# Philosophy, Ethics & Religion

Theoverall aims of this course are toprovide an understandingof a variety of key issuesinthe philosophy ofreligion and ethics. This course involves a study of philosophical arguments about the existence of God and selected problems in the philosophy of religion. Ethics comprises a study of ethical concepts and dilemmas.
This course aims to enable students to think more clearly and logically, spot flaws in arguments and express themselves fairly but firmly in group discussions. They will find themselves having impassioned discussions inside and outside the classroom as they follow in the footsteps of some of the great thinkers. Students will have an opportunity to develop their interest in and enthusiasm for a rigorous study of religion and relate it to the wider world. They will treat the subject as an academic discipline by developing knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to a specialist study of religion. They should adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach, reflecting on and developing their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their learning. Many different types of students can benefit from this course and enjoy analysing the issues and debating the arguments using evidence, not just opinion.

**Course Structure & Content**

During the course of the year students will undertake various class discussions, presentations and activities both in philosophy and ethics to build up knowledge concerning existence of God arguments, challenges to religious belief and the God of philosophy and religion. Students have the opportunity to explore ancient thinkers such as Aquinas and Anselm as well as modern day philosophers such as Richard Dawkins and Richard Swinburne.

**Assessment**

Two 3 hour exams comprised of 100 marks each. Paper one is comprised of four 10 & 15 mark questions. Paper two is comprised of two 10 & 15 mark questions in addition to, two 25 mark essay style questions.

**Entry Requirements**

Grade 6 RE if taken, and grade 6 in English Language, English Literature or a Humanities subject.

**Progression**

This qualification supports progression into further education, training or employment. Successful completion of this course will give students access to a range of career and higher education opportunities. Religious studies combines well with almost all other humanities subjects such as general studies, history, geography and English. In addition, if taken with mathematics and sciences, religious studies will give students a broad- based curriculum. The course provides students with the opportunity to develop skills in collecting, synthesising and interpreting information from a range of sources, and to consider issues from a range of perspectives. These skills are highly valued by a range of professions, such as public services and the caring professions