



# Beliefs & Values

During Year 9 students will continue to build upon the foundations they have made in Years 7 and 8. Students will consider challenging social issues, where they explore aspects of philosophical and ethical thinking from faith and secular perspectives, and are asked to respond to ethical issues that challenge humanity.

Some students will also be introduced to philosophy and philosophical thinkers. These lessons are designed to stretch and challenge. Ethics and Philosophy is a popular and challenging option to select at GCSE.

The topic of Sex and Relationships is taught through Belief and Values, where students cover topics such as contraception, sexually transmitted infections, media distortion and Youth Produced Sexual Imagery 'sexting'.

PSHE and Citizenship units are also completed in this curriculum time. Homework continues to be set at the teachers' discretion and students are encouraged to share their learning at home.

The areas of study for Year 9 are:-

## **Self-esteem**

What is Self-esteem?

How do we improve and protect our self-esteem?

## **Religion and society**

### Rights and Responsibilities

What are human rights?

How do we decide what is right and wrong?

Where does moral authority come from?

Genetic engineering and stem-cell research

### Medical Ethics

In-vitro fertilisation and fertility

Transplant surgery

Organ donation

Environmental issues

### Crime and Punishment

Why do we have laws?

Why do we punish people?

What punishment fits the crime?

Capital punishment

The United Nations

### Peace and Conflict

Why do people go to war?

Is there ever a 'just' war?

Christian and Islamic views on war

Organisations that work for peace

## **What parents/carers can do at home to help:**

- Encourage students to discuss their learning and ASK SEARCHING QUESTIONS.
- Encourage students to watch the news. If it is in the news, we teach and learn about it!
- Encourage students to complete the homework tasks that are set for them to the best of their ability using websites like BBC Religion, BBC Ethics, BBC Bitesize.
- Make use of the range materials available to help which will shortly be available on the Belief and Values section of the Virtual Learning Environment.