



## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### What is Religious Studies about?

This exciting and interesting course addresses a variety of topics and issues relevant to society today. Skills such as critical thinking, evaluation, understanding and empathy are developed during the course. A variety of religious and non-religious ideas are explored and you will learn to form and express your own opinions whilst evaluating the views of others.

### What will you study during the course?

The specification integrates the study of the beliefs and practices of two religions (in particular Christianity and Islam) with the study of themes in philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world.

The topics we will be exploring include:

*The origins of the universe and life, environmental issues, animal rights, medical ethics. Arguments for the existence of God and revelation. Peace & Conflict, holy war, just war, weapons of mass destruction. Crime & Punishment, types of crime, notions of good & evil, aims of punishment, death penalty.*

Religious Studies is not about making you 'religious', it is about enabling you to think for yourself about religious, moral and philosophical issues. An interest in current affairs, politics and debating is encouraged and developed throughout the course.

### How will the course be taught?

We use a variety of tasks and activities including written reports, exam style practice, group work, presentations, video clips, discussions about different moral and religious issues, talks from guest speakers. We encourage students to keep up to date with news items and current affairs. We visit Southall in Year 10 to understand further the place of religion in a multi-cultural society.

### How will your work be assessed?

This is a two year GCSE course assessed by two written examinations including multiple choice, short answer and longer essay-style questions. Each exam is worth 50% of the GCSE taken at the end of Year 11.

### Where can it lead?

Religious Studies is a highly regarded academic subject and it is an excellent preparation for A levels and University as well as the workplace as it helps students develop a variety of skills and aptitudes including:

- ◇ analytical and strategic thinking, research skills, critical judgement;
- ◇ the ability to work with abstract, conceptual ideas;
- ◇ an ability to 'understand both sides' and negotiate and resolve conflict;
- ◇ problem-solving skills, leadership skills;
- ◇ presentation and debating skills;
- ◇ understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies; and
- ◇ an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences.

These skills are particularly useful for future careers in law, education, politics, medicine, or the media. Religious Studies is an interesting, highly versatile subject that is an excellent preparation for any career.