

Coombe Girls' School Religious Studies An Introduction to the Department

The RS department currently consists of two specialist members of staff. RS is taught throughout KS3 and is an option subject at GCSE and A Level. RS is a serious, academic subject at Coombe and pupils engage well with the RS curriculum.

Year 7 and Year 8 currently have one lesson each week lasting one hour, Year 9 have three lessons over two weeks. The KS3 syllabus aims to provide a reflective insight into the Six Major Religions covered in Y,8,9. RS reflects the National Framework and the locally agreed Kingston syllabus. RS teachers aim to provide a reflective, supportive and academic atmosphere in which all pupils can explore a wide range of philosophical and theological arguments and perspectives.

GCSE RS continues to be very successful, currently we have two groups in Year 10 and two in Year 11. We cover the AQA RS A syllabus, Islam and Christianity. Paper 1, Religious Beliefs and Teachings and Practices and Paper 2 Thematic Studies, Relationships, Crime and Punishment, Religion and Life and Human Rights.

At A level, we cover the OCR syllabus, RS Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought. Our numbers are constantly rising and we are currently teaching one Y12 group and one Year 13 group.

Religious Studies is approached with an attitude of openness and enquiry, with a strong emphasis on the academic worth of the subject. It is taken seriously by pupils of all faiths and none, and a wide range of teaching strategies are employed to motivate and encourage pupils. Wherever possible, visits are arranged to places of religious significance, presently Year 9 students visit a local synagogue and take part in events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

Perception of the subject by pupils is very positive, and all teaching staff within the department are encouraged to adopt a forward looking, reflective approach to teaching and learning.