**THE PHILOSOPHY, BELIEFS & ETHICS (PBE) FACULTY**



INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

**1. Staffing:**

Humanities consists of History, Geography, and R.E, re-named as Philosophy, Beliefs and Ethics. The Head of PBE is also the Head of Psychology and Health, although this role will be divided amongst several heads of department in her absence. Humanities teachers work together to deliver their own discrete subjects although some teaching is cross-faculty.

**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 apart from Year 11. 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** | Why do we study PBE? Including the study of medical ethics  Judaism, including the study of Israel and Palestine  Buddhism, including the study of Tibet and meditation  Philosophy and ethics, including the study of immigration  Sikhism, including the ethics of war and charity work  Religions of Africa, including Voodoo and Bantu |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year 8** | Islam, including the study of Islamophobia and the 5 Pillars  Christianity, including the study of famous preachers and the Incarnation  Big Ideas, including the study of colonialism and feminism  What makes us human? Including the study of the mind-body and personal identity problems in Philosophy  A World Without God, including the study of Marxism  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. Students are currently achieving above national averages (73% Grade 5+, 43% Grades 7-9 and 14% Grade 9).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 take the AS exam at the end of Year 1 and many continue to take the A2 exam at the end of Year 2. Last year, 44% of students achieved Grade A\*-B at AS and 40% achieved Grade A\*-B at A2 with 100% passing the exam.