

Curriculum Overview for Religion, Philosophy and Ethics - Year 7

| When? | What? | Why? | How? |
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| Autumn Half Term 1 | The Island | The Island is an introductory unit that looks at key themes such as identity, community, ritual, rules and celebrations and allows our students to explore these values from their perspective first as well as consider the views of other people as well as religious perspectives. | A series of lessons that follow the island 'story' where students will write diary entries explaining what they are learning whilst on 'The Island'. |
| Autumn Half Term 2 | What does it mean to be part of a religion? | This unit mirrors 'The Island' by looking at religion from a thematic perspective. It allows our students to explore the similarities and differences found in a wide range of faith groups, learning key concepts and knowledge that provides a basis for the study of religion. | A series of lessons that will look at areas from all the major world looking at the key components of deity, leaders, prayer, rites of passage, festivals as well as challenges to faith. |
| Spring Half Term 1 | An Introduction to Philosophy - What is reality | Philosophy is the bedrock of analytical and critical thinking and a major component of what we teach in RPE. Not only does this continue to build on analytic and critical skills, but also provides foundational knowledge throughout KS3 and all the way up to KS5 5. | A series of lessons that explore Plato, his theory of forms and his allegory of the Cave and Aristotle's four causes, examining what is meant by calling something 'real'. |
| Spring Half Term 2 | How much authority does Genesis 1 - 3 hold in C21st? | The creation account in Genesis 1 - 3 is essential to all of the Abrahamic faiths. This unit explores the three chapters in depth with themes such as creation and the role and nature of humanity that are revisited in many topics and our GCSE. In a modern age, there is a big discussion on not just whether Genesis 1 - 3 still has authority but how it could have authority in the modern age. | A series of lessons that explore the three chapters looking at what it says about the origin of the world, the role of humans and human nature. |
| Summer Half Term 1 | An introduction to Philosophy - Is it possible to believe in God? | This unit builds upon the earlier units of what it means to be part of a religion and the initial introduction to philosophy, applying those ideas to traditional arguments for the existence of God. This takes it a step forward in assessing whether these beliefs hold a basis in rationality. | A series of lessons that build upon the ideas of Plato, Aristotle that are applied to the arguments of first cause (cosmological) and design (teleological) to see if it is possible to believe in God. |
| Summer Half Term 2 | How should we respond towards suffering? (From a Buddhist perspective) | Suffering is an important topic to discuss, especially in a current/post covid world. Whilst the religious traditions in Britain are Christian, we study a broad range of beliefs, which is why Buddhism has been selected. | A series of lessons that apply the Buddhist beliefs and teaching of Siddhartha's journey to Enlightenment and the Three Universal Truths applied to examples of suffering. |