



23rd January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE : Year 10 RS GCSE

As you are aware, all students in Year 10 have been studying the content of the AQA GCSE RS syllabus since the beginning of Year 9. This content also covers many wider PSHE, Citizenship and Sex and Relationships themes.

Following the Christmas examinations, a number of concerns have been raised due to the fact that many students have achieved results below expectations and are not reflective of classwork or previous marks. As a result, we have undertaken a forensic analysis of the results and papers and have come to the following conclusions:

1. Definitions: one key aspect of the examination is the understanding of key religious terminology. Many students lost marks on multiple choice definitions tasks.
2. Lack of understanding of command words: many students did not respond to the specific demands of the questions e.g. Give two explanations of: either one example was given or the response was not related to topic.
3. Extended questions: students require more support with answering extended questions.
4. Course coverage: some students had not covered all the content of the examination and were at a disadvantage for which I can only apologise.

In order to address the issues outlined above, Mrs Wick, Mrs Gibbons, Mr Edwards and myself have arranged the following:

1. All students will be issued with revision materials, which will enable them to review content and practise exam skills.
2. The structure of activities for form periods will include time to complete practice questions and review answers.
3. A Monday revision session will be in place from Monday 3rd February from 3.30-4.30, led by either Mrs Wick, Mrs Gibbons, Mrs Awolola McNab or Ms Walsh.
4. A revision day is planned for Tuesday 18th February – details to follow.
5. The English department will support the development of essay writing by allocating lessons to develop non-fiction responses.
6. A summary of key content will be shared with students during the week beginning 27th January 2020 including revision ideas.
7. If possible, a “drop down day” will be arranged after February half term to support with key topics.
8. Students will have the opportunity to sit further practice papers in timed conditions after the Easter holidays in final preparation for the examinations.

All students will be entered for the RS GCSE this summer. Mrs Wick will ensure that regular updates are shared in the coming weeks. Please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Wick as Learning Leader for Humanities or Mrs Gibbons as Head of Year if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Frances Walsh
Headteacher