

‘The Aspiring Religious Education Scholar’

KS4/5



**CHELTENHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL**

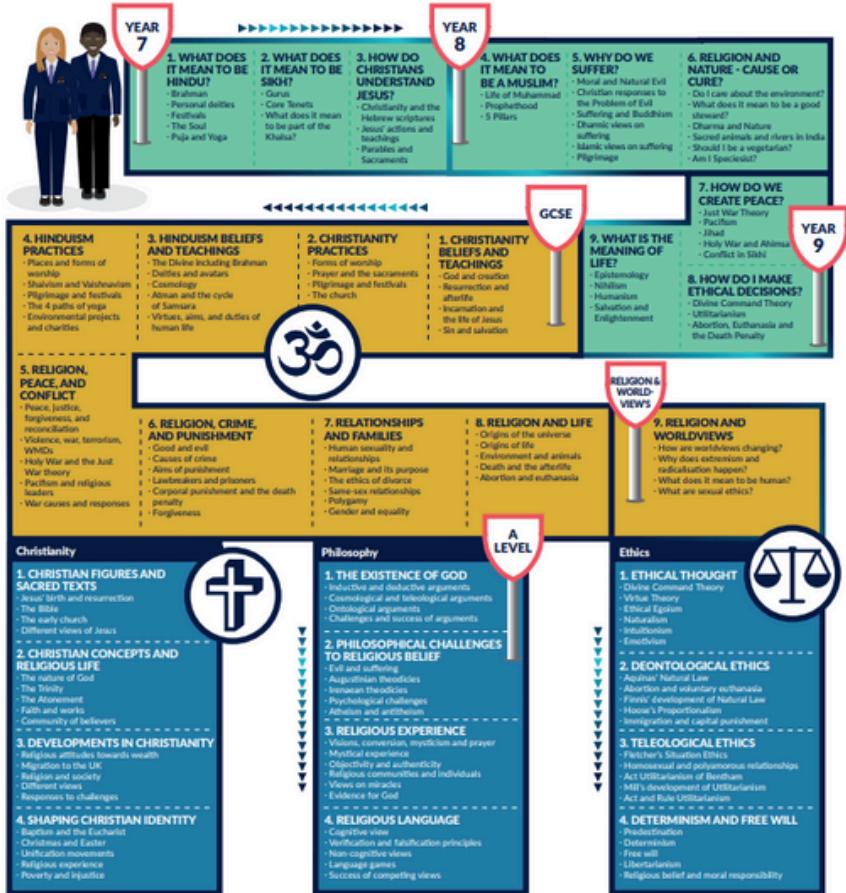


“Inspiring lives through learning

'The Aspiring Religious Education Scholar'



RELIGIOUS STUDIES



'The Aspiring Religious Education Scholar'



If you're curious about life's big questions—like why we're here, what's right and wrong, or whether God exists—this programme is for you.

The aspiring Religious Education scholar will explore various fields, such as Philosophy of Religion, Ethics, and Developments in Christian Thought.

You'll dive into classic and modern debates about belief, morality, and human experience, learning how to think critically, argue clearly, and understand different perspectives.

This programme isn't about having all the answers—it's about learning how to ask the right questions and explore ideas in depth. Whether you're religious, unsure, or not religious at all, this programme encourages open-minded discussion and personal reflection.

It's also great preparation for a wide range of university courses and careers, from law to journalism and from teaching to healthcare.

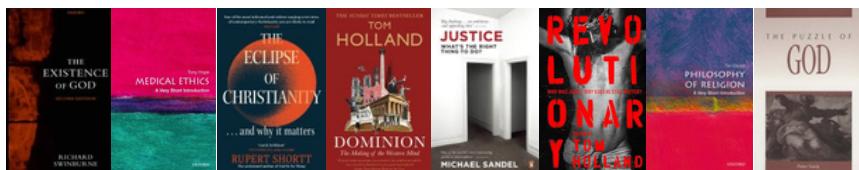
Get ready to think deeply and challenge your assumptions!

