

Religious Exploration

Key Stage 3 & 4 Curriculum Information

Subject Contact: Wayne Buisst

Email: WBuisst@ormistonden.es.co.uk

Religious Exploration provides students not only with the knowledge and wisdom from religions and philosophies around the world, but with the framework to be able to leave Ormiston Denes Academy with the ability to make rational, informed moral and ethical decisions.

All content is delivered through fortnightly 95 minute lessons and directed, focused homework.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, students explore a variety of religions, and philosophical concepts such as 'What is the self?', 'What happens when I die?' and 'Why should we behave morally?' There is also an introduction to Logic, which supports Maths and ICT, as well as Science by encouraging rigour. Thinking skills are central to the learning journey in Key Stage 3 and P4C (Philosophy for Children) is a core practice which helps to maximise our students' ability to apply logic and rhetoric inside and outside of the learning environment.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is designed to provide learners with a set of skills, and an understanding of how to react to, and cope with, the many issues they may encounter in the wider world. It is deliberately set up to introduce students to the typical content they will experience in Key Stage 4.

Key Stage 4

Students take Religious Education in KS4 as an Option subject, and study a broad range of theological and philosophical concepts. The GCSE specification covers Ultimate Questions, such as 'Is there a God?', 'Why is there a universe instead of nothing?', 'How ought I act?' and a range of other issues which have been approached by the greatest minds in history. We believe the specification enriches the lives of our learners, and allows them to really consider how they want to live and experience the world around them. Students are encouraged to engage with current events, and to be active citizens of the world.

Our students cover a mixture of the OCR GCSE Spec B (2016-17 Year 11 only) or AQA Spec A Religious Studies (2017 onwards).

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Assessment:

At the end of Key Stage 4, students will be able to sit the GCSE examination which makes up 100% of the overall grade. There is no controlled assessment or coursework element to the courses.

Progression:

We believe this programme of studies gives our students a solid foundation for further study at 'A/s' and 'A' Level, and even if that isn't their chosen path, it at least gives them a great start at developing their own ideas and attitudes to the biggest questions we all face. Please get in touch if you want to discuss any particular topics; we're always happy to talk about it, as the students will attest.