



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Religious Education Department's aim is to ensure that Religious Education is taught in a way that is enjoyable, challenging and intellectually stimulating. We try to promote our subject through the use of discovery, debates and open questions to ensure students can fully explore their own views and beliefs as well as analyse those of others. Through high quality teaching and learning, we aim to promote transferable skills that can be used more widely in the Academy and beyond.

Religious Education at Erasmus Darwin Academy takes guidance from the Staffordshire SACRE in ensuring that all students are prepared for future life in a diverse world. We also work positively with other schools in local Religious Education clusters to ensure that we are delivering the best possible provision in the subject.

At Erasmus Darwin Academy, we teach a full seven year offer in Religious Education at the Academy, starting with Year 7, 8 and 9. During KS3, we explore concepts from a variety of religions and philosophers. All students are required to take the Full Course AQA GCSE in Year 10 and 11 as a mandatory course with a focus on Christianity and Buddhism (with limited content in Year 9 which will support the GCSE qualification). It is considered a popular subject amongst the students, and results are in line with national averages, with 28% 7-9 and 60% gaining 5-9 in 2019, which is a positive achievement for non-selective entry.

The Religious Education team works closely with staff in PSHE with an expectation that Citizenship at KS4 is delivered as part of the GCSE curriculum, using a holistic approach where possible. The team of three full time members of staff (plus a number of non specialist staff) work closely together to ensure that Religious Education at the Academy continues to have a high status.

Philosophy and Ethics is also a popular choice at AS and A2 level and all teachers have opportunities to deliver A Level lessons. OCR Religious Studies: Philosophy, Ethics and the Development of Christian Thought is the chosen course for students. Examination results at A level demonstrate positive progress according to performance measures with 40% gaining A\*-B, and 100% gaining A\*-E in 2019. A number of students who take the A level continue on to study Philosophy courses at undergraduate level. For students who do not take Philosophy and Ethics, Sixth Form tutorials also have elements of Religious Education provision to allow all students to both learn about and from religion.