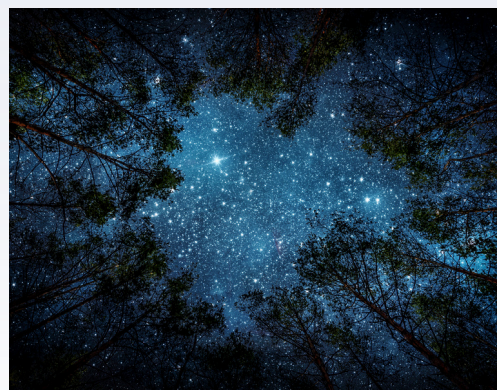


# Philosophy

In Philosophy, students explore the complex and diverse religious and secular ideas, beliefs and morals which exist in Britain and the world today. They are guided in producing their own well-reasoned answers in response to philosophical, ethical and religious ultimate questions.

The material covered is intellectually challenging but also interesting and stimulating. Students are expected to engage with it effectively, with an inquiring mind and questioning approach. They will learn to ask complex questions and analyse and evaluate their own answers.

In class, students are given a safe environment in which to explore philosophical, ethical, religious and secular ideas, their own thoughts, and the arguments of others. Lessons are interactive and relevant, with students encouraged to take an active rather than passive role and delve into issues that impact all of us, in our everyday lives, in the media, and in the world in which we live.



## COURSE CONTENT

The course is structured around the following four units:

### Year 12:

#### Epistemology – The Theory of Knowledge

- The Definition of Knowledge: What is propositional knowledge?
- Perception as a Source of Knowledge: What are the immediate objects of perception?
- Reason as a Source of Knowledge: Is knowledge that is purely rational possible?
- The Limits of Knowledge: Are there things that cannot be known?

#### Moral Philosophy

- Normative Ethical Theories: How do we decide what it is morally right to do?
- Applied Ethics: Applying the ethical theories to specific issues such as simulated killing
- Meta-Ethics: What is the status of ethical language?

### Year 13:

#### Metaphysics of God

- The Concept of God: Who or what is God?
- Arguments Related to the Existence of God: Arguments for and against the existence of God
- Religious Language: Is it possible to speak meaningfully about God?

#### Metaphysics of Mind

- What is the Mind?
- Dualism: Are the body and the soul or mind different sorts of things?
- Physicalism: Is the mind entirely physical (material)?

Students will study extracts of differing lengths from a variety of philosophical texts, such as Hume's Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Kant's Critique of Pure Reason and Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics. Students will also engage in a more in-depth study of Descartes' Meditations.



## SKILLS REQUIRED

GCSE Religious Studies is not essential. You will, however, need to have achieved Grade 6 (or higher) in English and a humanities discipline (Geography, History or Religious Studies).



## ASSESSMENT

All course content is examined at the end of the two-year course. The assessment consists of two written exams.

#### Paper 1:

Written exam. Epistemology & Ethics. 3 hours. 50% of final marks

#### Paper 2:

Written exam. The Metaphysics of God & The Metaphysics of the Mind. 3 hours. 50% of final marks.



## ENRICHMENT

The department runs after-school support sessions every week. In addition to this, we have an extensive library of philosophical texts, including material by well-known philosophers, for students to borrow, as well as a subscription to 'Philosophy Now' magazine.

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

Studying philosophy offers support to both university applications and to career choices beyond. This is due to key, transferable skills such as critical analysis and evaluation skills, as well as how to produce good, coherent pieces of extended writing. Philosophy students are valued as being informed, insightful, inquisitive and highly skilled.



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