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| Course name: Religious Studies |
| Which course/ syllabus will I be following?OCR GCSE Religious Studies |
| ReasonThis course will take an in-depth look at the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam, as well as the wider philosophical and ethical themes arising from these, and other, religious and non-religious beliefs. The course encourages students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to engage in debate and discussion about life in a modern, diverse society. Students will explore and understand personal values and beliefs, with an emphasis on careful analysis and the ability to construct balanced and informed arguments within the context of religious, philosophical and ethical awareness. Students will explore the intellectual tensions between religious and scientific explanations of the world; learn how to navigate through difficult issues in medical ethics, such as abortion and euthanasia; analyse the nature of God and its implications on belief; debate classical arguments for and against theism, attitudes towards wealth and poverty, prejudice and discrimination; and assess religious and non-religious responses to war and self-defence, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards these significant contemporary issues and cultivate crucial analytical and critical thinking skills. |
| How is the course assessed?The course is 100% examined on three written papers. The examinations will include short open response questions as well as extended writing questions.Philosophy papers (2) - Beliefs, teachings and practices from two religious perspectives; **Christianity** and **Islam**. *Both of the papers are out of 63 marks, one hour in length and worth 25% each of the total GCSE.*Ethics paper (1) – Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a **Christian** perspective. Four themes will be examined; relationships and families, the existence of God and the ultimate reality, religion, peace and conflict, dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes. *The paper is out of 126 marks, two hours in length and worth 50% of the total GCSE.* |
| Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?Religious Studies or Philosophy and Ethics are a direct progression at A-Level.As you enter the world of work, you will be expected to work alongside people with different beliefs from your own. Philosophy and Ethics will teach the skills and understanding needed to work with people of all faiths and cultures. These skills are vitally important in all careers especially professions such as the police, retail, social services, teaching, politics and the law, the caring and medical professions and the armed services, in fact any profession that brings you into contact with other people. |