

14 October 2022

Dear parents and carers

You may be aware that your young person is studying Philosophy & Ethics and will take the **real GCSE exams in Religious Studies at the end of Year 10**, in May 2024. I'm sure you'll agree that this is a great opportunity for students to only focus on one GCSE in Year 10, compared to when they are in Year 11 and have to focus on revising for many subjects. It means they can secure one solid GCSE ahead of their final year, in preparation for their next steps.

We wanted to let you know a little bit more about your young person's journey during this time.

There are two GCSE exam papers in the subject at the end of Year 10, Paper 1 and Paper 2. Students will cover the specification for Paper 1 in Year 9 and in Year 10 they will cover the specification for Paper 2. The GCSE grade awarded is based on the average grade across the two papers. Grade boundaries are set by the exam board every year. **The exam board we use is Edexcel and full details of the course including the specification, past paper questions, mark schemes and examiner reports can be found [here](#).**

It is vitally important that students consolidate their learning outside of school with additional revision and practicing exam questions across the two years to help them achieve their full potential. This independent work outside of lessons is highly recommended to ensure they achieve the highest grades possible.

As well as regular testing throughout the year, students will be given a GCSE mock exam the end of Year 9 in the summer term which will test their knowledge of everything they have covered which will be marked using the relevant GCSE mark scheme and you will be given an update of how they have done.

Here on our website are some [valuable resources that we have sent students for their revision](#), in case you are also wanting to work with them at home. A good place for them to start is with the Revision Planner to help them manage the amount of time to be spent on revision so that they have enough time to revise all topics.

A good place for them to start is with the Revision Planner to help them manage the amount of time to be spent on revision so that they can ensure a good balance with other subjects and social time.

Direct links to revision websites that can be used are:

- 1) [Oak Academy: Christian Practices](#)
- 2) [BBC Bitesize: Religious Studies GCSE Edexcel](#)
- 3) [GCSEPod](#) : Log in details are the student's school email address and password and then once logged in, assignments have been set to help with revision. This has a number of podcasts that cover key revision points taken straight from exam specifications. They can listen to these on any mobile device anywhere, as



long as there is an internet connection. The points highlighted by the podcasts back up what they learnt in class. The following link provides an online student guide [GCSEPod Student Site Tour - YouTube](#) For independent work, the Check and Challenge sections for each topic provide you with questions you can use to test your knowledge.

4) [Get Revising](#) to create a work/revision timetable and create revision materials. There are also free resources that students have found help in all aspects of work.

5) [More Religious Studies Edexcel practice exam questions and mark schemes](#)

We will be awarding students credits, Ad Astras, Reward Scratch Cards, praise phone calls home and other prizes to the students who can evidence any extra work they have been doing at home.

As always, thank you for all you are doing to support at home, we really appreciate it.

Best wishes

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Head of RE, Philosophy & Ethics

