

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES – short course

### **EXAMINING BOARD: WJEC**

### **TITLE: Religious Studies GCSE – Specification B Option A Short Course**

All students in Years 10 and 11 follow the WJEC GCSE course and have the opportunity to achieve a short course in Religious Studies. The course aims to provide the opportunity to make informed judgements and develop beliefs, values and patterns of behaviour which will give meaning and purpose of life to enable students to appreciate the religious perspective on ultimate questions, moral issues and contemporary concerns.

**ACCREDITATION:** Short Course GCSE in Religious Studies grades A\*- G

### **CONTENT:**

In Option A we examine issues and questions such as:

- Love, Marriage and Divorce
- Justice and equality, including racism and sexism, wealth and poverty
- Does God exist?
- Is there life after death?
- Exploring creation and our place in the world

### **WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE?:**

The primary aim of this course is to allow all students, from all backgrounds to engage in, reflect on and respond to human experience and the issues raised by being human. Students learn about and from religion to help them make sense of and find meaning in their own experience of life. It is therefore aimed at students who have open minds and can evaluate in a balanced way, opposing views.

Lessons will involve a variety of activities to enable students of all learning styles to access the course. Good debating skills are needed both orally and in written form, and students will need to work well with others as well as on their own.

Many lessons will involve discussion, the sharing of opinions and debate as well as individual study and group work. Many issues will be approached through the use of film, drama and real life case studies.

It is possible that those who find GCSE too difficult may obtain an Entry Level certificate.

### **POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

RS is a valuable subject to undertake for any career choice which involves working with people. A student, whose career ambitions include the caring professions such as nursing, social work, the probationary service, teaching and policing would benefit from choosing RS. It is also particularly useful for the armed services, law and politics. A great deal of the course requires the use of philosophical analysis, very much wanted and respected by universities and other further education establishments.

## **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO DO RELIGIOUS STUDIES?**

It enables students to:

- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- explore religions and beliefs, reflect on fundamental questions, engage with them intellectually and respond personally
- enhance their spiritual and moral development, and contribute to their health and wellbeing
- enhance their personal, social and cultural development, their understanding of different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world, and to contribute to social and community cohesion
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the study of religion, and relate it to the wider world
- reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in light of their learning.

It provides students with the opportunity to:

- develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of religion by exploring the significance and impact of beliefs, teachings, sources, practices, ways of life and forms of expressing meaning
- express their personal responses and informed insights on fundamental questions and issues about identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitments.

### **ASSESSMENT:**

This course is assessed by an examination at the end of year 11 which counts for 100% of the overall mark and involves assessing students' knowledge and understanding as well as their ability to reflect and debate. All students sit the same examination paper in which grades are awarded ranging from A\* to G.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

If you have any questions regarding this course then please see:  
Miss L. Jones (Head of Religious Studies) T1