

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies and Extended Thinking Option

I am writing to explain a change that we are making to our curriculum with regards to Religious Studies. Over the last few years, we have taken all our students through the full GCSE Religious Studies course in the Core RS time which is 1 hour per week. The RS Department have achieved excellent results using this course – however, we recognise that this creates additional pressure for some students with regards to how many qualifications are being completed. This will also impact on Extended Thinking, which is our highest performing qualification at South Dartmoor, which is studied by your son/daughter.

The school is expected as a statutory requirement to give all students an RS provision up to the end of Year 11 and this will still remain within all student timetables from September 2020. For most students, we will be giving all students the straight option choice of (a) continuing to study GCSE RS up to the end of Year 11, entering the examination or (b) continuing to study RS up to end of Year 11 but without the examination pressure.

With regards to Extended Thinking students, depending on which choice is made, this will also impact on the Extended Thinking provision as this is currently timetabled alongside RS. If Option (a) is made, this would result in your son/daughter being unable to complete the GCSE Citizenship element of the programme as the timetable would be structured to enable the GCSE RS examination to be completed, unless your student is willing to study after college each week in a twilight lesson in which we would teach GCSE Citizenship; we would support completion of the HPQ through our Impact Days. If Option (b) is made, this would enable completion of both GCSE Citizenship and the HPQ and the RS Statutory teaching will be covered in Extended Thinking lessons. *All the options are included on the attached form.*

Please can you discuss this decision with your son/daughter and return the attached form to Student Reception by **Friday 13 March 2020**. We would recommend that you consider the total number of qualifications that your son/daughter is studying, how they are progressing in RS, ET and other subjects, and how they are currently handling the workload of GCSE study when making your decision.

Please contact rwickenden@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk with any queries.

Yours faithfully,

Ralph Wickenden

Assistant Principal

Year 10 Extended Thinking Students - GCSE Religious Studies Option

Name of Student: _____ Tutor: 10 _____

OPTION A1: Continue GCSE RS up to examination in Year 11 and not continue GCSE Citizenship

HPQ to be completed in Impact Days

OPTION A2: Continue GCSE RS up to examination in Year 11 and study GCSE Citizenship after college each week in a twilight lesson

HPQ to be completed in Impact Days

OPTION B2: Continue with full Extended Thinking course, studying non-examined RS/PSHE from September 2020 through the ET course

Parent/Carer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____