

*What to do next...*



*Do some reading!*

The following will help you to get a feel for the subject:

*"Sophie's World"*  
(Gaarder)

This is a fictional introduction to the whole world of philosophy

#### Textbooks

*"The Thinker's Guide to God"*  
(Vardy)

*"The Puzzle of Ethics"*  
(Vardy)

#### Websites

[www.philosophicalinvestigations.co.uk/](http://www.philosophicalinvestigations.co.uk/)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/guide/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/guide/)

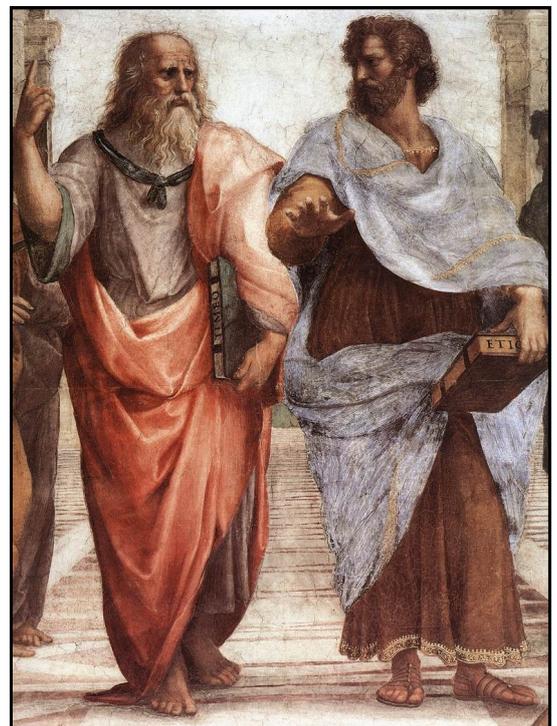
*Buy a notebook!*

Making your own notes of philosophical and ethical terms, quotations and interesting theories is an excellent way of preparing for the subject.



CARMEL COLLEGE VI

# AS/A2 RELIGIOUS STUDIES



# COURSE OUTLINE

## *Welcome!*

Welcome to the Religious Studies Department.

This leaflet is designed to give you insight into the oldest, most modern, most inspiring, most comprehensive and relevant of subjects.

If you are trying to decide which subjects to study at Carmel, then take time to read this carefully and ask the members of staff for advice - they will be pleased to help you.

If you have already decided to study this subject, then **congratulations!**



## *The Subject*

The ability to think clearly and logically, the opportunity to study the greatest thinkers the world has produced, and the forum to argue about the most dangerous and contentious issues in human history.

**That** is Religious Studies.

**“Knowledge is power!”**



## *The Requirements*

If you have studied RE, we **require** you to have a grade 'B' or above.

You **must** also have a grade 'B' in English in order to meet the demands of essay writing.

## *The Staff*

The course is taught by Mr Madeley, Mr Young and Miss Collins.

## *The Course*

The specification to be studied is approved by the OCR examining board.

There are two areas of study:

### PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

This covers topics such as:  
Greek philosophy and the Old Testament;  
proofs for the existence of God;  
the problem of evil and suffering; religious language; religion and science; miracles; revelation; the nature of God; life after death and, religious experience.

### ETHICS

This covers topics such as  
Meta ethics; relativism and universalism;  
ethical theories; the nature and role of conscience; medical and sexual ethics; business and environmental ethics and, war and pacifism.



## *The Modules*

**Philosophy AS**  
**Ethics AS**

These will be examined in the **first** year.

**Philosophy A2**  
**Ethics A2**

These will be examined in the **second** year.

## *The Lessons*

The timetabled allocation for the subject is five hours per week. You will have one teacher for Philosophy and another for Ethics.

You will need to spend **AT LEAST** four hours per week in personal study. During this time it is important to read books, journals and media reports, and to research podcasts and websites using the links on the SharePoint site.

