Why do we study philosophy in Magis?

Philosophy derives from the Greek phrase meaning *"love of wisdom."* It is the study of the fundamental questions of human existence, knowledge, reality, ethics, and meaning. Through the disciplined use of logic, reason, and inquiry, philosophy challenges us to think deeply about the world and our place within it.

In studying philosophy, students develop valuable skills in critical thinking, analytical reasoning, close reading, clear communication, and persuasive argument. They learn to evaluate ideas, question assumptions, and construct well-supported conclusions. These skills are highly transferable and are valued across a wide range of academic disciplines and professions.

While philosophical questions can appear abstract, the intellectual tools philosophy provides have practical applications in education, leadership, law, business, science, and public life. It is therefore no surprise that students who engage with philosophy often demonstrate strong performance in academic assessments and develop the confidence to tackle complex problems with creativity and insight.

Year 7 Magis Elective: An Introduction to Philosophy - The Ancient Greek Philosophers

This short course explores the great philosophers of Ancient Greece and their enduring influence on Western thought, culture, and society. Students will examine the ideas of key thinkers, including Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, and consider how their teachings continue to shape the modern world.

The course introduces major areas of philosophy, including **metaphysics**, which examines the nature of reality; **epistemology**, which investigates the nature and limits of knowledge; and **value theory**, which explores questions of ethics, morality, and what gives life meaning.

Year 8 Magis Elective: Modern Philosophers

This short course traces the development of philosophy from the Ancient world to the modern era, with a particular focus on **René Descartes**, widely regarded as the father of modern philosophy. Students will explore key philosophical concepts, including **epistemology**, the study of knowledge and how we know what we know, and **rationalism**, the view that reason is the primary source of knowledge and certainty.

Through engaging discussion and inquiry, students will be challenged to reflect on their own beliefs, values, and approach to living. The study of philosophy fosters critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and intellectual curiosity, while deepening students' understanding of how philosophical ideas have shaped Western culture and society.

Year 9 Magis Elective: The Philosophical Blueprint of Psychology - From Plato to Freud

This short course explores one of humanity's oldest questions: **What makes us who we are?** Where do our thoughts, emotions, desires, and sense of self originate? These enduring questions have fascinated philosophers for centuries and ultimately laid the foundations for modern psychology. Long before the work of Freud and the emergence of neuroscience, thinkers such as **Plato**, **Aristotle**, and **René Descartes** sought to understand the nature of the human mind and consciousness.

Students will trace the development of philosophical thought from the Ancient world to the modern era, examining how ideas about human nature evolved over time. The course also investigates the work of **Sigmund Freud**, whose exploration of the unconscious mind can be seen as a continuation of longstanding philosophical inquiry. By studying the historical, social, and scientific context in which Freud developed his theories, students will gain a deeper understanding of the evolution of psychological thought and the lasting influence of Freud's ideas on contemporary psychology.

Through this exploration, students will strengthen their critical thinking skills, reflect on fundamental questions about human identity and behaviour, and develop a richer appreciation of the connections between philosophy and psychology.