



15/12/2022

Dear Year 11 Student/Parent/Carer,

As you are fully aware by now, your child has been studying the AQA GCSE Religious Studies short course since the beginning of Year 10. As we are coming to the end of this term, and after recent completion of PPEs, students have completed the necessary amount of lessons for teachers to deliver the content that's outlined in the specification. Therefore, from January, we are deciding to change the timetabled hours for this GCSE to focus on students accessing lessons on PSHE and RSE.

Together with Mr. Cartwright, Mrs. Sims and Mr. Delaney, we feel that students would benefit from having access to professional teaching on topics that would aid their cultural capital, staying safe online and offline, their health and wellbeing, and relationships and sex education; especially as they are coming to the end of KS4 and looking to their next steps in life.

In addition to this, we would like to give you and your child the choice as to whether they are entered for the exam this summer. We offer this as we understand that towards the end of Year 11 the exam season becomes very intense and we want to help students prioritise their learning and acquirement of their GCSEs.

It must be stressed the importance of every student, whether wanting to achieve the GCSE short course or not, is still **required to attend timetabled lessons**, but the focus will now be on PSHE/RSE and will be taught by Mr. Cartwright and Mrs. Sims.

As acknowledgement of your commitment to the learning from the beginning of Year 10, your child will be given a certificate which they can share with their further education route or future employers. However, if you choose to continue with the official certification of the course, you will be entered to complete the exam taking place in the exam season and you could be awarded a GCSE grade equivalent to half a GCSE. The official certificate will be awarded by AQA along with your other GCSE subject certificates. If this is the case, your child will still be supplied with the necessary materials to help them prepare for the exam nearer the time, but it will require more independence.

This is a very important decision to make and we understand that you may wish to discuss your options with us. You can discuss with myself or your child's class teacher, if you have any further questions. Once you have reached your decision about which direction you would like to take, could you please email back confirming one of the two following options:

Option 1: I want my child to receive a SMHS certificate and **not sit** the AQA GCSE Religious Studies (short course) exam

Option 2: I want my child **to sit** the AQA GCSE Religious Studies (short course) exam

Please respond by Friday 13 January 2023 by 10 A.M. If we do not hear back to confirm either option, then your child's exam entry will be automatically removed. Please do not hesitate to make contact and we can discuss this further at your convenience.

Yours faithfully,

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