Term 2

Upper Campus

Curriculum News

Enquiry Question: What is a Belief?

This Term's Learning

As we move towards Christmas, our Big Question this term is: **What is a belief?** Throughout the coming weeks, pupils will explore the ideas, values and convictions that shape the way people understand themselves, others and the world around them. Beliefs can be influenced by our families, cultures, faiths, experiences and communities, and they often guide the choices we make each day.

Across the curriculum, pupils will encounter opportunities to consider how beliefs have influenced people, events, discoveries and creative expression. They will learn that beliefs can be deeply personal while also being shared by groups and communities. Through discussion, enquiry and reflection, pupils will be encouraged to think critically about different viewpoints, recognise the diversity of beliefs within society and develop respect for perspectives that may differ from their own.

This Big Question provides a valuable opportunity to explore themes of identity, values, belonging and understanding. As a school community, we will encourage pupils to consider their own beliefs and the principles that help them navigate challenges, build relationships and contribute positively to the world around them.

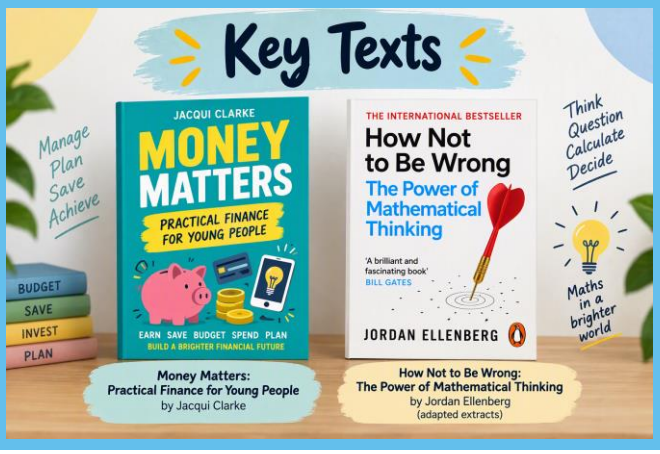
As the festive season approaches, this exploration will also support pupils in understanding the significance of Christmas and other celebrations for different people and communities. We look forward to seeing our pupils engage thoughtfully with this important question and develop greater curiosity, empathy and respect through their learning.

Enjoy the Half Term Break – Kerri Griffin - Deputy Headteacher (Quality of Education)

Key Dates



Our Key Texts



Ways to help with learning at home

When home and school work together, children are better supported in their learning journey. Regular opportunities to talk about learning, read, and practise important skills at home can help pupils make stronger connections and feel more confident in the classroom.

Maths: Edexcel GCSE ☑ 10-Minute Retrieval Practice - Spend 10 minutes, 3-4 times a week, answering a mix of questions from topics already studied (rather than just current topics). This helps strengthen long-term memory and highlights any gaps in understanding.

English: (Edexcel GCSE English Language) ☑ One Paragraph Challenge - Once or twice a week, write a single well-developed paragraph in response to a picture, statement, or question. Focus on using ambitious vocabulary and at least one language technique (e.g. simile, metaphor, or repetition) rather than writing a full essay.

Reading: ☑ Read for 15 Minutes Daily - Encourage students to read a challenging novel, newspaper article, or non-fiction text for 15 minutes each day. Afterwards, discuss one interesting idea, character, or theme to build comprehension and vocabulary.

These simple, manageable habits can make a significant difference without adding too much pressure at home.

English and Humanities

Next term in English, students will explore how beliefs, values and attitudes influence decision-making through *An Inspector Calls* and rhetoric anthologies. They will develop skills in persuasive writing, comparing viewpoints and source analysis, while deepening their understanding through drama activities such as staging, hot-seating and character interpretation.

Next term in Humanities, students will explore the structure of the Earth, tectonic plate movement and the causes of natural hazards such as volcanoes and earthquakes. Through real-life case studies, they will investigate the impacts of these events and compare how communities respond to and manage tectonic hazards.

Hannah Sage – Faculty Leader

Maths and Science

Next term, pupils will explore the enquiry question “What is a Belief?”, focusing on the values of Trust, Faith, Respect, Honesty, Kindness and Hope. Through their learning, they will consider how beliefs are shaped by evidence, experience and personal values, and how these influence the choices we make every day. In Mathematics, pupils will explore how mathematical thinking helps us understand and make sense of the world around us. Using the core texts Money Matters: Practical Finance for Young People by Jacqui Clarke and adapted extracts from How Not to Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking by Jordan Ellenberg, they will investigate percentages, ratio, fractions, probability and financial maths. Along the way, pupils will discover how STEM subjects can help us compare, measure and make informed decisions, while exploring the difference between what can be proven, what is likely and what we choose to believe. In Science, pupils will investigate how scientists use observation, experimentation and evidence to develop and test ideas about the world around us. In Outdoor Learning, pupils will take part in practical and collaborative challenges that develop resilience, confidence and teamwork, while reflecting on the importance of trust, respect and kindness. Together, these experiences will encourage pupils to think deeply about their own beliefs and values, and how they shape their understanding of the world and their place within it.

Emma Cresswell – Faculty Leader

Art, IT and PSHE

Next term, our young people will explore the enquiry question "What is a belief?". Through both creative and technological learning, pupils will reflect on their own perspectives while examining the beliefs that influence the wider world. In Art, pupils will focus on Portfolio Completion, Refinement, Connections and Personal Intentions. Drawing on the skills, techniques and influences they have explored throughout their artistic journey, they will refine and develop their own work to create a personal portfolio that reflects their interests, ideas and creative identity. Pupils will make meaningful connections between artists, themes and techniques whilst demonstrating increasing independence and confidence in communicating their artistic intentions. In Information Technology, students following the BTEC Core pathway will explore Trusting Technology, Beliefs, Values and Digital Systems. They will examine how technology influences decision-making, communication and society, whilst considering the values and beliefs that shape the development and use of digital systems. Students studying the BTEC Optional unit will focus on Working Together, Values, Connections and the World of Work. They will develop collaborative skills and explore how personal values, professional behaviours and effective communication contribute to success in education, employment and the wider community. Throughout the term, pupils will be encouraged to think critically about their own beliefs and aspirations, make connections across different areas of learning and develop the independence and confidence needed for their future pathways.

Chris Lee – Faculty Leader

Sport, Construction, Food & Nutrition

This term, Year 10 learners will explore how beliefs, values and attitudes influence participation in sport and physical activity. Through leadership opportunities, inclusive practice and activity planning, students will develop communication and organisational skills while preparing for Component 1 assessment. They will learn how understanding participants' needs helps create positive sporting experiences for all. Year 11 learners will explore how professionalism, discipline and commitment support success in Sport and Public Services. Through fitness training, performance analysis and vocational study, students will develop independent learning habits and professional behaviours, preparing them for future education, employment and increased responsibility. This term, BTEC Construction pupils will explore the importance of health and safety within the construction industry. They will learn about site hazards, PPE, risk assessments and safe working practices, while understanding the responsibilities of employers and employees. Through real-world examples, pupils will discover how communication, professionalism and following regulations help keep construction sites safe and successful. BTEC Hospitality Pupils will explore how food safety, hygiene and health and safety procedures work together to protect everyone involved in hospitality. Through investigating hazards, contamination and workplace responsibilities, they learn that safe hospitality environments depend on every individual carrying out their role effectively. They also explore how trust, responsibility and professional values influence workplace behaviours. Pupils begin to understand that maintaining safe environments relies upon shared beliefs about responsibility, care and accountability.

Diogo Garcia – Faculty Leader