



To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

22 Sep. 20

Dear Parents

As you are hopefully aware your child has been following the Religious Studies GCSE since year 9 as this has been a compulsory subject for the majority of our students. We have followed this model as it means we were able to cover the statutory requirements for Religious Studies and whilst offering a full course GCSE that covers a range of moral and social issues that affect the world we live in today. As the lessons are only once a week this means that they get approximately 75% of the time allocation of other GCSEs at school, however in this context, results for the subject are good.

This year however we moved to an optional model and a number of students have selected to follow the GCSE course as one of their options with three hours per week teaching. During the options process a large number of students expressed a wish to continue under the old model meaning they would do the Religious Studies GCSE based on an hour a week. Given the work the students and staff have already put into the course we wish to offer this opportunity to the students.

In place of the time given to the GCSE course most students will now follow a Beliefs and Values course that would cover the mandatory aspects of Religious, Relationships, Sex and Health Education. Any student asking to complete the GCSE would not complete this course, however by doing so will still cover the statutory requirements

We would ask you to discuss this with your child so that they make an informed decision. We have listed some key points we have asked for them to consider when making their decision.

- We have already completed almost a **third** of the subject content for the GCSE.
- We have lost 14 hours teaching.
- Past experience has shown that for at least half our students, Religious Studies was one the GCSE grades that counted towards their Progress 8 score and helped them secure their next level of education.
- Completing the course on an hour a week is a challenge and given the time lost this challenge will be greater.
- If they commit to the GCSE the students will have to give 100% focus.

In order to confirm this additional GCSE group we would need a response from the students by Friday 2nd October. If your child is not continuing with the GCSE course you do not need to respond.



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If you wish to discuss this with me further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Mr A. Bruce

Subject Leader Religious Studies.

I wish my child _____ to move to the additional GCSE RS group.

Signed _____ Date _____