

And finally.....

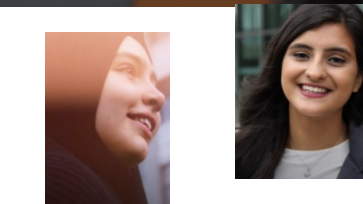
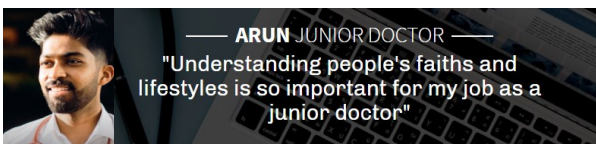
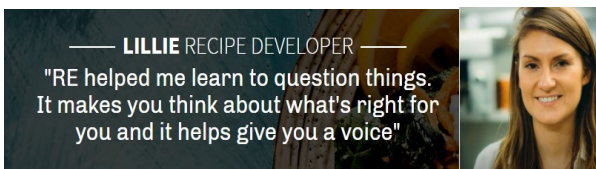
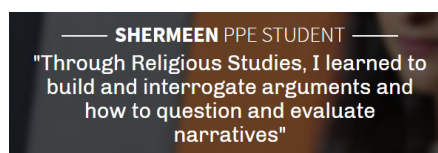
All the resources you need will either be provided, found in our Library or found online. There are other books we can suggest to you, but no single course text book for you to buy. There will be the opportunity to go to RS Conferences to meet living philosophers and theologians! These generally cost £10-£20

It's not an easy option, but it could be one of the most fulfilling and important challenges you ever take on.

So, if you are prepared to

- ***work hard,***
- ***organise your time effectively,***
- ***make a commitment to read and revise as you go along,***
- ***independently push yourself,***

this RE Department will take you to the next level!



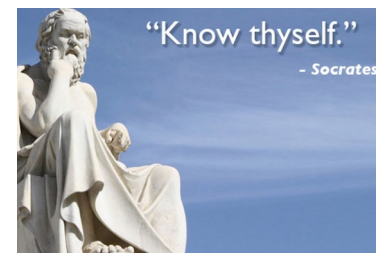
Once you get to the age of your parents you will be so tied up with the responsibilities of adulthood you will never have the chance to ask all these big questions, let alone try to answer them. Don't let this chance skip you by. The time is now!

(Peter Vardy. British Philosopher living today!)

St Joseph's Sixth Form

Edexcel Religious Studies

Philosophy, Ethics and New Testament Studies



Why Religious Studies?

It will change your life!

This A level will take you on a journey of discovery which rocks the very foundations of life and universe, stretching the imagination and your beliefs. The Department hopes to sow the seeds of critical inquiry through our teaching and encourage students to let no stone go unturned and no assumptions go unchallenged in their quest for the truth! We ask the questions that other subjects do not dare!

It will make you attractive to Universities

- ***The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that RS A level provides 'suitable preparation for University generally'***
- ***Both Oxford and Cambridge University include Religious Studies in the top A Level list of 'generally suitable Arts A levels'***
- ***Research from the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring at Durham University on the comparative difficulty of different subjects at A level showed that RS was 'in the middle difficulty range, similar to Geography and more demanding than English'.***

Comment from Ed Pawson, Chair, National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE)

It will make you more employable

Employers and institutions of Higher Education recognise that A Level RS students tend to a level of communication, logic and problem solving skills than many of their peers. It therefore provides and a suitable springboard to a wide range of degree courses and careers, e.g. Law, teaching, medicine, social work, to name but a few.



Aristotle & Plato

As depicted in Raphael's painting 'The School of Athens'

Two of the first ever philosophy teachers!

Regarded as the fathers of Western thought and culture!

Paper 1: If you ever find yourself wondering if there is more to life than our day to day existence, then Philosophy is for you.

Philosophy of Religion (2 hour exam - 5 Questions)

Is it possible to actually ever prove anything beyond all doubt?

- Debates about the existence of God, and whether there can be any arguments, evidence or experiences which proves God's existence.

Is there any reason to look at the world and think it is genuinely a good place?

- Debates about whether belief in God is impossible in a world containing evil.

Is knowledge more important than belief,.....or is the opposite true?

- Debates between religion and science, including whether there is a possibility of life after death.

Is religion basically just a harmless "game" which makes sense to its "players"?

- Debates about whether religious statements express any truth?

Paper 2: If you want to be able to justify argue that you are a good person, then Ethical Studies is for you!

Ethics (2 hour exam - 5 Questions)

Is anything ever always wrong ...or can everything be right sometimes?

- Debates about how to work out the difference between a good action and a bad action! (Natural law, Situation ethics, Utilitarianism)

If the way we treat all people is important, how can we decide which people to prioritise over others? (And is it ever right to do that?)

- Debate about right and wrong in relation to Gender Equality, Sexuality, the Environment, War & Peace, Medical Healthcare,

Could it be acceptable for a rapist to tell their victim that "rape, like eating meat, is just a matter of opinion.?"

- Debates about whether ethical statements contain any truth to them or whether it is fine for people to completely decide for themselves what's right and wrong?

Paper 3: If you love reading and understanding how writers and audiences shape a story, then New Testament Studies is for you.

New Testament Studies (2 hour exam - 5 Questions)

How historically accurate are any of the accounts of Jesus life?

- Debates about the extent to which the stories of Jesus accurately represent 1st Century Land of Palestine in which he lived?

Are all, some or none of the stories about Jesus literally true?

- Debates about whether the authors intended their stories to be read as historical account of Jesus' life.

Why might a writer tell stories about Jesus that were not literally true?

- Debates about whether the writers of the stories had no intention of writing a historical account of Jesus' life, or that they were just not able to do so.

Are any of these stories relevant to me in the 21st Century?

- Debates about miracles, death and resurrection, the moral teachings of Jesus, conflict with authority, and the Kingdom of God.