



November 2022

Dear Parent and Carers,

RE: Change of examination specification for GCSE Religious Studies

It was wonderful to meet some of you at the recent Parent Information Evening and share details of the support offered to your child by the RE Department to help them achieve success at GCSE.

I am writing to inform you that, after careful consideration, we have decided to change the GCSE examination specification from Eduqas to AQA for students in Years 9 and 10 with immediate effect. We have thought very carefully about this change and feel that it will help students at Durham Johnston to achieve even greater success. We will be following the AQA GCSE Religious Studies specification route A, studying Christianity, Judaism and Ethical Themes. Details about the course can be found

here: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/rs/specifications/AQA-8062-SP-2016.PDF>

The decision to change boards will have no negative impact upon your child's progress at GCSE; all the topics that have already been taught to Years 9 and 10 appear on the AQA specification. The content covered on the Eduqas examination specification is virtually identical to the AQA specification. The key difference between both boards is the mode of assessment and format of examination questions in the AQA paper which are better suited to our cohort. As you will be aware, students at Durham Johnston commence their GCSE Religious Studies course at the start of Year 9 and receive one hour per week of teaching until the end of Year 11. Given the limited amount of curriculum time available for RE, we feel that the style of questions in the AQA examination paper will benefit our students more.

All teachers in the RE department have the requisite skills and expertise to ensure a smooth transition to AQA; they have considerable experience as examiners and will be teaching the new examination skills to students this term. The department is well resourced and will continue to share support materials with students, both in class and on Microsoft Teams. We are confident that this change will make a positive impact upon the outcomes of our students and will help them to progress successfully to additional study or employment at 16.

Thank you for your support as we continue to act in the best interests of your child. If you have any questions regarding the course, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Bray
Subject Leader for RE



Headteacher: A J O'Sullivan BA, MA

Deputy Heads: J Bell BSc, MA
R McFadden MEng
M J Wright BA

Director of Resources: H Charlton BA MBA

Assistant Heads: A Lennon BA
C Robson BA
N Weaver BA

