



Religious Studies Faculty Curriculum Philosophy

'If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.' – Dalai Lama

The Religious Studies Faculty increases student understanding of different religions and fosters curiosity in varying cultures so that they can understand and empathise with a variety of people around the world. We provide an inspirational and aspirational curriculum which engages students and encourages an appreciation for the variety found in different religious practices, resulting in a greater respect and appreciation for others. Students will be encouraged to explore world religions themselves, with an eagerness to explore other beliefs around them. We prioritise skills in debating, in order to ensure students are empathetic and balanced so that they can articulate both their own and alternative viewpoints. Debates cover a wide range of topics including beliefs, moral issues and current affairs which not only enriches the skill-set of the students for their future careers, but enables them to learn more about themselves in the process. We intend for students to enjoy the learning process and grow to embrace diversity in all of its forms.

The Religious Studies Faculty takes a collaborative approach to learning, with students encouraged to debate and discuss lesson material with others in the class. Developing this skill supports our aim to develop empathetic, articulate individuals with their own views. Students are required to understand key Christian and Islamic scripture, drawing upon knowledge from a variety of holy books. To support this, each GCSE lesson includes references to religious scripture and students are encouraged to know more and remember more these through display materials and exercise books. Each classroom also contains book cases for students to enrich their knowledge of a wider range of religious texts. All lessons take the form of an enquiry by starting with an enquiry 'curiosity' question to encourage students to think about material studied. Lessons also focus on debate-style questions which help prepare and ready students for good outcomes at GCSE level and beyond. Our KS3 curriculum covers a wide range of religions in order to provide students with a breadth of knowledge and give them the foundational skills required at GCSE level.

Through the Religious Studies Curriculum, students will have a greater appreciation for diversity in the world around them. This will enable students to interact socially and professionally with people of different faiths, with respect for their religious values. Students will complete the course with a good range of knowledge of different religions, equipping them with vital information needed for most professions and ready them for the workplace, where they will work with and provide services for people with different religious beliefs and practices. Students will be able to articulate their own views confidently, as well as having the skills to listen to and appreciate the views of others. They may be inspired to travel and aspire to explore further different religions and cultures for themselves.