



# NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

## SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM GUIDE

# PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND ETHICS

AQA

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least grade 6 in GCSE English Language.

It is not necessary to have studied this subject at GCSE in order to take it at A Level.



*"A Level RS is sure to enthuse a passion for philosophy and ethics; such a fascinating syllabus that encourages you to look at the bigger picture"*

A Level RS consists of three main areas:

- **Philosophy of Religion**
- **Ethics**
- **Christianity and dialogues**

In Philosophy of Religion and Ethics we will look at arguments for God's existence, and begin to question which arguments are the most effective for establishing proof; those based on experience, or those based on reason alone. We will consider whether God can reveal himself to the world through such phenomena as visions and mystical experiences, or whether such events are simply psychological constructs.

We will consider the following questions:

- If God is good, why is there so much evil in the world?
  - Is it actually possible to talk meaningfully about God at all?
- Examining the nature of human beings; are we indistinguishable from animals or is there a non-material aspect to us?

In Ethics we will look at the relationship between religion, morality and applied ethics. This will encourage you to examine your own ethical standpoint and to see how these ideas have shaped the ethical standards in our world today. We will examine the ideas of Kant, Aristotle and Aquinas and see how these have influenced our views on law.

Is there a common human nature which allows us naturally to see right from wrong?

Should we use reason alone, separate from any ideas of religion or emotion to make our ethical decisions?

Pupils will assess the world of modern medical ethics and take a wider look at how moral decisions are made in areas such as the use of embryos in medical research, capital punishment and animal welfare, intensive farming.

Students have the opportunity of attending conferences in London to discuss the key issues of Philosophy and Ethics with fellow students from around the country.

Within the Christianity component students will learn about different religious practices and beliefs, analysing the values that they hold and how they affect the decisions religious people make in the modern world. Students will explore topical issues such as gender, religious identity, science and religious pluralism.

### THE SIXTH FORM AND BEYOND

A level Religious Studies allows students to gain critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers - particularly Law, Medicine, Philosophy, Theology, PPE, Business Studies, Psychology, Geography, History, Biology, Classics and Economics. RS A Level combines very well with many other subjects.

*Click here to watch the course introductory video  
from Head of Religious Studies, Mrs Michaela Lewis*

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In order to join us in the Sixth Form, we require an average of grade 6 across eight GCSE subjects, including English and Mathematics. See individual subjects for any specific requirements for study at A Level.

For detailed course information on all of the A Level subjects please visit the AQA, Edexcel or OCR websites.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the admissions process, please call 0115 935 4444 or email [admissions@not.gdst.net](mailto:admissions@not.gdst.net)



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