



## **AS / A2 Religious Studies (Level 3)**

### **WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?**

Religious Studies is a rigorous study of religion and its relation to the wider world. The course is very popular with students and addresses pertinent topics such as issues of identity and value of human life. You will develop your awareness and understanding of contemporary religious issues.

### **WHAT WILL I STUDY?**

The AS Religious Studies course covers issues including the nature and sanctity of life considered alongside the ethical approaches of utilitarianism and situation ethics. Students then focus upon religion in contemporary society and examine issues such as identity and belonging, diet and dress and secularisation. These themes are explored at a deeper level in A2 including ways in which religious believers' lives are affected by their beliefs and practices.

### **HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

At AS there are two written exams; one in January and one in June. Each unit is worth 50% of the AS and 25% of A Level. Both AS exams are 1 hour 15 minutes long. Four topics are identified for study in each unit and there will be one question based on each topic. Candidates must answer two questions which are essay based. At A2, students will sit two 1 hour 30 minute exams at the end of the summer term.

### **WHAT SKILLS AND SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?**

This subject requires strong academic discipline, whereby knowledge, understanding and written skills are essential along with an enquiring, critical and reflective approach. There will be opportunities to engage in discussions and you will be encouraged to view issues from all perspectives. You will engage in group work, research projects and class presentations, in addition to completing written essays on a regular basis.

Those wishing to choose Religious Studies must have good written and oral communication skills. GCSE Religious Studies is not essential but helpful and a good grasp and understanding of essay techniques is essential.

### **WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?**

Students who study Religious Studies go on to pursue a variety of careers including Teaching, Public Services, Caring Professions and jobs within the private sector.

### **PRIESTLEY EXTRA**

Religious Studies students are actively encouraged to undertake fundraising events. We also benefit from a range of visiting speakers who help to inform debate and discussion.