

## RE Key Stage 3

Religious Education at Northampton School for Boys follows the Northamptonshire SACRE Agreed Syllabus. The aim is to focus on the six main world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism) whilst allowing for some degree of school based innovation.

When studying the six religions our aim is to make the subjects as relevant and informative for students as possible. This means that the department prepares resources which are engaging and which encourage students to develop their own responses to the key issues. It is important that students learn **about** religions (beliefs and practices etc) but that they also learn **from** religions (what lessons/issues can be drawn from belief).

In addition to the six world religions, we also do school-devised units. In year 7 we do a unit on Art and Spirituality and in year 8 we look at Early Religions. In Year 9 we study a unit called Religion and The Future in which we reflect on some of the social and technological changes that will face young people in the years ahead. In all of these units our aim is to see what lessons we can learn for ourselves about moral and spiritual issues.

It is important to stress that we do not expect students to hold a particular view. We say to our students from the start that we shall never tell them **what** to think only that we will ask them **to think**. Our ultimate goal is to encourage young people to become questioning, responsive members of society with as broad an outlook on what it means to be human as possible.

## RE Key Stage 4 GCSE

At GCSE we follow the new OCR 9-1 Religious Studies Syllabus. The newly revised syllabus aims to give students a deeper understanding of some of the themes that we cover in Key Stage 3.

There are two parts to the course. In the first students are asked to study the Beliefs and Practices of two religious traditions. We have opted to study Christianity and Islam. Students will look in depth at key beliefs in both faiths and will then see how those beliefs translate into practice.

As with Key Stage 3, our aim is to encourage students to be thoughtful, responsible and aware members of society. The syllabus gives us the chance to explain some of the key British values formed from our country's connection to Christianity. It also allows us to encourage student engagement with a major faith, Islam, which has such an important role to play in the world today. Students will come away having a profound understanding of both faiths and will have developed some significant analytical and evaluative skills.

In the second half of the course students will study some major philosophical and ethical issues in depth. These will include topics like human relationships, war and

pacifism as well as medical ethics. They will be encouraged to examine these issues from both a Christian perspective and from a secular/atheistic point of view. The skills they develop in dealing with complex issue should prepare them well for entering into a multi-cultural and global environment.