

# PHILOSOPHY

Head of Department: David Rawnsley



## Year 7 PHILOSOPHY - Core Subject

As an introduction to Philosophy, an environment is provided where students are encouraged to think in different ways and at different levels. Students develop their creative and critical thinking by responding to ideas with new alternatives and possibilities. Students are nurtured to value and respect the ideas of others, while at the same time being encouraged to look for reasons for what they think, say and do.

By teaching students to think carefully about ethics, moral questions and philosophical issues, we enable them to make sound judgments based on good reasons.



These skills and values are embedded in a variety of texts and experiences such as stories, poems, films and newspaper articles.

Students are expected to interact and contribute to class discussions with comments that are inquiring, show sound reasoning and are creative. Weekly homework tasks are also assessed.

## One Semester

## Year 8 or 9 PHILOSOPHY Elective Subject –

This semester elective will explore the philosophy that comes out of life's big questions as evidenced in modern popular culture. TV, movies, radio, music, magazines and the Internet all raise important philosophical ideas that philosophers have thought about for thousands of years.

The course will investigate the nature of these big questions and issues, and what connections modern culture has to ideas of the past. Specific topics will include:

“How real is reality TV?” “Does plugging in mean you plug out from others?”

“Is the media making us afraid?” “What does Bart have to say about life?”

“Is Superman a true super man?”

At the end of the semester, students will have a deeper understanding of the philosophical issues that surround us every day, and greater skills in reasoning and argument, and the provision of evidence in argument.

## Year 10 PHILOSOPHY - Elective Subject - One Semester

This course traces philosophical themes from the Ancient Greeks to modern philosophers. It includes a mixture of the Philosophy of Science, Religion, Politics and Ethics. The course encourages students to think critically about issues, to see other viewpoints, to appreciate the concept of a worldview, and to identify their own worldviews.



Critical and creative thinking skills are encouraged. Students are also encouraged to examine the evidence for their beliefs and to appreciate sound reasoned arguments. Discussions are obviously very important as students explore their ideas. Assessment focuses both on factual knowledge of the ideas of some of the philosophers and on the sound development of each student's own ideas.

### **Stage 1 PHILOSOPHY - Elective Subject - One or two Semesters (10 or 20 Credits)**

This practical Year 11 course emphasises Philosophical Inquiry skills within 3 key areas; Ethics, Epistemology and Metaphysics. The course is intended to be practical, rather than theoretical in nature. Students will learn to identify philosophical issues, and to think critically, creatively and independently about them.



For their assessment students will undertake two Practical Issue Studies, one of which involves an ethical emphasis. There are no prerequisites for the course. However, students who know that they would like to study Philosophy in senior years are encouraged to study it at earlier year levels too.

### **Stage 2 PHILOSOPHY – Full year (20 Credits)**

This course continues the skills of Year 11 but will provide more depth in each of the Key Learning Areas of Ethics, Epistemology and Metaphysics.

Students will learn to analyse philosophical positions, to identify assumptions, to apply critical thinking skills and to communicate their ideas clearly. The course focuses on negotiated study programs built around philosophical issues of interest to students, rather than a strictly prescribed content.

Assessment will involve argument analysis, response to issues, and a Philosophical Issue Study on a negotiated topic. Work is school assessed and moderated with other schools. There are no prerequisites for the course. However, students who know that they would like to study Philosophy in senior years are encouraged to study it at other year levels too.