

# LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL



## Head of Religious Studies and Philosophy

The Religious Studies and Philosophy Department at LRGS enjoys an extremely high reputation. This is an exceptional opportunity for an outstanding teacher with energy, commitment, experience and the vision to maintain and develop the contribution of RS and Philosophy to the school.

The Department has excellent facilities and enjoys two well-appointed classrooms and a Chaplaincy Centre situated in the refurbished International Building on the upper site of the school with views overlooking Morecambe Bay.

This thriving academic department achieves excellent GCSE and A-level results, including 100% A\*-B grades at GCSE in 2017. Past pupils have gone on to read Theology at Oxford and Cambridge and the subject is well respected within the school.

RS is taught throughout the school as a separate discipline within the curriculum except for a six week rota of Philosophy of Religion and Morality modules taught within the Values course in Years 10 and 11. This constitutes the required non-examinational element of Religious Studies; it is discursive in delivery and forms an important part of our Citizenship Programme.

In Year 7 the curriculum centres around the 'Island' curriculum and encourages active learning; pupils look at the Bible and Hinduism. In Year 8 pupils study the lives of Muhammad, Jesus and the Buddha. In Year 9 pupils examine a range of contemporary issues, focussing on the ethics of war and human rights. At GCSE pupils take AQA Syllabus B philosophy of religion and morality units.

In the Sixth Form we offer the Cambridge Pre-U in Philosophy and Theology.

The Head of RS and Philosophy's primary responsibilities are the effective leadership and management of the Department and the successful teaching of the subject. The successful candidate will ensure that all pupils can achieve to their individual potential and that the department works to help achieve the overall aims of the School.

In particular the Head of RS and Philosophy will be responsible for the following:

- the teaching of RS at LRGS and the maintenance of the highest possible standards,
- the progress of individual pupils in RS including the maintenance of records,
- review and develop schemes of learning in all year groups, taking into account the national curriculum where appropriate,
- the contribution of RS to the school's cross-curricular programme
- the RS and Philosophy department budget,
- the appearance of the department's rooms including departmental displays,
- the development and coordination of schemes of work and the maintenance of a departmental handbook,
- support of colleagues and the planned development of their pedagogical skills;
- the preparation annually of the department Quality Improvement Plan,
- the appraisal/PM of departmental colleagues against the teaching standards,
- the planning and recording of personal development programmes for the departmental staff within the training budget allocation,
- attendance at curriculum forum meetings,

- advising students who wish to study Philosophy, RS and related subjects at University as they prepare for applications, aptitude tests and interviews
- holding and chairing regular departmental meetings.

In addition to these particular duties as Head of RS and Philosophy, all staff at LRGS are expected to help with the pastoral development of pupils. This may include acting as a sixth form tutor who is responsible for registering pupils' attendance and drafting UCAS references.

The Religious Studies and Philosophy department contributes greatly to the pastoral, social and spiritual life of LRGS and the department plays a distinctive role within the wider community. It is hoped that the person appointed will be willing to assist in the spiritual life of the school through morning assemblies and corporate worship, and to assist in the social extensions of the school in the community such as the Senior Citizens Party and school's charitable giving through the school council. The current post-holder is also lay chaplain; this is not a requirement of the post, but the school would be willing to discuss a similar role with candidates.

The role of Head of RS and Philosophy offers a number of exciting opportunities for the successful applicant to make a real impact into the lives of many pupils, including the busy boarding houses and the wider school community.

All staff are encouraged to make an additional contribution to the life of the school which depends on their own interests. Possible areas include drama, music, sport, boarding duties and the combined cadet force.

The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom s/he is responsible, or with whom s/he comes into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's Child Protection Policy Statement at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school s/he must report any concerns to the school's child protection officer or to the Headmaster.

CJP/MIC Sept 2017