Mr Playfair
Head of Religious Studies

Reading list



- **Eclipse of Christianity** - *Rupert Shortt* - the decline of the Church in the West and the reason behind it, as well as a study into how Christianity is seemingly thriving in traditionally 'non-Christian' places.
- **Dominion** - *Tom Holland* - an account of how Christianity has both explicitly and implicitly shaped worldviews in the West.
- **The Holy Bible** - It goes without saying that this is a must have for any budding Theologian!
- **Justice: What is the right thing to do?** *Michael Sandel* - an exploration into hotly contested ethical debates and dilemmas, drawing on the work and contributions of ethicists such as Kant, Bentham, Aristotle and Rawles.
- **Revolutionary: Who is Jesus and why does he still matter?** - *Tom Holland* A collection of essays reflecting on the historical Jesus, and how his life still impacts the lives of believer's today.
- **Philosophy of Religion** - *Tim Bayne* – Clear and structured overview of arguments for God, evil, and religious experience.
- **The Puzzle of God** - *Peter Vardy* – Explores the nature of God and arguments for and against His existence.
- **Arguments for God's Existence** - *Peter Vardy* – Examination of classical and modern theistic arguments.
- **The Existence of God** - *Richard Swinburne* – A rigorous probabilistic argument for God's existence.
- **Medical Ethics** - *Tony Hope* – Introduces key issues like euthanasia and autonomy.
- **Free Will** - *Thomas Pink* – Examines questions around moral responsibility.



Competitions



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

St. Mary's Twickenham Theology Essay Competition

This competition is open to Year 12 students in England and Wales and provides a chance to win a prize and have their work recognized.



NATRE

National Association of Teachers
of Religious Education

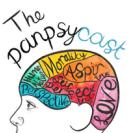
NATRE Spirited Arts Competition

Ran by NATRE, this competition encourages students to express their understanding of religious themes through art.

Listen and Watch



Podcasts



[Panpsychcast Podcast](#)

A philosophy podcast inspiring and supporting students, teachers, academics, and free-thinkers worldwide.



[The Rest is History](#)

A deep dive into History's biggest moments, exploring the stories of History's world-changing events, featuring in-depth episodes



[In Our Time](#)

This Radio 4 podcast is split into sub-categories such as Religion and Philosophy, giving accounts of influential Philosophical and Religious figures, stories and events.

Listen and Watch



Films/YouTube/TV



Conclave

A fascinating dramatisation of the secretive process of electing a new Pope in the Vatican. (Film)



Louis Theroux: Choosing Death

A documentary on assisted suicide and Euthanasia in the United States and how legislation effects the lives of the terminally ill.



The Chosen

A TV drama which gives an account of Jesus' life and ministry as depicted in the Gospels.



Youtube

Jamaican Pastors Cotswold Venture

A documentary focussing on Reverse Mission following the story of a Jamaican Pastor trying to revitalise a declining Baptist Church in Gloucestershire.

Listen and Watch



Social media

Tik Tok

Dan McClellan (@maklelan)

A biblical scholar with ~930 k followers who explains critical approaches to scripture and debunks common misconceptions in clear, academic style.

Eduqas Philosophy and Ethics

Various creators posting revision tips, summaries, and exam advice specifically for Eduqas student

@ithinkthereforeiteach

Offers practical essay-writing strategies tailored for RS A-Level, including how to reach A

X

@thephilosophy

This account curates philosophical quotes and ideas, often prompting reflection on fundamental ethical questions and principles.

@theeconomist

While not solely focused on ethics, The Economist frequently covers ethical dilemmas in business, politics, and global affairs, providing diverse perspectives on complex issues.

Work Experience and Events



Here is a list of various ideas for work experience for a Religious Studies scholar:

- Archivist
- Museum based work experience
- Librarian
- BBC/Channel 4/ITV
- Local Radio
- Social Care
- NHS
- Primary and Secondary School teaching
- Law firm
- Charity

Work Experience and Events



[Theology and Religion University Taster | Springpod](#)

Professor Katherine Brown explores Religion & Conflict: The War of Ideas.

[What can I do with a theology and religious studies degree? | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

This Prospects article gives lots of work experience ideas for Religious Education students

[An education in Religion and Worldviews | OpenLearn](#)

This course explores how the teaching and scholarly community is working to ensure this curriculum remains relevant for the twenty-first century.

[HCPT Group 3 | Children's Charity](#)

Experience a Pilgrimage to Lourdes - open to over 16 year olds - you will need to fundraise to cover the costs of this very worthwhile experience.

[Masjid-e-Noor Gloucester - Gloucester Mosque Visits](#)

How about experiencing a wide variety of religions by visiting various places of worship in Gloucestershire

[Chaplaincy](#)

Becoming involved in local community events



The Careers Team at Bournside deliver regular Inspire Breakfast Lectures. Open to students in Year 10 - 13, these business-focused breakfasts invite speakers from all corners of industry to share their professional experiences and valuable insights with Bournside students over breakfast; opening our eyes to the opportunities available across many industry sectors.

[Take a look at upcoming speakers and reserve your space here.](#)



