

Lower 4

Course overview:

In Lower 4 our intention is to review and build upon pupils’ prior knowledge and skills, as well as to introduce them to the concepts and approach of senior school Religious Studies. We explore the nature of religion before examining the relevance of the Bible as a guide for living today. Pupils will then complete a more in-depth study of Islam and consider the impact that belief has upon lifestyle. In the summer term, pupils are introduced to the philosophy of religion and debate the existence of God.

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
<p>What is religion?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A belief in God?</i> The Trinity • <i>A belief in God?</i> The Trimurti • <i>A group of chosen people?</i> A study of Abraham • <i>The wisdom of key figures?</i> A study of Siddartha Gautama and the Four Noble Truths • <i>The importance of rituals:</i> a study of Holy Communion • <i>Sacred spaces:</i> the church • <i>Sacred writings as a part of religion:</i> What is the Bible? 	<p>The Bible as a guide for living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A source of wisdom:</i> a study of Proverbs • <i>A map for happiness:</i> the Beatitudes • <i>Advice pages:</i> St. Paul’s letters • <i>The Bible as a guide to living:</i> Visit from the Gideons <p>What does it mean to be a Muslim?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Believers of Allah:</i> Muslim beliefs in God • <i>Followers of Muhammad</i> • <i>The Five Pillars:</i> a study of the symbolism and importance of prayer • <i>Following a halal way of life:</i> the impact of Muslim beliefs upon daily life • <i>One Islam? Shi’ah and Sunni Islam</i> 	<p>Does God exist?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is truth?</i> • <i>Religious experience as proof of God’s existence:</i> an analysis of St. Paul’s conversion • <i>Religious experience as proof of God’s existence:</i> a study of miracles • <i>The world as proof of God’s existence</i> • <i>Is belief in God a gamble?</i>

Upper 4

Course overview:

In Upper 4 we focus much more upon developing pupils' analytical and evaluative skills. Our units raise big questions about beliefs, belonging and identity. The religion we study in-depth this year is Judaism. As pupils are much more conscious of their own life journeys, we also look at how key moments are marked in religion as well as the question of whether there is life beyond. Our final unit examines the massive impact that the life and teachings of Jesus had, and still has, today.

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
<p>The challenge of belonging: what it means to be Jewish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introduction to the people of the Covenant:</i> The Patriarchs • <i>The demands of the Covenant:</i> The Mitzvot and living a kosher life • <i>The demands of the Covenant:</i> The Ten Commandments • <i>The importance of the past:</i> Jewish history through the festivals • <i>The Diaspora:</i> the Jews of York • <i>Different interpretations:</i> A brief study of the differences between Reform and Orthodox Judaism 	<p>Marking Life's Key Moments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Journey of Life:</i> an introduction • <i>Celebrating birth:</i> Infant baptism • <i>Becoming an adult:</i> a Jewish response • <i>Getting hitched!</i> The importance of marriage within Christianity • <i>What makes a successful marriage?</i> A Hindu response • <i>Dealing with death:</i> A Jewish approach • <i>Have we been here before?</i> A study of Hindu beliefs and practice • <i>Heaven and Hell:</i> Christian beliefs • <i>Considering the evidence:</i> an analysis of the evidence for life after death • <i>What does it mean to live a full life?</i> 	<p>The significance of Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introduction to the new unit:</i> an overview of the life of Jesus • <i>The significance of Jesus:</i> Rebel or conformist? • <i>Responding to Jesus' teachings:</i> the relevance of the parables and other key teachings for the twenty first century • <i>Responding to the Crucifixion:</i> the place of sacrifice and martyrdom in Christianity • <i>Responding to the sacrifice on the cross:</i> the role of forgiveness

Lower 5

Course overview:

In Lower 5 our time is reduced but the challenge is not. Students will have the opportunity to consolidate and build upon their knowledge and skills, as well as to really practise their debating abilities! This year we look at the big questions religion raises for our society today. As this course largely focuses on contemporary issues, content can vary in order to be able to respond to current issues in the news.

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
<p>The challenge of evil and suffering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The nature and problem of evil and suffering</i> • <i>The search for meaning:</i> an analysis of religious responses to evil and suffering • <i>The Shoah</i> • <i>Where was God in Auschwitz?</i> • <i>Are humans born evil?</i> 	<p>Religion in the world today</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>An introduction to religion in the world today</i> • <i>Religious responses to the role of women:</i> Religious leadership within the Church • <i>Religious responses to conflict:</i> Christian, Jewish and Muslim views on war • <i>A case study of conflict:</i> Northern Ireland • <i>A case study of conflict:</i> Israel 	<p>An introduction to ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How we make moral decisions:</i> An introduction to ethical theories • <i>Ethics in the news:</i> How religious and non-religious people may respond to current moral issues