

# Churchmead School

## Religious Studies A Level

### Bridging Summer Work: From GCSE to A Level

#### **READ. REFLECT. WRITE.**

**READ:** The most fundamental and important bridging activity that you can do is buy these books and read them. Really read them. Underline sentences in the book that make you stop and think. Imagine you are having a conversation with the person who wrote this book whilst you are reading it. Challenge the text but also let the text challenge you.

**REFLECT:** Reflect on what you have read. Think about why the person wrote what they did and why. Reflect on the impact that the ideas in the book would have had and will have on the people that read it. Reflect on how what you have read challenges you.

**WRITE:** Write a response to what you have read. Everyone must write a 500-word report on one of the five books that you have read over the summer. What is the most important message of the book? Did the book challenge your own way of thinking? Write questions that you have about the texts that you read. Write summaries of what you have written. This is not just a course or an exam course. This is an opportunity for you to explore what you really think and believe by encountering and engaging with some of the great works of philosophy, ethics and theology that has been written during the last 2000 years.

#### **Everyone must read:**

1. **Plato's *Republic***
2. **Joseph Fletcher, *Situation Ethics- The New Morality***
3. **St. Augustine's *Confessions***
4. **C.S. Lewis *Mere Christianity***
5. **David Bentley Hart *Doors of the Sea***
6. **The Bible: The New Testament, *The Gospel of Mark***

Everyone must write a 500 word report on one of the five books that you have read over the summer. What is the most important message of the book? Did the book challenge your own way of thinking?

Write two 1000 word essay on one of the following:

- A. 'Conversion experiences present powerful evidence for the existence of God.' Discuss.
- B. 'Irenaeus' theodicy gives a more satisfactory response to the problem of evil than Augustine's theodicy.' Discuss.
- C. 'Discuss critically issues arising from the belief that God is omniscient.'
- D. 'Symbol is too often misleading for it to be useful in religious language.' Discuss.
- E. 'A non-cognitive approach to religious language provides valuable insights into the interpretation of religious texts.' Discuss.
- F. 'Natural Law provides excellent moral guidance for people making decisions about euthanasia.' Discuss.
- G. 'Globalisation makes it impossible for businesses to act ethically.' Discuss.