**Philosophy, Theology and Ethics (PTE)**

As one might expect within a school with a non-denominational Christian foundation, Philosophy, Theology and Ethics has a central part to play. Given that the Academy has no religious test on entry, the student population is very mixed in terms of religious outlook. Parents know that Bede presents an essentially biblical Christianity to children and develops their understanding of other world views as they move through the Academy. The Academy position is to critique religious faith and to identify similarities and essential differences between various faith positions. It also aims to ensure that all students gain the confidence to hold whichever view they prefer, without fear or favour, and to be able to articulate their thoughts coherently.

PTE will be taught according to the Academy’s own syllabus and leads all students eventually through to full course GCSE in Year 11. Citizenship is interwoven within PTE predominantly with some complementary coverage in History and Business Studies. Health and Sex Education will be presented through a whole Academy approach which incorporates assemblies, PTE, PE, Science and tutor periods. Staff in all subject areas are expected to pick up issues of spiritual, moral, social and cultural significance.

Through systematic study of biblical passages, students are encouraged to consider the personal and social relevance of Christianity whilst also developing a historical understanding of the development of other major religions and world views such as Judaism, Islam, Eastern Mysticism and Atheism. The study of moral issues and debates about the world’s ‘great questions’ (ie Who am I? Where did I come from? How should I live? What happens when I die?) are looked at directly and respect is given to the individual’s right to come to their own personal and educated view. Students are not expected to receive or reject any faith position simply because they are told to; proper debate is expected, not simply encouraged, and is to be held in an atmosphere of clarity and mutual respect. Students are constantly encouraged to think through the implications of their beliefs on their everyday life and outlook, and vice-versa.

Whilst it is not possible to cover all aspects of every biblical passage, the most significant focus falls upon the claims and person of Jesus Christ. In comparing Christianity with other religions, focus also falls mainly upon those faiths’ truth claims as opposed to simply their traditions and rites of passage.

Academy assemblies are organised daily and follow the national expectation that they are predominantly Christian in nature. This involves the reading of the Bible and simple teaching on the issues raised therein. All assemblies finish with either spoken or silent prayer. On two mornings per week students meet simply as a tutor group and consider a Bible passage and the issues it raises in a much smaller group context.

**Person Specification**

We seek someone with a love for and deep knowledge of scripture for this post.  You will passionately believe that human beings are created to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever, and that true wisdom consists in knowledge of oneself allied with knowledge of one’s Creator.  However, you will understand the mental and spiritual blocks that prevent people making progress in knowing God, and the intellectual and motivational factors that stunt academic development.  You will take immense satisfaction in building the knowledge, skills and understanding of all students, regardless of whether they share your faith.  You will not require your students to think as you do, but accept responsibility for their academic progress, and seek to help each to develop a personal response to the material studied.  Through meaningful personal relationship, inspiring biblical teaching and your own personal example, you will help students to see the relevance of Philosophy, Theology and Ethics to their lives and develop a love for the subject in their own right.

A high level of commitment to achieving excellent standards is a pre-requisite for this post. Essentially, the Department seeks extended professionalism from colleagues who are able to motivate students, generate ideas and translate them into effective and enjoyable practice within a warm and encouraging environment.