

YEAR 9 PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy is the study of fundamental elements of humanity like truth, morality, knowledge and existence. It takes its name from the Greek for 'love of wisdom' and explores complex aspects of our daily lives in ways that are unique from other classroom environments. In Philosophy students will discuss concepts like 'reality' and 'existence' as they develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. This Year 9 Philosophy elective is based on the Victorian Curriculum, which is organised into three interrelated English elaborations: Language, Literature and Literacy. It also incorporates Critical and Creative Thinking. Students explore concepts related to reality, life and ethical problems that arise. This elective adds value to students' study of philosophical questions arising from a variety of texts including literary and non-literary texts, print and non-print. The themes explored require maturity and willingness to discuss mainstream and non-mainstream ideas.

Questions and Possibilities

Students will learn to:

- Investigate the characteristics of effective questions in different contexts to examine the information and test possibilities.
- Suspend judgements to allow new possibilities to emerge and investigate how this can broaden ideas and solutions.
- Challenge previously held assumptions and create new links by investigating ideas that provoke shifts in perspectives and cross boundaries to generate ideas and solutions.

Reasoning

Students will learn to:

- Examine how to identify and analyse suppressed premises and assumptions.
- Investigate the nature and use of counter-examples structured as arguments.
- Consider ambiguity and equivocation and how they affect the strength of arguments.

Metacognition

Students will learn to:

- Critically examine their own and others' thinking processes and discuss factors that influence thinking.
- Investigate how the use of a range of learning strategies can be monitored, evaluated and re-directed as necessary.