FAMILIES BULLETIN
14th November

Curriculum Spotlight: Religious Education

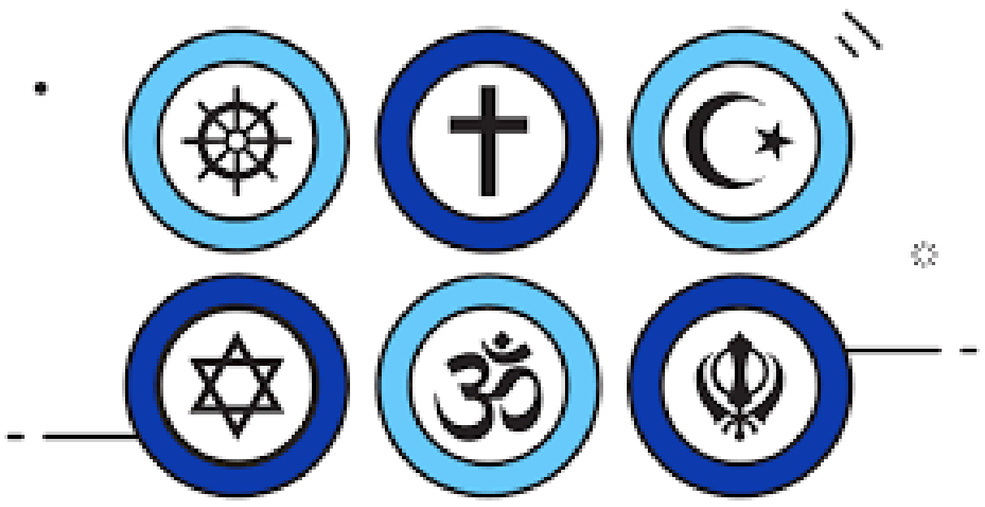
One of the most important elements of a **successful school education** is an **impactful and relevant curriculum**. This is because a good curriculum is enjoyable to study and fun to teach.

In Religion, Philosophy and Ethics building a strong curriculum has been a focus for the past six months with concepts being central to our learning. For example, **Year 8** have started studying the **concept of Belonging** this term. For the next six weeks they will study **Belonging within local communities** and then in Term 3 they will study Belonging within global communities.



Year 7

Y**ear 7** have been focusing on **understanding the core beliefs of the main 6 world faiths**. The aim in studying core beliefs is that every student will have the vocabulary to speak about religion, and a basic understanding of the context of that religion. One of the best parts of having concepts central to our curriculum is that **everyone can experience those concepts in their own way and bring that experience into the classroom**. Developing a curriculum where students are able to interact with the information on a personal level is important as this will helpl them to understand the choices and priorities of other people.



Year 9

This term Year 9 have been completing a depth-study into the life of Jesus. We have considered whether Jesus would be considered a radical and are looking at the changes that Jesus taught and how that impacted the lives of early Christians. In Term 3 we will complete a depth-study on the life of Muhammed and consider his political influence as well as his religious legacy.

Year 10

At KS4 **Year 10** students are looking at the big question of **'Can we prove God exists?'** They have considered the Celestial Teapot thought experiment, the Teleological Argument, the Cosmological Argument and the Problem of Evil. I have been really impressed with how well students have grappled with and evaluated some very difficult topics. I look forward to developing our debating skills in the next few weeks and hearing students' opinions when they have developed them with examples and scripture.



Year 11

Year 11 are working towards their GCSEs this year. They have been studying the **Religion and Life module** and they handled these lessons incredibly maturely and asked insightful questions. This term they have moved on the Crime and Punishment where we look at religious perspectives on how people on Earth should be punished.

Religious Education Department

Since my arrival in January, I have had the pleasure of working alongside a truly wonderful teaching team, and I would like to highlight their invaluable contributions.

As we look forward, the department will continue to draw on the expertise of the teaching team to deliver an enriched curriculum for all students.

Ms Thapen
Head of Department - Religious Education

Inset Day - Friday 21st November 2025



We would like to remind families that the **school will be closed on Friday 21st November 2025**, for our Inset Day.

Please be advised that the **Year 11 Mock Examinations**, as outlined in the timetable, **will still proceed as scheduled**.

As our **staff will be engaged in training throughout the day**, please note that there will be **reduced phone line availability and limited monitoring of school inboxes**.

RGTS will be open as normal on Monday 24th November 2025.

Upcoming Key Dates

Date	Event	Year Group	Timings
Monday 17th November - Thursday 24th November	Year 11 Mock Examinations	Year 11	Various
Thursday 20th November	Year 8 Parents' Evening	Year 8	4:00pm - 7:00pm (Appointment Only)
Friday 21st November	INSET Day - School Closed	All Year Groups	All Day
Tuesday 2nd December	Twilight (Early Dismissal)	All Year Groups	Half-Day
Friday 21st November	Year 9 Parents' Evening	Year 9	4:00pm - 7:00pm (Appointment Only)

✨ Year 7 Motto - Be the Best Version of Myself ✨

Being Punctual = Being Ready to Learn!

