

## Curriculum. Religious Studies

---

### Year 8

The work covered in year 8 is largely dictated by the ISEB syllabus requirements and the children continue to be prepared accordingly for their scholarship and common entrance examinations. As well as covering core topics from the syllabus, however, it is also important to encourage the children to develop an understanding of the world around them, whether from a spiritual or secular point of view, and classroom discussion and debate on a wide range of issues play a vital part in the teaching of this subject.

#### Michaelmas Term

1. The Creation story in Genesis - God's instructions to mankind - Relevance of this account today? - Darwin's research and the science v. religion debate
2. The nature and fall of man - Human nature and the concept of free will - Man's stewardship of God's creation
3. Cain and Abel - jealousy theme - purpose of punishment etc. - idea of sacrifice then and now
4. The near sacrifice of Isaac - is it always right to be obedient?
5. Jesus and outcasts - Zacchaeus - Call of Levi - The woman and Simon the Pharisee - Who are the outcasts of today?

#### Lent Term

1. The Ten Commandments - the need for rules in school/society - relevance of Commandments today?
2. Elijah stories - role of the prophet - concept of a false god etc.
3. The message of the prophet Amos - concept of justice - how good are we at looking after the poor today?
4. Parables - The Good Samaritan - The Lost Son - The Sower - Meanings etc.
5. On being a follower of Jesus - The call of the disciples - The rich young man - Request of James and John - 'cup of suffering'- should wealthy people feel guilty?

#### Summer Term

1. Who was Jesus? - Peter's declaration - The Transfiguration - Political overtones of titles such as 'Messiah' - Importance of faith

General revision in the run up to the common entrance exam in June.

The post common entrance exam programme depends on time allocated, according to the leavers' other commitments etc.

Possible projects might include designing a biblical theme park in order to promote a knowledge of Bible stories or researching a different world religion in greater detail