

Dear Families,

As you may already be aware, in February 2024, your child will be choosing the subjects they plan to take at GCSE. The transition from KS3 to GCSE is a hugely significant one, where students are expected to develop greater independence, revision skills and self regulation. To prepare students for this transition, this year on their timetables they have a 45 minute lesson of 'Learning to Learn' once every two weeks, where they will explore:

- how the brain learns
- how they can best access their long term memories
- how to be more independent and regulate their own learning.

For students to be able to practise these skills, alongside Learn2Learn they will also be taking a GCSE short course in Religious Studies at the end of this academic year.

Our Religious Studies KS3 curriculum exposes students to the six world religions and alongside developing understanding of religious and non religious beliefs, students are given abundant opportunities to critically analyse.

Critical analysis is a necessary skill to be successful in any GCSE and A Level subject. The objective is for all students to gain half a GCSE qualification in RS but, more importantly, to teach them how to construct well-informed, balanced arguments and to develop structured paragraphs in their writing whilst giving them exposure to the reality and demands of studying for a GCSE. The skills that students will develop will fundamentally help them with all other full course GCSE subjects they later choose to study.

The AQA Short Course consists of:

- A study of Christian & Muslim beliefs
- Religion, peace & conflict
- Religion, family and relationships
- Reading religious texts and scriptures

Our current year 10 students went through this experience last year when in year 9; here is some of what they said:

'Taking part in the Learn 2 learn lessons showed me there are many revision techniques that you don't always learn in other lessons and here you get to spend time knowing why they work - I've used mind maps for science and geography since then'

'This process taught me how grading works at GCSE how it feels to be in exam conditions and manage my time and plan out how to answer questions'

We hope that all students will be able to sit the qualification at the end of year 9 and will make decisions on exam entries later this academic year. We will write to you again in due course with more information regarding this.

We hope that this partnership of Learn2Learn and Short Course RS will enable your child to have the best possible transition to GCSE, giving them all the tools they need to be successful in KS4. We are excited to offer this opportunity to our students to support them to fulfil their potential.

Yours Faithfully,

Krishna Thaker, Assistant Head Teacher

Shaista Moosa - Learning Leader for RS