At RGTS, we believe every great day starts with being ready to learn. Students should be on site by 8:35am each morning, ready to line up and be greeted by their form tutors before heading into form time or Wednesday assemblies.



We're incredibly proud of our Year 7 students, who have shown real grit and responsibility by consistently being in the right place at the right time. Their enthusiasm and punctuality have set the standard for the rest of the school!

"I love starting the day with my form as it helps me feel organised and ready to learn. RGTS already feels like home!" – Rebecca (7M)

"Moving from Year 6 to Year 7 felt like a big step, but everyone at RGTS has been so welcoming. I've made new friends, learnt new routines, and now I feel like I truly belong here." – Aaran (7T)

Mrs Sirso
Head of Year 7

Year 8 Parents' Evening

"Helping Your Child Thrive in Year 8 – Building Resilience, Opening Doors to Opportunity"

The Year 8 Parents' Evening is an excellent opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers and understand how they are learning and some of the ways you can support at home. The event will be taking place on **Thursday 20th November 2025**.

Before the Evening

- Book your appointments through Arbor. The following guide will walk you through how to do this: **Booking Parents' Evening Appointments**
- Check your times and arrive 5 minutes early to avoid delays.
- Bring any questions you'd like to ask about your child's progress or wellbeing.
- Talk to your child beforehand – ask what they feel proud of this term and what they find most challenging.

During the Evening

-Sign in at reception on arrival.
-Collect your appointment card and follow signs to your child's subject teachers.
-Meet subject teachers to discuss learning progress, attitude, and how your child responds to challenges.
-Visit the Resilience Station / Information Table for practical strategies on:

- Supporting motivation and self-belief
- Managing setbacks positively
- Encouraging independence and effort at home

-Pastoral and support staff will also be available for any wellbeing or attendance questions.

After the Evening

-Reflect with your child:
- What are you most proud of?
- What's one goal you want to work on this term?
- How can we help you bounce back when things are difficult?

-Set a small target together (e.g., revising regularly, asking for help sooner, joining a club).
-Follow up with your child's tutor or Head of Year if you need extra support.

Mr Nott
Assistant Headteacher (KS3)

Upcoming: Year 9 GCSE Options & Choices Assembly with Queen Mary University

Next week, our Year 9 students will take part in a **GCSE Options & Choices Assembly**, facilitated by **Queen Mary University of London**. This special session marks an important step in **helping students begin to think carefully about their subject choices** as they move towards Key Stage 4.

The team from Queen Mary University will guide students through the process of choosing their GCSE subjects, **exploring how these decisions can influence future study and career opportunities**. They will also **share insights into how different subjects connect to university pathways and the skills valued by employers**.

As a school, we are committed to ensuring our students feel informed, supported, and confident in making their choices. In addition to the assembly, students will have **opportunities to discuss their interests and goals with teachers, tutors, and our careers team**. Families will also receive guidance materials to help them support these important conversations at home.

We are delighted to be working with Queen Mary University once again to inspire our students and help them make decisions that reflect their strengths, ambitions, and aspirations for the future.

Mr Nott
Assistant Headteacher (KS3)

Key Stage 4 Courses

As we move into exam season for Year 11 and building towards their first mock exams with Year 10, some families has asked for exam board information so they can best support their child.

Below is a list of exam board for our Key Stage 4 courses.

Pearson	Art
AQA	Biology
Pearson	Business
AQA	Chemistry
AQA	Combined Science: Trilogy
OCR	Computer Science
AQA	Drama
AQA	English Literature
AQA	Food Preparation and Nutrition
Pearson	Geography
Pearson	History
OCR	Engeering Design
OCR	Information Technologies
Pearson	Construction
Pearson	Sport
Pearson	Health and Social Care
AQA	Physics
AQA	Religious Studies
AQA	Sociology
AQA	Spanish
Edexcel	Maths

A reminder, you can find key information for Year 11 on our website here: Year 11 Website Page

And our Curriculum Handbooks are here which have links to study support for all courses: Handbooks

Mr Williams
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

Year 11, 12 & 13 Mock Examinations

Key Dates

Year 11: Mock Exams begin on 17th November with English (First big exam - morning)
Years 12 and 13: Vocational Exams (BTEC) from 8th - 16th December and 7th - 19th January

Daily Check-In

By now, your child should be revising regularly. Ask them:

What's on their revision timetable today?
How are they preparing for Maths (the first exam)?

They should be able to show you:

- A revision guide/workbook
- Past papers or practice questions
- A revision timetable
- Flashcards or notes

If your child is in **Year 11**, they are expected to complete **two 45-minute revision sessions each weekday evening**. At **weekends**, they should undertake **four 45-minute revision sessions**.

Students in **Year 13** should aim to complete between **one and two hours of revision each weekday evening**, and between **two and three hours of focused study over the weekend**.

Mr Williams
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)