

## Theology and Ethics at Thomas Hardy

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The theology and ethics department at the Thomas Hardy School is part of a large humanities faculty which aims to promote open-mindedness, empathy and appreciation of the diverse world in which we live. The department is very collaborative and there are regular team meetings and plenty of opportunities to share resources. The department has a strong reputation both locally and nationally and in 2015, we were awarded the gold mark for religious education in schools.

The theology and ethics department currently consists of five specialist teachers, one of these being the subject leader. Teaching takes place in a specialist suite of rooms which are well-equipped and well resourced. Each room is equipped with a projector and ICT facilities in the school, including BYO, are excellent. A team of 4 ICT technicians and managers provide on-going support and training.

Across key stages 3 and 4, all students have three hours of theology and ethics per fortnight with the entire cohort being entered for the full course GCSE. Students begin their studies when they enter the school in year 9. The chosen specification of study is AQA Religious Studies A [8062] and the chosen religions are Christianity and Buddhism. The department have been exceptionally proactive in ensuring that the full course GCSE units are already fully planned and resourced with class booklets produced in line with the units for students to complete.

Religious Studies is a very popular choice at A Level: students study the OCR specification [H573] which includes exploration of three components; Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism. Each of these components have three teaching lessons per fortnight.

The results at both GCSE and A Level are excellent and students view the subject extremely positively and are very keen to succeed.