



Religious Studies: Year 9 Overview

The curriculum in Year 9 is driven by philosophical and ethical studies in order to give, those students who opt for GCSE, deeper contextual knowledge. Those that don't opt for GCSE will have a deeper understanding of the importance of the philosophies and ethics that underpin modern day topics.

Autumn: Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics

In this unit students are introduced to a variety of philosophers and their philosophies regarding free will. The study begins in ancient Greece with Plato and Aristotle and then moves on to a study about predeterminism by looking at what influenced John Calvin. When the philosophical foundations are set students will learn about a variety of ethical theories and apply them to modern ethical dilemmas. This unit is enquiry driven and students will be developing their academic writing skills to respond to the statement, 'Humans are not free.'

Spring: Holocaust Education

Using materials carefully selected from the Holocaust Education Trust students analyse pre-war Jewish life and how this changed when the Nazis took power. They will understand how laws were put into place in order to garner support and take rights away from Jews. Students also make historical links to the treatment of Jews throughout history. Post war Jewish life and recovery is explored as well as looking at the difficulties with forgiveness and reconciliation. Most years we have been able to host a survivor to come into school to speak to the students, however, this year this will more than likely be done remotely.

Summer: Religion, Extremism and Conflict

The unit poses many questions about the nature of religion and links between religion and war and religion and peace. From the Experience of injustice, feelings of revenge or hate arise. How are these to be dealt with or understood? Why is there conflict and war? What do people believe about human nature and the prevalence of conflict? Christianity, Islam and non-religious belief systems offer resources for exploring questions about conflict, war and peace.