

Overview of the Department - An Introduction to RE

Intent

The Abbey School Religious education department is committed to offering high quality Religious education curriculum. We aim to inspire our students to gain the knowledge, enabling them to have the capacity to debate, think critically and reflect on his or her own personal worldview.

In Key Stage 3, we focus on the six biggest world religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Buddhism. We encourage our students to explore their own worldview, compare views and take a critical approach to their studies. We remind our students to remain respectful and tolerant of faiths and views, whilst still recognising the importance of critical thought. We model this respect through our use of SHAPE in the classroom.

In Key Stage 4, students use the base knowledge to delve deeper into Christianity and Buddhism, themes and ethics. The learning journey takes multiple paths with the option full course and the short course GCSE's. Students studying the full course will explore beliefs and practices of Christianity and Buddhism before tackling themes that include peace and conflict, marriage and family, human rights and social justice and crime and punishment. Student who study the short course will explore beliefs of Christianity and Buddhism before tackling themes that include peace and conflict and marriage and family.

Implementation

- RE is a knowledge based subject and as such our curriculum reflect this. Every 6 weeks students take an assessment which covers, knowledge, understanding and evaluation questions.
- All assessments are tracked, and questions are analysed to ensure we can support students where they need it.
- After each assessment students will have PIT time to reflect on their learning and how they can improve – this can be focused on knowledge or exam skills. We aim to use student's assessment to show examples to help students become more confident in managing their own understanding of how to apply knowledge to exam questions.
- Each module or topic has its own knowledge organiser to help students access, understand and apply that knowledge.
- During lesson we continually refer to previous learning to build the knowledge enabling students to become more critical learners this is done using, cold calling, call and response, mini whiteboard, nothing new just review and freeze green pen.
- In RE we use the blooms extension wall to encourage independence and a love for learning.
- Homework is given once per term – this is a project-based piece where students have to expand on their learning in class.
- Regardless of the year 7-11 all students are given exam style questions to ensure they practice and understand the expectations. Students can use steps to success sheets to aide them or alternatively use the writing frames created.

Impact

RE has a weak history in education of "you can have an opinion". Whilst opinions are important in RE it is vital that we have the knowledge to ensure we are having an informed opinion. Our recent change to a knowledge curriculum has encouraged our students to take the subject more seriously, as they should.

In the last three years we have also made huge steps in Key stage 4. All pupils now sit the RE full course, which gives them a firm grounding in two major religions, as well as allowing them to apply these religious ideas to ethical issues. The skills built throughout the course also support the skills utilised in other subjects, such as English and History.

We feel strongly that learning RE should be academically rigorous and we have high aspirations for the academic outcomes in this subject.