



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 due to the unprecedented situation and the challenges our students face we wish to remove the compulsory nature of the course so that any students completing the course are completely committed.

For students who opt not to continue the course they would instead follow a Beliefs and Values course that would cover the mandatory aspects of Religious, Relationships, Sex and Health Education. This would take place for the hour of a week they would have had their GCSE Religious Studies lesson.

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

- We have already completed **two thirds** of the subject content.
- We have only lost about 14 hours teaching compared with other subjects/schools who deliver 4 hours a week.
- Past experience has shown that for at least half our students, Religious Studies was one of 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.

We strongly believe that we are able to deliver the remaining content of the course and prepare the students for the exam where our teaching is met by their commitment and hard work.



To aspire, endeavour and thrive together

In order to regroup the students into the GCSE and Beliefs and Values group we would need a response from the students by Friday 2nd October. If your child is continuing with the GCSE course you do not need to respond.

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 from the GCSE RS course to

the non-examination Beliefs and Values course. Signed _____ Date
