Philosophy - Year 10 Elective

The focus in **semester one** is on questions and problems involving *Truth and Reality*

Dreams seem real while we’re having them. What we think of as real when we are awake is something quite different. What do we mean by ‘real’? What is ‘reality’? There have been many movies that, in some way, deal with questions of truth and reality, and even more stories on the topic. What are the major points of view? What do you have to say on the matter? In this unit you will examine many questions where what is ‘real’ or ‘true’ about the issue is still unknown. Along the way you will learn how to argue more convincingly for your opinions, or perhaps even find your opinions changing. You’ll learn to think things through more clearly, and be better at spotting strengths and weaknesses in your own arguments as well as those of others.

Problems considered in the **second semester** concern *Self and World*

Have you ever wondered what it is that makes you, now, the same ‘person’ that you were five years ago, or even five minutes ago? What is a mind? What is time? Is time travel possible? What is the meaning of life? What makes life meaningful? What makes things good or worth having? What makes particular actions right or wrong? What is death? Are we really free to make choices? – We will consider some of the suggested answers to such questions offered by ancient Greek thinkers (like Aristotle), Buddhists, and more recent philosophers. Students will try to work out what they believe to be true, or think is likely, about each of the questions we look at. Emphasis is on being able to give well argued reasons in support of a point of view.

**Major Topics Covered**
- Epistemology – The study of knowledge
- Metaphysics – Existence and the nature of things which exist
- The problem of Personal Identity
- Ethics – Moral theories and issues

**Pre-requisite Subjects** - Nil
Students may enrol for one or both semesters

**Fees** - No additional fee beyond the general material charge.