

# Langley Park School for Girls

Enabling everyone to thrive – acting with kindness, determination and respect.



Headteacher: Mr S Whittle, MA (Cantab), PGCE, NPQH

3 September 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, and Year 9 Students,

We look forward to welcoming back students and to another successful and enjoyable school year. This year students will be completing their Key Stage 3 studies, making guided subject choices (options) and preparing to transition to Key Stage 4 and GCSE study at the end of the year.

We are writing to inform you of an important update to the Year 9 curriculum. In line with national curriculum expectations and our commitment to providing a broad and balanced education, all Year 9 students will now begin studying GCSE Religious Studies as part of their core curriculum in Year 9.

This examination course will be delivered over three hours per fortnight, and students will continue with the study of GCSE Religious Studies next year, sitting the GCSE examination at the end of Year 10.

## Why GCSE Religious Studies?

Religious Studies offers students a unique opportunity to explore fundamental questions about life, ethics, belief systems, and the diverse world around them. The benefits of studying this subject include:

- **Critical Thinking:** Students learn to evaluate different viewpoints, develop reasoned arguments, and think deeply about moral and philosophical issues.
- **Cultural Awareness:** The course promotes understanding and respect for different cultures and religions, which is essential in today's global society.
- **Communication Skills:** Through discussion and written work, students enhance their ability to express ideas clearly and persuasively.
- **Preparation for Further Study:** The GCSE qualification supports progression to A-levels and other post-16 pathways, including humanities and social sciences.
- **Personal Development:** Students gain insights into their own beliefs and values, helping them grow into thoughtful and informed individuals.

Where schools have entered students early (i.e. in Year 10) for GCSE Religious Studies, students have enjoyed considerable success without the pressure of public examinations in their other subjects. This early examination opportunity also supports and prepares students for examinations in Year 11. We are confident that this change to our curriculum will enrich your child's educational experience and support their academic and personal development.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the GCSE Religious Studies course, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

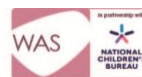
**Ms C Sunman**  
**Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum**

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2022-2025