

Revised programme with 2 brand new sessions for 2024-25

# WHAT IS TRUTH?



Sixth Form Religious Education Day  
With Dr Peter Vardy

**Bespoke Event**

"The students have genuinely been inspired and engaged by Dr Vardy and I feel it has made a significant impact on some of them who have already popped in to see me and ask for a reading list/ recommendations. My colleague and I also very much enjoyed the sessions."

Organising Teacher

[www.candleconferences.com](http://www.candleconferences.com)



**Dr. Peter Vardy** was Vice Principal of Heythrop College, University of London (1999-2011); he is internationally well-known as a leader in the fields of Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics and Values Education. Peter's many books – including the best-selling "Puzzle of" series for HarperCollins – demonstrate his ability to communicate complex ideas with clarity, accuracy and humour. For more than three decades schools and colleges have looked to Peter to provide outstanding conferences, resources and CPD / INSET, both to support their work in RS and Philosophy and more broadly.

**Did you know?** Peter was awarded an honorary doctorate for his work in promoting Religious Studies in schools by the University of Chichester in 2021.



## To Book

### “What is Truth” is a face-to-face bespoke event designed to support general Religious Education in the Sixth Form.

Combining pacy, engaging lectures with activities, discussions and debates, “What is Truth?” will explore the most important question for our time and the implications of different answers to it for different academic disciplines... and for life!

Sessions include:

#### 1. What is Truth?

This introductory session, which uses plenty of engaging film-clips and images, charts how ideas of truth have changed and developed through history from the Bible to the scientific enlightenment, to the development of fundamentalist ideologies and world war to the rise of postmodernism, post-truth and culture wars. Dr Vardy will also introduce students to some basic tools to support critical thinking, showing them how to evaluate evidence of different types and how to spot a fallacious argument, concluding with a practical activity.

#### 2. Truth and Ethics: Are right and wrong just a matter of opinion?

The next session considers the implications of challenges to the idea of truth for ethics. The scientific enlightenment and resultant process of secularisation made it difficult to rely on revealed moral laws outside of a faith-community, so without God are there any moral absolutes, or is right and wrong relative to one's culture or even one's personal preferences? This session will end with a discussion.

#### 3. A Just War? [NEW SESSION]

The next session applies what students have learned about ethics to the issue of war. In the past Islam and Christianity influenced the development of Just War Theory which is now the basis for international law, but the development of new weaponry and tactics threaten to undermine this today. Can nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and lethal autonomous weapons (LAWs) such as drones and fighting robots be part of a just war? What is the future of warfare? This session will conclude with a Q&A session.

#### 4. Artificial Intelligence [NEW SESSION]

The final session will explore the significance and implications of AI, both practically and philosophically. In what direction is AI research going? Will generative AI have more positive or negative effects in the end? Does AI present an existential risk to human societies, or have the risks been overstated? To what extent might AI be considered conscious or have rights? This session provides an essential introduction to the wider issues associated with a technology most young people are beginning to take for granted. This session will conclude with a lively debate.

Arranging a Bespoke Event with Candle Conferences couldn't be simpler - just send us an e-mail on [info@candleconferences.com](mailto:info@candleconferences.com) and our administrator will get back to you to discuss possible dates and then answer any questions you may have.

“What is Truth” costs £899 for unlimited numbers of sixth-form students within one school or college.

Alternatively and subject to your own risk-assessments and policies, we can run the event for a group of schools for £1299.

With Candle, there are NO hidden extras for VAT or travel (within the mainland UK)

With Candle you get:

- o Up-to-date scholarly content made engaging and tailored to the real needs of sixth-form students.
- o Sessions and resources designed by practicing teachers with a record of engaging students of all abilities.

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