



## Secondary Schools Newsletter September 2018

I hope you had a good break and spent at least part of the time relaxing!

This is from a talk given by Mother Teresa to teachers in 1979. It appears to be still relevant (if not more so) today.

I beg of you

Be faithful to the gift of God that has been entrusted to you to teach.

You are for many the only light amongst the young you encounter.

The future of the world depends on what you help build.

You are the one that can, as a teacher, stand before them as the presence of Christ.

May the young entrusted to you be always able to see Christ in you;

Today the young are often misled and you are the ones who need to be truth.

Today there is much injustice and selfishness;

You are the ones who need to model justice and compassion

Be light to them, be the light that will lead them to God

People are hungry, especially the young, hungry for acceptance, for meaning, for love and even if they do not know it, hungry for God

You are the one who can help satisfy that hunger

Be faithful to the gift God has given you

His gift to be a teacher,

To be light,

To be God's light amongst the young.

### GCSE RE

After an 'interesting period' introducing the new exam syllabus the results are now out for the first cohort. Just before we broke for summer I sent a request from Philip Robinson (The national RE advisor) for you to complete the national form on RE results. I have included the letter from Philip again as it is so important.

#### *GCSE Religious Studies Results Survey 2018*

*In order to ensure that Ofqual is fulfilling its regulatory role properly and that Catholic schools are not unfairly disadvantaged in this Summer's GCSE Religious Studies examination, it is vital that we collect the results of the GCSE Religious Studies as soon as they are published in August. Given Ofqual's assurances, we should expect to see 75% of pupils nationally passing the new examination at Grade 4 and above and 30% of pupils pass the new examination at Grade 7 and above. If this proves not to be the case, we will be lodging an early appeal to Ofqual on behalf of Catholic schools. We need the assistance of schools to collect this data in a timely fashion. Please complete this very short Google form that will enable us to collect the necessary data:*

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOlwP2IEu0YD8HepkOy\\_KUSrb5ImzNTIap9e-nhuYE0Fo-0Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOlwP2IEu0YD8HepkOy_KUSrb5ImzNTIap9e-nhuYE0Fo-0Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)

*The form asks you to submit:*

1. *Board and specification choice*
2. *Second religion*
3. *Cohort Size*
4. *Number of entries*
5. *Numbers achieving each grade.*

*Please make all returns by **Friday 7 September 2018.***

I would also ask (and I do realise you might think this is just extra work, but they are needed for different purposes) that you complete the diocesan form and return as soon as possible directly to me please.

If you have any immediate concerns about the paper or the marking please contact me as soon as possible.

For those of you doing **Eduqas** (and even if you are not) can I remind you that there is an on line Religious Studies e-magazine, REconnect. Authored by subject specialists with contributions from across the Religious Studies community, the magazine has been designed to support teachers delivering reformed GCSE, AS and A-level Religious Studies specifications.

Each edition includes topical articles as well as teaching and examination preparation ideas. There are links to free digital resources which complement components of the specifications, (this is not specifically the Catholic option) however, those of you not doing this paper may still find these interesting.

## **Heads of RE Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> September: Brownhill Convent, Stroud**

Philip Robinson will again be attending this meeting to give us further advice after analysing the current results. Please note our meeting begins at 10.00am. This meeting will also introduce the new outcomes in RE. Lunch is provided. Please e mail Graham ([graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com)) to let him know you are attending and specify your dietary requirements when booking. All schools are expected to attend. Please bring with you, copies of the GCSE paper, it would also be helpful to know if there were any significant differences between expected and actual grades as well as your general comments on the papers.

## **New outcomes in RE**

All primary schools within the diocese will be using the new outcomes in RE rather than the old levels of attainment. Secondary schools will be expected to follow suit. This is a trial period of approximately 2 years during which time the curriculum directory will be revised. Although the national framework involves end of key stage outcomes, most schools in the initial trial indicated that they would prefer end of year outcomes. Primary schools already have these and there is one available for years 7, 8 and 9 if you wish to use it. The national standards are attached together with a glossary

and skills document. You should be able to see that the skills mirror those found within the GCSE. A copy of the primary outcomes is available on the website and you must refer to these in any transition or joint moderation work. You will also be able to see examples of the type of work being undertaken by pupils in year 6 by looking on the website

### **Latest from CAFOD**

- **Romero canonisation**

On 14 October, the whole Church will be celebrating the canonisation of Oscar Romero. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the life of a great saint who was such an inspiration. Cafod have resources to support moments of learning, reflection and prayer on this special day.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Romero-secondary-resources>  
<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Romero>

- **If possible, please try to celebrate this in school**

### **Advance notice from Cafod**

Family Fast Day (Friday 5 October).

Advent resources, available from November.

