

Curriculum Intent

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) is taught to all students in Years 7-10. We attempt to answer challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self, the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.

In the Autumn term, students focus on Philosophy. We study Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hume and Kant, and evaluate their answers to a variety of philosophical problems. We also learn to philosophise ourselves through discussion, debate, and essay writing. Students are encouraged to think about some of the biggest questions, and are given the tools to go about answering them.

In the Spring term we focus on Religion. We study the history, beliefs and practices of the six major world faiths – Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism – as well as looking at new religions and Humanism. We consider how religious teachings are applied and how beliefs influence people’s behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn about and from different religions, while exploring their own beliefs.

In the Summer term we focus on Ethics. We study ethical theories and different interpretations of ‘right’ and ‘wrong’. We evaluate these ideas by applying them to important and relevant situations, and through this we learn to make decisions about our own behaviour. We focus on how we treat others, and how we treat ourselves, by looking at sex and relationships, physical and mental health, and drugs and alcohol.

Students will have to show progress in terms of their knowledge and understanding of these topics, and their ability to analyse and evaluate different ideas. We aim to develop their essay writing, speaking and debating, and independent research skills. While Philosophy, Religion and Ethics are taught in separate modules, there is significant crossover between each area, providing a rounded education and a wide skill-set. We aim to provide students with a broad range of knowledge, the desire to be inquisitive for more, and the skills with which to gain it.

Yr7 (KS3)	Topic Area	Knowledge/Skills that are taught	Resources/support at home
Autumn 1	Philosophy - Reason	Learning the views of various philosophers on the importance of human reason (including Plato & pre-Socratic philosophers) Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating those views Learning how to construct an argument using reason	Discuss the importance reason for making decisions
Autumn 2	Philosophy - Society	Learning the views of various philosophers on the importance of Society (including Hobbes, Locke & Rousseau)	Discuss political views and current affairs

		Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating those views	
		Developing well supported personal views on the importance and structure of society	
Spring 1	Religion - Abrahamic Faiths	Learning about and from the 3 major Abrahamic Faiths - Judaism, Christianity & Islam Includes history, beliefs, practices Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating those beliefs	Discuss religious beliefs Visit a place of worship
Spring 2	Religion - Duty	Learning about how religious beliefs about Duty are applied, with particular focus on Judaism, Christianity & Islam Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating the application of beliefs	Discuss religious beliefs Visit a place of worship
Summer 1	Ethics - Friendship	Introduction to Ethics - How should we treat other people? Learning the importance of friendship Developing skills in making and maintaining friendships	Discuss/model the importance of healthy relationships
Summer 2	Ethics - Health	Learning about the health risks and benefits of different foods, smoking, alcohol, sleep and technology Evaluating religious and secular views on the above	Discuss/model healthy choices
Yr8 (KS3)	Topic Area	Knowledge/Skills that are taught	Resources/support at home
Autumn 1	Philosophy - Purpose	Learning the views of various philosophers on the importance of the purpose of life (including Plato & the Torah/Bible/Quran) Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating those views Developing well supported personal views on life's purpose	Discuss the purpose of life
Autumn 2	Philosophy - Free Will	Learning the views of various philosophers on the existence of Free Will (Libertarianism, Determinism and compatibilism; including the Buddha, the Torah/Bible/Quran, JS Mill)	Discuss views on free will

		<p>Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating those views</p> <p>Developing well supported personal views</p> <p>Practicing restraint and control of our own will</p>	
Spring 1	Religion - Eastern Religions	<p>Learning about and from the 3 major Eastern Religions - Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism</p> <p>Includes history, beliefs, practices</p> <p>Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating those beliefs</p>	<p>Discuss religious beliefs</p> <p>Visit a place of worship</p>
Spring 2	Religion - Love	<p>Learning about how religious beliefs about Love are applied, with particular focus on Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism & Sikhism</p> <p>Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating the application of beliefs</p>	<p>Discuss religious beliefs</p> <p>Visit a place of worship</p>
Summer 1	Ethics - Beauty	<p>Learning about different conceptions of beauty worldwide</p> <p>Considering the importance of body image</p> <p>Comparing different influences on body image, including online imagery</p>	Discuss/model healthy body image
Summer 2	Ethics - Charity	<p>Learn and evaluate different religious and secular attitudes to charity (including Sikhism, Islam and Christianity)</p> <p>Consider different ethical views on charity (including utilitarianism and deontological views)</p>	Discuss charity, encourage students to engage with a charitable organisation
Yr9 (KS3)	Topic Area	Knowledge/Skills that are taught	Resources/support at home
Autumn 1	Philosophy - Critical Thinking	<p>Learning the views of various philosophers on the existence of how to think critically, using reason, and on the importance of truth (including Plato & Descartes)</p> <p>Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating those views</p> <p>Developing well supported personal views</p> <p>Practicing critical thinking by evaluating the truth of various sources (Fake News</p>	Discuss the trustworthiness of sources of information

		homework)	
Autumn 2	Philosophy - Ideology	<p>Learning the views of various philosophers on the state of nature and political ideology (including Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau)</p> <p>Learning different ideologies - Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, Feminism and Anarchism</p> <p>Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating those views</p> <p>Developing well supported personal political views</p>	Discuss political views and current affairs
Spring 1	Religion - Humanism & New Religions	<p>Learning about and from Humanism and New Religious Movements, including Mormonism, Rastafarianism, Scientology and Cults.</p> <p>Includes history, beliefs, practices</p> <p>Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating those beliefs</p>	<p>Discuss religious beliefs</p> <p>Visit a place of worship</p>
Spring 2	Religion - Absolute & Relative Morality	<p>Learning about how religious beliefs about Morality are applied, with particular focus on Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism & Sikhism</p> <p>Comparing, Analysing and Evaluating the application of beliefs</p>	<p>Discuss religious beliefs</p> <p>Visit a place of worship</p>
Summer 1	Ethics - Relationships	<p>Learning the importance of healthy relationships, including friends, family, and sexual/romantic relationships</p> <p>Learning the varieties of sexual/romantic relationships</p> <p>Evaluating religious attitudes towards certain relationships (including marriage, divorce, civil partnerships, homosexuality)</p> <p>Considering important issues connected to sexual/romantic relationships (including gender, consent, contraception, STIs, abortion, pornography)</p>	Discuss/model the importance of healthy relationships
Summer 2	Ethics - Drugs	Learning UK law on drugs, including potential punishments for possession/supply	Discuss the UK law on drugs

		Learning the effects of various drugs	
		Evaluating current UK law and drug classification	