The Weald
community school
and sixth form

25 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

GCSE Religious Studies

I am writing to update you on an exciting milestone for our Year 10 cohort. This summer, all Year 10 students will be sitting their official **GCSE Religious Studies** examinations.

Sitting the RS GCSE a year early is a fantastic opportunity. It allows students to experience the reality of full GCSE conditions, gain a qualification early, and reduce their overall examination burden in Year 11. The RS teaching team has worked hard to ensure that the curriculum is fully delivered and that students are well-prepared to perform at their best.

Mock examination key dates:

- **November mock examination:** Week beginning 2 November 2026
- **November mock results:** Thursday 3 December 2026
- **February mock examination:** Week beginning 8 February 2027

Your child will receive an exam timetable via their student portal on Bromcom for the mock exam. This is also available for you to see on the My Child At School portal. These contain details including seat numbers, venues and the dates/times of exams (note that students should arrive at venues 10-15 minutes ahead of the published start time).

The results from the November mock examination will mirror as closely as possible the way in which students will receive their RS GCSE results in the summer. Students will receive an envelope containing their grade during a year group assembly. They can then choose to open this in front of others or individually.

Results from the February mock examination will be shared with students in class as soon as they have been marked. This will ensure that students are fully aware of the areas they need to focus on during the final term.

Preparation for the November mock examination:

The mock examination is going to focus on three core elements over two papers.

- **Paper 1 – Christianity and Islam:** Students should prepare all topics from **sections 1-33** of the PLC.
- **Paper 2 – Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment:** Focus on **sections 60-69** of the PLC.

As a department, we have provided each student with a Personal Learning Checklist (PLC), countdown plan and knowledge organisers. They have also been shared through Google Classroom. If you would like to purchase a revision guide, we would recommend the Oxford AQA A Revision Guide: Christianity and Islam.

These resources allow students to self-evaluate the topics they feel confident with and identify areas that require further revision. A range of additional revision materials has also been uploaded to Google Classroom to support students with their independent revision at home, particularly in the areas they have identified as requiring further development. When completing independent revision at home we would recommend the RED Revision Task Bank.

The department is running targeted revision sessions. These sessions are designed to help students use their revision time effectively while providing additional support with their knowledge, application of content and examination technique.

Week Beginning	**Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm**	**Wednesday 3.15-4.15pm**
21/09/26	Mr Cook Christianity B29 **OR Miss** Ellert Islam B11	NONE
28/09/26	Miss Ellert - Islam B11	Mr Everest: Theme E B12
05/10/26	Mr Cook Christianity B29 **OR** Miss Ellert Islam B11	Mr Everest: Theme E B12
12/10/26	Miss Ellert - Exam Technique B11	Mr Everest: Religions B12
19/10/26	Mr Cook Christianity B29	Mr Everest: Theme E B12
2/11/26	Miss Ellert - Exam Technique B11	Miss Ellert - Religions B11

We will also be running revision sessions in the lead-up to the February mock examination and final examinations. As soon as these schedules are finalised, they will be uploaded to Google Classroom.

Examination Expectations and Conduct

Students will be expected to treat the mock examinations with the same level of seriousness and formality as their final GCSE examinations. On 20 October, students will attend a year group assembly where the JCQ regulations and expectations regarding conduct and behaviour during

examinations will be explained in detail. This will ensure that all students are familiar with the procedures and expectations before sitting their first mock examination.

Equipment

Year 10 students are required to bring all of the necessary equipment to their mock exam as the Joint Council of Qualifications (JCQ) clearly states that equipment should not be provided by the school. Therefore, before the exams begin, please ensure that your child has the following equipment in a clear pencil case:

- **A minimum of 2 black ballpoint pens**
- **2 pencils**
- **1 rubber**
- **1 pencil sharpener**
- **1 30 cm ruler**
- **Highlighter that they can use to identify key words within the question to keep their answers focused.**

If your child does not bring the correct equipment to their exams, they may find themselves at a disadvantage and unable to complete some of the questions on their GCSE papers. Mobile phones and watches (of any kind) are prohibited in exams and must remain in student bags which will be kept securely in our bag stores whilst exams are taking place. **They can not be in students' pockets.**

Final Examination Details:

- **Exam Board:** AQA Specification A
- **Paper 1 (Christianity and Islam):**
    - **Date:** 13 May 2027
    - **Time:** 9.00am
    - **Duration:** 1 hour 45 minutes
- **Paper 2 (Thematic Studies):**
    - **Date:** 21 May 2027
    - **Time:** 9.00am
    - **Duration:** 1 hour 45 mins

How You Can Support at Home:

We have found that students tend to benefit most when they have a clear revision routine and are supported in maintaining this at home. There are several ways in which you can support your child with their preparation.

1. **Revision Routines:** We strongly recommend that students keep their phones and social media away during revision time so that they can focus fully on the task. Encouraging a quiet, distraction-free environment can help students make the most of their revision time.

2. **Short, regular revision sessions:** Encourage 20–30 minute daily revision blocks using Seneca Learning, Quizlet or the revision materials uploaded to the Google Classroom. Regular, shorter periods of revision can help students to retain information and avoid having to cram large amounts of content shortly before an examination. Incorporate some of the tasks from the RED Revision Task Bank.

3. **Countdown plan**: Please check that they are using this which can be found as a tab within their PLC and also here. This should be updated regularly so that they know which topics they have already revised and which areas they still need to cover.

4. **Key Terms and Quotations:** Flashcards can be particularly effective for RS, where remembering key religious texts and technical vocabulary is an important part of examination preparation.

5. **Examination Practice:** The questions can be accessed within this spreadsheet. Please note that the format of the question styles has changed, and therefore there are only two examples of the new marks available. Students can practise the questions from 2018-2025, however will have to ensure they answer the .2 question as 1 mark rather than 2, and .4 questions as 6 marks rather than 5. Students will also have access to these via their Google Classroom. Please encourage them to complete a set of questions under timed conditions (25 minutes for questions 1-5) once a fortnight. They can submit these to their class teacher or to me for feedback.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I hope that this information is useful to you and your child as they prepare for their first GCSE examination. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's RS teacher.

Yours faithfully,

Miss M Ellert
Subject Leader, RS