# Career Value of Religious Studies

## ***Will RS be accepted by Colleges as an academic subject for entry onto other courses?***

**YES!** If you plan to go to a college for further / higher education RS will be readily accepted. RS A-Level is accepted by the Universities as a subject of academic standing for entry requirements.

## ***Is RS out-of-date for today's world?***

Many people too readily assume that Religious Studies lacks academic value and has no vocational relevance. This is often due to the **false** assumption that RS is the same as the old 'scripture' lesson. Today's approach to RS incorporates educational principles which are applied in any other subject.

## ***What use is a qualification in RS for getting a job?***

When employers are interviewing young people for a job they tend to look very carefully at school qualifications. This is particularly true when specific subjects are required, such as English Language, Mathematics and Science. But the discerning employer will also look closely at the breadth of subject interests, and for evidence of a young person's capacity to think intelligently across a range of subject areas. Viewed as a Arts subject, RS fulfils this function admirably.

Religious Studies cover a wide range of topics, which involve the student in discussion of current social, moral, and ethical issues. The skills developed allow the student to answer logically and approach the issue analytically. The student is encouraged to have an open mind, to weigh up arguments and reach reasoned conclusions.

Such skills as these, and the attitudes they promote, are as relevant to life as a whole. But they are also relevant to the many jobs which require an understanding of others, and the ability to relate to people of different backgrounds.

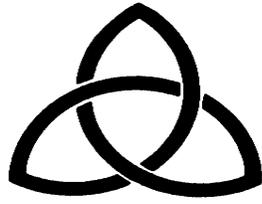
Possession of RS as a qualification at this level may say something about you which could make a difference.

*Abridged from Andrew Edwards (Specialist Careers Officer).*

## ***Here are a few institutions and employers who accept RS as a valid examination qualification:***

Boots Company PLC	Marks and Spencer PLC	Major Banks
Post Office	Gas and Electricity Boards	Association of Accountants,
Institute of Printing,	Royal Town Planning	Faculty of Secretaries & Administrators
Association of Opticians	British Dietetic Association	Police
H J Heinz	Civil Service Commission	Chartered Building Societies Institute
Main building societies	Balfour Beatty	Armed Forces
Nursing	Midwifery	Health Visitor
The Institute of Electrical	Engineers	

***In fact, it is usual for RS to be accepted as an academic qualification when applying for jobs or for further vocational courses.  
It is accepted by all universities.***



## Religious Studies

At Carmel College students wishing to continue their studies of religion or go on to study a vibrant new area may choose to take Religious Studies. The course leads to either an AS (after one year) or an A level (after the two years) in Philosophy and Ethics from the OCR examining board.

The subject covers Greek philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle, the fathers of critical thinking, to the giants of modern day philosophy. Students will explore concepts of God as creator and characteristics such as his 'goodness'; these will be questioned as to their meaning and reliability. Students will go on to study the challenges to religion from society, science and suffering. The religious response through the classical proofs for the existence of God will be studied, criticised and evaluated.

There are various issues involved in religious language, through the study of Ethics, the meaning of terms and the use of the word 'good' is unpacked as is the Relativist vs Universalist debate. Through the centuries there have been developments of ethical schools of thought such as Natural Law, Utilitarianism, the Categorical Imperative right up to the modern day with Virtue ethics and Proportionalism. These are studied, analysed and compared. The student will need to have an interest in current affairs as there will be the expectation to apply these theories to recent issues such as genetics, transplants, embryology, sexual ethics, punishment, environment, business and war.



A successful student at this subject will need to enjoy reading, have the skills to be able to write essays, and have the facility to analyse and keep an open mind. Throughout the course the emphasis is on application of knowledge and so a thorough understanding will be required. This will be gained through participation in class discussions, attendance at lectures given by guest lecturers and independent research through the department's extensive subject library and the many recommended websites. Particularly in A2 study, students will have a greater maturity of thought and expression and more developed analytical skills.

Examination is through 2 exams in the first year and a further 2 in the second year. The exams require two essays to be written.