

## Religious Studies

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Entry Requirements:** Grade B in GCSE Religious Education.

### Why study Religious Studies?

Religious Studies encourages students to develop their interest in and enthusiasm for debating key issues that relate to our society and the wider world. The course is a rigorous study of Christianity which encourages students to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach. Students are given the opportunity to reflect and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their learning.

### Course Content:

In Year 12 and 13 students will study three papers including Religious Ethics, New Testament and a study of Christianity. The content of these papers will be split across the two years of study.

#### Year 12

**Religious Ethics** - students will study ethical theories and then apply these to topical concepts such as; issues of gender, race and disability, war and peace and sexual relationships.

**New Testament** - students will study prophecy regarding the Messiah, the interpretations of the Person of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels and the different purposes of the Gospel.

**The study of Christianity** - students will cover topics surrounding the nature of God, the importance of the Bible as a source of wisdom and authority and practices within Christianity that shape religious expression and identity.

#### Year 13

**Religious Ethics** - students will further study complex ethical theories and apply these to medical issues including abortion, euthanasia and the rights to a child.

**New Testament** - students will study the ways of interpreting scripture on a literal or allegorical ground, the political and religious conflict of why Jesus had to die focussing on Luke's Gospel and the scientific and historical critical challenges to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

**The study of Christianity** - students will focus on the controversy of science versus religion, key scholars focussing on Jesus as a moral exemplar, and a how our pluralistic society may accept equally valid routes to the same ultimate reality.

### Assessment:

100% written examination at the end of Year 13. Students will be assessed on the three papers studied throughout year 12 and 13 including Religious ethics, New Testament and the study of Christianity. Students must show the examiner a demonstration of their knowledge and understanding (40%) and their skills in analysis and evaluation (60%).

### Future Uses:

The skills and attitudes developed in the completion of the Religious Studies a level are now wanted by all universities. The course is regarded as the gateway to Law and many other careers.