**Secondary PGCE in Religious Education**

*Useful information to build your subject knowledge before starting the course!*

Welcome to Roehampton! I am very much looking forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months. I hope you will have some time during the summer to prepare for your PGCE in RE by completing as many of the following tasks as possible.

1. **Subject Knowledge**

Use your own subject audit (completed prior to interview) to assess your strengths and areas for development.

1. **Develop** your own knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and secular worldviews, as well as philosophy and ethics through your wider reading. As a starting point, I recommend titles from the Oxford University Press series ‘**A Very Short Introduction To…**’.
2. **Extend** this knowledge and understanding through:

* further academic reading about a range of religious and secular worldviews, as well as philosophy and ethics
* engaging with the sacred texts of the major world faiths and the key writings important to those holding secular worldviews
* visiting websites of organisations representing the major world faiths and worldviews, such as <http://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html> or <https://humanism.org.uk/>
* watching and/or listening to films, documentaries, news bulletins etc focusing on faith and belief – see for example <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/genres/religionandethics/player>
* talking with family members, friends, colleagues and acquaintances about their own religious and/or secular worldviews.

1. **Knowledge of RE**

Reflect on what you know and have experienced of RE as a taught subject.

1. **Write** freely for 20-40 minutes about your experience of Religious Education (RE) as a child and your responses to it.  What did you enjoy – if anything – about your RE lessons? Were there aspects of the subject that bored or frightened you?  When were you inspired?  Did you pursue any particular RE interests independently and for your own pleasure? Why do you think it is important to consider your own schooling and experiences as a learner?

1. **Watch** a range of video clips of RE lessons and make a note of your responses.  Do you think that the lessons you watched are ‘good’?  What criteria are you using to judge these lessons?

* <https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=TEACHERS+TV+RELIGIOUS+KS3>
* <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-year/year-7/subjects/religion>

1. **Familiarise** yourself with the latest RE/RS GCSE and A Level Exam Board ‘specifications’, past exam papers and support materials:

* <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies>
* <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/religious-studies.html>
* <https://www.ocr.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/>
* <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/#tab_overview>
* <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-as-a-level#tab_overview>

1. **Read** some key documents about contemporary RE and its future, highlight the key issues in the subject today and reflect on what these might mean for you:

* <https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/final-report-religion-and-worldviews-the-way-forward-a-national-plan-for-re/>
* <http://faithdebates.org.uk/education/a-new-settlement-revised/>
* <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/APPG_RE_The_Truth_Unmasked-FINAL-1.pdf>

A wider reading list will be provided once the course begins.  All those works are available in the library at Roehampton.  There will be a library orientation tour towards the start of the course to familiarise you with the facilities and services available.