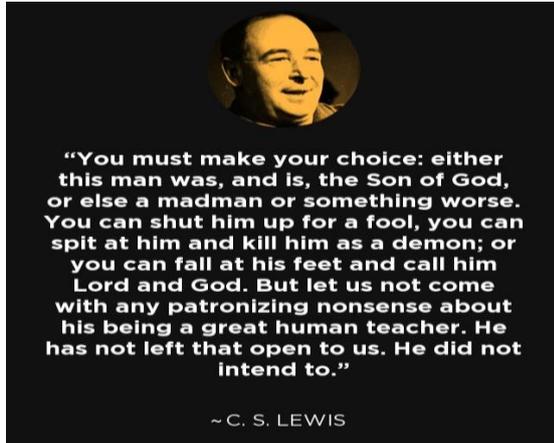


Is Jesus mad, bad or God?

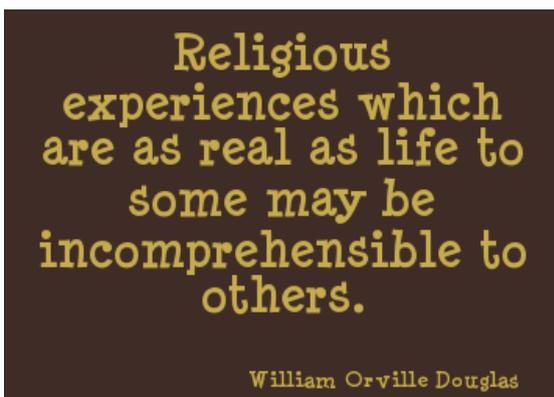
Over the past few weeks, Year 7 Religion & Philosophy classrooms have been transforming into court rooms, as RE Inspired volunteers have been taking on the roles of Caiaphas (the Jewish high priest), Peter (Jesus' disciple) and Pontius Pilate (the governor of the Roman province of Judaea who presided over Jesus' trial). The characters were asked questions about their perception of Jesus and students acted as the jury to **determine whether the evidence suggested Jesus was mad, bad or God.**



Students demonstrated their ability to evaluate key evidence and reach an overall conclusion based on that evidence within their groups. Unsurprisingly, the jury is still out but we all really enjoyed exploring the ideas around this challenging question.

Are Religious Experiences evidence of the existence of God?

This term, Year 8 had the pleasure of debating the validity of religious experiences with RE Inspired. The discussions were enhancing our current unit of study entitled '**Can philosophical arguments prove the existence of God?**' With RE Inspired, we firstly explored whether experiences or the consequences of experiences are more important. Then students learnt about some examples of religious experiences from Paul, Silas and the Jailer, Jackie Pullinger and Brother Andrew. After discussing the experiences and consequences within each of these examples, students discussed whether these are good evidence for the existence of God.



Finally, one of the RE Inspired volunteers told students about their own religious experience, with one volunteer explaining their numinous experience at a camp as a child and another having a vision experience as an adult. Then students got the opportunity to ask their incredibly pertinent and thought-provoking questions, really challenging the volunteers to reflect on their beliefs. Questions included did you ever question whether your religious experience could have come from another

source, do all religious experiences have good outcomes and why do religious experiences happen in other religions?

Thank you, as always, to Carrie and the RE Inspired volunteers for their fantastic session and for providing us with the opportunity to explore this fascinating debate.