Ethics, including the study of bodily autonomy  
The Enlightenment, Including the study Marxism  
Humanism, including the study of free speech  
Hinduism, including the ethics of eating meat

**Year 9** Crime and Punishment, including the study of capital and corporal punishment, hate crimes and religious attitudes to forgiveness  
Relationships, including the study of gender and LGBT+ equality, and religious attitudes to marriage and divorce

**b) Key Stage 4:**

Students continue their study of the full-course AQA Religious Studies A GCSE in KS4. Students prepare for two papers: the first paper focuses on Islam and Christianity, whilst the second focuses on themes (relationships and families, crime and punishment, peace and conflict, and life and death). Topics from Paper 1 are taught alongside the themes and then revised in Year 11.

**Year 10** Religion and life, including the study of life after death, abortion and euthanasia  
Peace and Conflict, including the study of causes of conflict and Just War theory

**Year 11** Christianity, including the study of the Resurrection and the Trinity  
Islam, including the study of the 5 Pillars

**c) 16-19**

Students can opt to take OCR Religious Studies at A-Level where they study three units: Philosophy, Ethics, and Developments in Christian Thought. All students sit the 2-year A level course.