



Ripon Grammar School

Dear Student

Congratulations on choosing to continue your journey in Religious Studies at A Level! On behalf of the Ripon Grammar RS Department, I am delighted to welcome you to what promises to be an exciting, challenging, and highly rewarding programme of study.

You are about to embark on one of the most thought-provoking courses offered at Ripon Grammar School. Through your studies in Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought (following the OCR specification), you will explore some of the deepest questions humans have ever asked—about existence, morality, belief, and the nature of reality—whilst developing analytical and evaluative skills that will serve you well in any future path you choose.

As your Head of Department, I cannot wait to work with you and help you navigate these fascinating topics. Our department has a strong track record of success, and we are confident that, with curiosity, commitment, and critical thinking, you will find this course both stimulating and enjoyable.

In preparation for the new academic year, you may wish to do some pre-reading. The official OCR website is a great place to start and will give you insight into the structure and content of the course:

👉 [OCR Religious Studies A Level Specification](#)

Additionally, the following books are recommended by the department and will provide a solid foundation for your studies:

- *Oxford A Level Religious Studies for OCR* – L. Ahluwalia & R. Bowie
- *OCR Philosophy of Religion for AS and A2* – M. Taylor
- *The Philosophy of Religion* – P. Cole
- *OCR Philosophy and Ethics AS* – Taylor, Eyre, Knight
- *OCR Religious Ethics for AS and A2* – J. Mayled
- *Ethical Theory* – M. Thompson
- *Ethics Matters* – P. & C. Vardy
- *Understanding Religious Ethics* – R. Wright
- *Christianity: A Very Short Introduction* – Linda Woodhead
- *A History of Christianity* – Nick Page
- *Teach Yourself Christianity* – John Young

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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Please do not feel you need to read everything listed; even dipping into a couple of these titles will give you an excellent head start.

Enjoy the summer and I very much look forward to seeing you in September as we begin this exciting academic journey together.

Warm regards,

Mr H. Cornish

Head of Religious Studies
Ripon Grammar School

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