## **Religious Education**

At Islwyn High School we teach Religious Education to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all our students.

In RE lessons we offer opportunities for students to study the 6 major world religions in order to:

- Learn to understand different religions, beliefs, values and traditions and understand their influence on individuals, societies, communities and cultures;
- Develop respect, tolerance and sensitivity to others, in particular, those whose faith and beliefs are different from their own;
- Develop their sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for adult life as citizens in a multicultural society;
- Challenge students to think for themselves and develop their skills of understanding and reasoning.

## Key stage 3

Year 7 begin by learning what RE is and why it is an important subject to study. They then move on to study worship with a particular focus on Christianity and Hinduism, followed by a topic on religious ceremonies and festivals. Finally, they examine the issue of authority and consider who and what has authority within religion.

Year 8 cover a wide range of topics from Judaism and the Holocaust to various beliefs about the creation of the world. They also study some important moral issues such as animal rights and discrimination.

Year 9 cover a wide range of religious and moral topics. In the autumn term they begin learning about Islam and then move on to the issue of sanctity of life- covering issues such as cloning and war. Finally they take part in the First Give program as a cross curricular project with the Welsh Baccalaureate which helps to prepare them for their studies in Year 10.









## Key stage 4

Religious Studies at GCSE is a diverse subject which is constantly adapting to reflect our changing society. The course involves 8 units of study spread across 2 years which focus on a range of religious, ethical and philosophical themes. Throughout the course we will look at a topic, consider both our approach and society's approach before considering different religious and non-religious perspectives. The religious element of the course is based on the study of two different religions; Christianity and Islam.

The topics we will study from a topical approach include:

- Relationships
- Issues of Life and Death
- Medical Ethics
- Good and Evil
- Crime and Punishment
- War and Conflict
- Human Rights
- Social Justice



Religious Education is one of the fastest growing subjects in the UK. It is compatible with- and has a similar skills base- as English, History, Politics, Sociology and Law as well as many other subjects.

## Where will an RS qualification take me?

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, RS is one of the most relevant subjects for a job where you are expected to work with members of the public and is highly sought after by employers.

**Related professions:**- primary and secondary teaching, law, information services, journalism, publishing, medical services, social services, caring services and child care.

**Working with people:**- personnel work, youth and community work, nursing and related services. **Other careers:**- purchasing, marketing, selling, production, transport, distribution, any managerial role, insurance, banking and computing.

The **skills** acquired through the Religious Studies course offer many employers a good foundation for training. They show that a student can: -

- think clearly
- express himself / herself coherently
- use different methods of enquiry and investigation
- debate complex and controversial issues
- grasp and interpret different ideas and concepts
- understand the beliefs of others and co-operate with them



Religious Studies helps us to make sense of the world and culture we

live in. Students of GCSE Religious Studies vouch for the fact that the course is interesting, demanding but enjoyable and provides a meaningful academic qualification.

The course is 100% examination with an exam sat at the end of Year 10 and one at the end of Year 11. There is one tier of entry where students can attain grades from A\*-G meaning that the course is suitable for all abilities. It is a literacy based subject with an emphasis on discussion and debate.