

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

## Introduction

In Religious Studies, we aim to provide students with an opportunity to understand and reflect on both religious and secular beliefs and values that people hold in the world today. We explore why people are Religious and we consider the big issues such as whether God exists and why there is suffering in the world. By the end of the Religious Studies programme students will have developed a good level of understanding of religious beliefs and why people hold them, as well as the logical and critical skills to assess and evaluate belief and value claims and their significance in people's lives today.

## Staff and Accommodation

The department is made up of two full time teachers and one part-time teacher. Teachers have high expectations, and work well together to create an atmosphere in which all students can fulfil their potential. Members of staff teach across the age and ability range.

We have two dedicated classrooms at lower school for KS3 and one at upper school. Computer rooms and/or laptops can be booked if necessary.

## Curriculum

All students study Religious Studies in Years 7-11. The GCSE is started in year 9 for all students and continues in years 10 and 11 for those who choose it. They are taught in mixed ability groups once a week. Many students take the opportunity to opt for the AQA A GCSE course, focussing on:

- The beliefs, teachings and practices of **Christianity** and **Buddhism**. This is supported by two trips: one to local churches and one to the Buddhist Temple in Wimbledon.
- The 4 themes Religion and Life; Relationships and Family; Peace and Conflict and Crime and Punishment.
- In addition to the trips there are immersion days planned in both years.

Those not opting for the full course will be introduced to a number of ethical and philosophical issues throughout year 10. This will help them to decide their topic for a Higher Project Qualification. They will complete this throughout year 11. These classes are taught once a fortnight.

At advanced level we teach OCR Religious Studies (Philosophy, Ethics and Development in Christian thought) Next year we will only have a year 13 class. We are hopeful that the following year we will have sufficient interest to run a year 12 class.

The Extended Project Qualification is also offered in Year 13. Teachers of RE are often used as supervisors for this qualification.

## Extra-Curricular

The RE department has been involved in two enrichment activities throughout this year which will hopefully continue. A philosophy club at KS3 and the Debating Club at KS4&5.