

2 May 2025

Dear parents and carers

As we enter the final stretch before the GCSE Religious Studies exams, we know this can be a stressful time for both students and families. We want to reassure you of our continued commitment to supporting your young person in every way possible and to share an overview of the key strategies and support in place over these final few weeks.

As a reminder, the two exams take place on **Tuesday 13 May** and **Wednesday 21 May**. Please remind your young person to take a look at the [Exams Handbook HERE](#) and also to familiarise themselves with the 'Important Information for Candidates' on the [Exams page of our website HERE](#).

Curriculum Coverage

The final unit of the course (Islam: Practices) is almost complete. Much of the content builds on previously studied material, and students have been aware of this approach since September. We've deliberately paced the course to ensure deeper understanding and plenty of time to practise the exam skills needed for success - especially for the longer, higher-mark questions. Our priority has been developing students' confidence, competence, and exam technique, a strategy that has supported improved outcomes in previous years and is already showing encouraging results in recent mocks.

Students have access to all course resources from the past two years and are encouraged to revisit topics independently. If your young person needs any additional materials, just let us know.

Independent Learning Support

Room 1-09 (Astra Building) is open every break and lunchtime for **supervised revision** and access to an RE teacher. We are also available during these times to give advice, reassurance or extra help. Please encourage your young person to use this if they have concerns or questions. A fully stocked '**Revision Station**' is also available here, offering past papers, model answers, knowledge organisers and more. Students are welcome to help themselves.

Weekly Masterclasses

Our **Ad Astra Masterclasses** have been running every Monday after school (4.00-4.50pm), focusing on extended 12 and 15 mark questions. Topics rotate between Christianity and Islam. Materials are shared weekly with students and parents. While these sessions are not compulsory, they are highly recommended.

Extra Revision Lessons

From next week, additional revision sessions will run **after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays** until the final exam on 21 May, with a particular focus on the final Islam units.

Targeted Intervention

Classes have been grouped based on mock exam outcomes and identified needs, allowing us to tailor teaching more precisely. Please do encourage your young person to engage fully with the focused work happening in their lessons.

Exam Practice & Feedback

Students have been offered weekly practice questions with detailed feedback. From this week, this increases to two questions per week to support mastery of exam technique. These are optional, but a valuable way to check understanding.

One-to-One Support

I'm available for individual appointments with students or parents/carers. Sessions are flexible and arranged around student timetables, please don't hesitate to get in touch if this would be helpful.

Wellbeing and Motivation

We're continuing to celebrate students' revision efforts through praise and rewards. We're also working closely with pastoral and SEN teams to support students' wellbeing and ensure no one feels overwhelmed. If you have concerns, please do let us know.

We'll continue to adapt our support to meet the specific needs of each student, whether they need to build confidence, catch up on content, or fine-tune their exam technique.

We're incredibly proud of the effort and resilience our students are showing. Our team is here to ensure that every student feels ready and supported for their RE exams.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes

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