 **Preparing for A-level PBE**

Hello prospective students of PBE. We cover some big topics in Philosophy & Ethics and the jump from GCSE is huge. This being said, it is super interesting and we know that you are going to love it. In order to do well at A level, you will need to read around the subject. This will help your understanding of a topic, develop skills of independence and autonomy but more importantly, it will spark your interest in thinking critically about the world around you. There are lots of different ways that you can explore topics in Philosophy and Ethics, from articles to podcasts to original texts (although philosophers do have a tendency to make difficult concepts sound more difficult than they need to be!)

Here are some suggestions to get you started:

**Reading:**

**GENERAL:** (These don’t directly link to the spec, but are a list of books we wish were around when we studied Alevel PBE)

Yuval Noah Hurari: *Sapiens* (This book is an excellent example of how to write clearly and concisely about difficult concepts, which is key at A level)

Reni Eddo Lodge: *Why I’m no longer talking to white people about race*

Grayson Perry: *The descent of Man*

Akala: *Natives*

Nikesh Shukla: *The Good Immigrant*

**PHILOSOPHY:**

John Hick: *The Fifth Dimension: An Exploration of the Spiritual Realm*

Luc Ferry: A Brief History of Thought

Richard Dawkins: *The Selfish Gene* & *The God Delusion*

**ETHICS:**

**Simon Blackburn:** *Ethics: A Very Short Introduction*

Pojman, L (2012) *Discovering Right and Wrong:* What is ethics and what is morality when compared to other normative subjects?

Peter Vardy: *The Puzzle of ethics*

*You can also read the attached summary notes of the first two topics for Philosophy & Ethics.*

**Podcasts:**

Philosophy Bites: David Edmondson on The Trolley Problem

Philosophy Bites: Roger Crisp on Utilitarianism

BBC Radio 4: In Our Time: Utilitarianism

The Panpsycast Philosophy Podcast: Utilitarianism (Part 1, 2 & 3).

**TED Talks & YouTube:**

Does God exist? (Frank Turek vs. Christopher Hitchens) – Cross Examined

Crash Course Philosophy: The Problem of Evil & Suffering/ Utilitarianism/ Ontological/ Teleological/ Cosmological arguments for God’s existence

Would you sacrifice one person to save five – Eleanor Nelson

The why and how of effective altruism – Peter Singer

Peter Singer: Ethics, Utilitarianism and effective altruism

**Work to complete over the summer:**

Read/ listen/ watch the suggested resources and bring any notes with you to the first lesson. Think about the following two questions and write your ideas. Minimum: half a side of A4 per question.

* **What makes something ‘morally wrong’?**
* **Can we prove that God exists?**

