

# PHILOSOPHY

Head of department: Dr M Read  
Examination board: AQA 7172



*“You’ll need to be able to write clearly with a **logical** structure, be an **independent** reader and thinker, and willing to share your views in class if you are considering **A Level Philosophy.**”*



## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

In the first year of the course, you’ll study two philosophical topics: Epistemology (including some metaphysics) and Ethics. You’ll explore and investigate particular theories and issues around these topics.

In the second year, you’ll study the Philosophy of Religion as well as the Philosophy of Mind. The emphasis in the second year is examining the arguments of classic authors and seeing why they succeed or fail.

As well as learning about a wide range of challenging and influential thinkers, you’ll also learn to express yourself clearly and with precision, weighing up all the aspects of a question to reach a well-supported conclusion. You will also have the opportunity to make presentations on particular topics to the rest of the class.

## ASSESSMENT

- Two written papers at the end of the second year.
- There is a mix of short answer, short essay and long essay questions within the exams. These test your factual recall of definitions and theories, your ability to explain complicated ideas clearly and concisely, and your ability to develop arguments for and against a particular philosophical position.

## FUTURE PLANS

Success in Philosophy demonstrates, to both universities and employers, your ability to absorb large amounts of difficult information and to explain complex ideas simply. It is a popular degree subject in its own right, as well as being a complementary subject to a number of courses.

## TO APPLY

There are no formal entry requirements. However, good language and communication skills are essential.