

## Is this subject right for me?

Philosophy is a stimulating subject, but it is also a demanding one. You should enjoy arguing about topical issues such as abortion, animal rights and euthanasia, but you must also be prepared to read and write about ideas and concepts which are sometimes quite difficult to understand. You must learn to spot flaws and other defects of logic in the arguments of others and be prepared to oppose them with counterarguments of your own.

In AS Philosophy you will encounter the work of some of the principal figures in the history of philosophy, such as Plato, Aristotle, John Locke, David Hume, Rene Descartes and Immanuel Kant and you will need to develop your knowledge and understanding of their contribution to modern thought.

You will need to develop your critical capacities for the analysis and evaluation of a variety of opposing points of view and your own responses to philosophical source material of various kinds. Philosophers welcome different opinions, but they must be informed opinions, not unsupported statements of personal prejudice.'

## What is the course content?

### AS Philosophy — Introduction to Philosophy (Year 1)

#### Module 1 Topics

- Reason and Experience
- Why should I be moral?
- Why should I be governed?

#### Module 2 Topics

- Knowledge of the External World
- Tolerance
- The Value of Art

#### Assessment

One written paper (1 hour 30 minutes) for each module

Each paper is 50% of total AS marks

AS is 50% of total A Level marks

### A2 Philosophy— Key Themes in Philosophy (Year 2)

#### Module 3 Themes

- Political Philosophy
- Philosophy of Mind

#### Assessment

One written paper (2 hours)

60% of total A2 marks

#### Module 4 Text

- Descartes: Meditations

#### Assessment

One written paper (1 hour 30 minutes)

40% of total A2 marks

#### Other information:

A wide variety of methods are used in teaching and learning - including the preparation and delivery of student presentations, group topic work and group and class discussions, individual reading, and essay writing. In Philosophy we respect your ability to take responsibility for your own learning and we help you to do this on an individual basis.

#### What are the entry requirements?

General entry requirements for studying at Advanced level apply plus GCSE English B (Intermediate tier) or C (Higher tier)

# **Philosophy**

AS and A Level