### **A Level**

- There does not appear to be any significant shift overall in standards as a direct result of the new A Levels but if you have concerns I would appreciate knowing.
- **Pax Christi:** Working jointly with Quaker Peace and Social Witness, Pax Christi have produced a series of lessons for A level work in Peace education. The lessons can be found at <http://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/a-level-re/> If you cannot use them with your particular A level scheme they would also support general RE. There are 3 topics so far including lesson plans and resources

### **Sixth Form General RE**

- Could you please ensure I have an up to date copy of your syllabus for this, together with an explanation of how it is to be delivered and the % of curriculum time allocated to it. (Bishops' Conference requirements state 5% of curriculum time)

### **A Future Full of Hope**

- The Year of prayer continues until Advent. Our focus is therefore still on Mission. We are hoping to do a lot of work for Mission Together and Missio. They were founded in 1843 which makes this their 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They also have a number of resources for Advent on their site. Please consult the Chaplaincy newsletter for more details but please use the website for information and resources.
- In Advent we will move into the Year of Prayer. Our focus will be on the prayer life of the school and supporting the development of a culture of vocation. Please consult the Chaplaincy Newsletter for further details. Full details will be given to Chaplains at the chaplaincy day in November.

## Sex and Relationship Education

- A revised version of the document in ‘**Made in God’s Image Challenging homophobic and biphobic bullying in Catholic Schools**’ has now been produced. A copy has been sent to your head teacher but this is also available from the CES website. You need to click on ‘about us,’ then go to ‘publications.’ The beginning sections outline Catholic teaching and are useful to guide and inform policies. Lesson plans are also included. Please note these lessons are aimed at **Year 9 and older pupils**.

## The CCRS

Many departments are now operating with non-Catholic members of staff. There is no issue with this as only the Head of Department is a reserved post **however, you must ensure that whilst respecting the beliefs of others they feel able and confident in teaching all aspects of Catholicism**. One route might be the CCRS. Full details of this are available in our course booklet, but we begin the course on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September with the Old Testament Module. We complete 4 modules a year on a rolling programme. Each module involves one Saturday and one day in school time. Heads agreed they would support this programme. **Bishop Declan** has written the following:

*“I would like to commend the CCRS Course as a necessary part of ongoing formation for teachers within our Catholic schools both at primary and secondary level. To maintain and help develop Catholic ethos of our schools it is essential that teachers have a basic knowledge of the Catholic faith and are able to share this with students. Young people can sometimes be very challenging in their questions and this is true in matters of faith and belief. This course is designed to help teachers respond to the needs of their students as they make their journey in faith.”*

## Education Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Almost as soon as we are back we have Education Sunday, this year on 9<sup>th</sup> September. The theme this year is **Faith and Works** which explores the notion of equality. **Go to [www.cte.org.uk/educationsunday2018](http://www.cte.org.uk/educationsunday2018)** to see the resources. This year the materials are aimed at older pupils and those who teach them. Bishop Declan has written a pastoral letter for Education Sunday. Part of the aim of the Bishop’s pastoral letter is to raise the profile of teaching as a career.

## 6<sup>th</sup> November: A Conference for Sixth form pupil in association with Newman University

### **Bishop Declan will be attending the conference**

This conference (which is free for sixth formers) will be focused around Catholic Social Teaching and how this impacts on the career choices we make. Newman university will provide guidance on careers in both teaching and health care. The venue is to be confirmed but will be in the Bristol area. Lunch and materials will be provided. If your school or college has a sixth form the Bishop would encourage you to send pupils to this conference. Year 11 pupils are welcome if you believe it would benefit them. Further details will be confirmed in the next week or so.

## So, what do you need to know about RE?

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> October

**Time:** 10 to 12 (Tea/Coffee available beforehand)

**Venue:** Alexander House

This is a short course for **link governors in RE**

This will look at recent changes in RE both in terms of curriculum and assessment. It will consider how governors fulfil their role and the evidence they need to have for section 48 inspections. We will try to respond to any questions governors may have and also take a brief look at chaplaincy. Please try to encourage your link governor to come to this.

Please book a place by contacting Graham on [graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com)

## Some Liturgical dates for this term

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Education Sunday
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Home Mission Day
<b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Sept - Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Little Way Week (see Chaplaincy newsletter)</b>
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Memorial of The Holy Guardian Angels
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Memorial of St Francis of Assisi
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Cafod Harvest Fast Day
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	World Mission Day
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<b>All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	All Souls' Day
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	First Sunday in Advent

Many thanks for all your work

Ann

**Results Form: Year 11**

<b>Name of School</b>		
	<b>Summer 2017</b>	<b>Summer 2018</b>
<b>No of Pupils in Year 11</b>		
<b>GCSE syllabus and options</b>		
<b>No of Pupils entered for GCSE</b>		
<b>For 2017% A*-C (of total no of pupils not total number entered)</b> <b>For 2018 %pupils Level 5 and above</b>		
<b>For 2017%A*-A (of total no of pupils not total number entered)</b> <b>For 2018% of pupils Level 9</b>		

### Sixth Form

	<b>Summer 2016</b>	<b>Summer 2017</b>
<b>Name of School</b>		
<b>A Level Syllabus</b>		
<b>No of Pupils entered</b>		
<b>% Pass Rate</b>		
<b>%A* - A</b>		
<b>% A* - C</b>		