



Philosophy & Ethics Curriculum Overview - Year 12

	Unit	Details
Autumn	Philosophy:	<p>Pupils will begin by investigating, comparing and contrasting the theories of Plato and Aristotle on reality and truth. They will use the Allegory of the Cave to further enhance knowledge of Plato's theory of Forms and compare it to Aristotle's Four Causes. They will then move onto an investigation and reflection on what it means to speak of the soul, mind and body; to consider the relationship between the human mind and body and to evaluate the view that the mind is more than just a result of chemical reactions in the brain. Next they will reflect on and decide whether the existence of God can be demonstrated through drawing conclusions from our observations.</p> <p>Pupils will investigate theories of whether the natural world provides evidence for the existence of God and to evaluate how successful the traditional teleological and cosmological arguments are for the existence of God. Following from this. Pupils will reflect on and decide whether the existence of God can be demonstrated through reason and logic. They will evaluate how successful traditional ontological arguments for demonstrating the existence of God are, and reflect on, and analyse the theory that ontological arguments demonstrate nothing about the nature of God and evaluate how a priori arguments compare with a posteriori arguments. Within the Religious Experience module, pupils will investigate what defines a religious experience and discuss whether religious experiences should be taken seriously. They will also investigate various explanations of religious experience and assess whether these can be a valid explanation for them. Finally, for the philosophical element of this year, pupils will consider the questions of why, if there is an all-loving, all-powerful God, there is evil and suffering in the world.</p>
Spring	Ethics	<p>Pupils will begin their journey into Ethical Studies by investigating the theory of Natural Law. They will interpret documentation and sources to evaluate and critically analyse an absolute theory. Pupils will logically reflect on the relevance of Natural Law for modern life and how it influences religious belief. They will follow the same process for the theories of Situation Ethics, Kantian Ethics and Utilitarianism and then apply their knowledge and understanding of these theories to Euthanasia in order to critically evaluate the morality of the act. They will also investigate case studies within the study of Business Ethics to apply various approaches to Business (including from Friedman, Freeman and the Christian Church). Pupils will also apply Natural Law and Situation Ethics to compare responses to these issues and reflect on a personal conclusion.</p>
Summer	Developments in Christian Thought	<p>Pupils will begin by investigating and understanding what it means to be human, according to Christian teaching. They will evaluate Augustine's contribution to a Christian understanding of human nature and investigate and evaluate whether human nature is essentially good, essentially bad or morally ambiguous. Pupils will also investigate the quandary that if people have genuine free will, why do they often choose to do wrong and reflect on and evaluate, if human life has a purpose. Pupils will also investigate, using sources of authority, how Christians understand the afterlife. They will then go on to investigate what Christians believe about the ways people can gain knowledge of God, the person of Jesus Christ and his humanity and divinity and how Christians are instructed to live their lives.</p>