Religious Studies (Edexcel)

'I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think' - Socrates

At Northampton High School, we believe studying the disciplines of Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Study helps us to unpack complex concepts within all subjects in school and out. Nowhere else can we engage in furious debate one lesson and have calm and serene spiritual reflection the next. Nothing is off the discussion table as we plan and prepare for the world beyond the classroom.



Academic

Our selection of papers includes Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and the Study of a World Religion-Christianity. Topics include: abortion, sex, life after death, cosmology, the environment, law, secularisation and the problem of evil.

Students develop skills for in-depth analysis, particularly demonstrated in our investigations into scholarly works from Aristotle to Dawkins! Through this we learn quickly how to support and challenge, critiquing works that contribute to the topics studied. Students learn to adapt arguments to answer examination questions, whilst exploring for themselves ideas that fascinate them.

Co-Curricular

Students attend Candle Conferences featuring lectures from the eminent Dr Peter Vardy. We deepen understanding of course content and make connections to university-level study, and enjoy engaging in debate with other schools' essay writing competitions run by universities are opportunities for students to showcase their skills. We recommend online university days attributed to our subject, so that students gain further experience of university lectures.

The Philosophy and Ethics Club allows space and time to further explore complex concepts, widen reading or rehearse examination technique. We offer subject mentoring for students who would like to study the subject at university as well as associated disciplines such as Law and Sociology. Associated with the department is FemSoc (The Feminist Society), a group which calls for social justice through campaigns such as Period Poverty Awareness, Black History Month and Pride Day.

