



Autumn 2009
Secondary

RE NEWSLETTER

Special points of interest:

- SACRE Celebration Event
- Secondary Curriculum and RE
- RE Adviser Visits
- Support for the new GCSE RS Exams
- Invite to India

Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
Celebration of the SACRED Event & Art competition	1
National Updates	2
Improving School Inspections	2
Secondary Curriculum & RE	2
RE & Community Cohesion	3
RE Adviser Visits	3
Courses/Network Meetings	4

Cambridgeshire Advisory Service

To: RE Subject Leaders and Teachers

Welcome

Welcome back to all teachers who have enjoyed a well-earned holiday and are now ‘pulling at the bit’ to go again! I do hope that means many of you are looking forward to the start of another year, having enjoyed your holidays. There is something exciting about a new year.

Welcome also to all new teachers to the profession. This is such a rewarding job but not without its challenges. Be assured that there are always colleagues that can support you and that you are not on your own. Don’t ever hesitate to ask for help or contact me if you ever need advice or help.

Welcome to all new subject leaders or faculty leaders that have the responsibility for Religious Education in the curriculum. If you are new to this role do get in contact and let Julie Gillies, my Business Support Assistant, know by email at julie.gillies@cambridgeshire.gov.uk so that we can keep up to date

with our records of subject coordinators/leaders and keep you informed of any relevant national updates in the RE world. If you are new to the post in a in Peterborough school contact Lynne Perry and let her know at lynne.perry@peterborough.gov.uk

Special News! Celebration of the SACRED Event and Spiritual Art Competition

The Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) will be hosting an after school celebration event, as part of their responsibility to promote community cohesion and good RE, on **Wednesday 4th November 2009 3.30pm-7.00pm, at Comberton Community College**. This event is for all RE Subject leaders, both primary and secondary and Headteachers. Invitations will be sent out early in the autumn term. There will be an opportunity to participate in a choice of mini workshops, network with colleagues, SACRE members and

faith communities, and review valuable resources.

As part of the celebration, an art competition, based on the theme 'spiritual art', will shortly be published and winners announced at the celebration event. Please put this date in your diary.

National Updates and News

NATRE News

Do you know about The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education? (**NATRE**). NATRE is the subject teacher association for RE professionals in primary and secondary schools and higher education, providing a focal point for their concerns, a representative voice at national level and publications and courses to promote professional development.

Look on the web link below. This is free to join. All you have to do is register, get a user name and password when you first log in and apply to join. Thereafter it gives teachers of RE fantastic resources, ideas and training opportunities.

<http://www.natre.org.uk/index.php>

NATRE Secondary Film Project Look at the three short films for Secondary teachers: 'What do you know about RE? RE in the curriculum and Opting for RS'. I think these could be very useful in the classroom and for departmental meetings, with non-specialist colleagues in your team. The support material also gives you ideas how to use the film.

<http://www.natre.org.uk/explore/video.php?id=47>

'Improving School Inspections : What RE Teachers Need to Know'

From **REonline** look at what the HMI for Religious Education, Mr Alan Brine, has said this summer about the significance for RE teachers about the new inspection framework commencing September 2009. The new Framework for the Inspection of maintained

schools from September 2009 has been made available on the Ofsted website. It highlights the key features of the new inspection arrangements which have been driven by a greater focus on improvement, the views of parents and pupils and 'narrowing the gap'. This is an extremely useful piece so please do take a look

http://news.reonline.org.uk/re_news.php?288

In summary the new arrangements maintain the importance of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Ofsted will also make judgements about the effectiveness of the curriculum, including RE. There will be judgements about the effectiveness of the Governing Body meeting their responsibilities including those in relation to RE and collective worship. Judgements about leadership and management and their ability to drive improvement will not only apply to the senior leadership team and the Headteacher but to all levels of management i.e. subject leaders. Finally the new arrangements reiterate the priority of promoting community cohesion and that includes understanding of the religious communities locally, nationally and globally.

Secondary Curriculum and Religious Education.

This September sees the rolling out of year 8 programmes of study from the new KS3 curriculum. How do you feel your school and your department worked at implementing the new Key Stage 3 curriculum in year 7? Evidence from Mr Dave Francis, the national leading RE consultant on the implementation of KS3, suggests that there are some very exciting curriculum innovations that have had a positive impact upon the quality of RE being taught in secondary schools. Where the focus has been upon developing skills, concepts and processes within the department or with colleagues from other disciplines, the rigour and challenge of the subject has risen, as has the enjoyment from the pupils. However, this is not the picture universally.

Cambridgeshire SACRE are funding INSET that

is **FREE** for all teachers of Religious Education in the secondary phase to support teachers in the county on moving forward with the implementation of the new curriculum. Kathryn Wright, the regional subject adviser is going to deliver a very practical day's course, looking at examples of good practice and how you can incorporate the key concepts, skills and processes more into your subject area.

The date of the course is Wednesday 30th September 9.00am-3.30pm at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

For more details of the course please see the RE homepage and book at least one person from your department to come on the course. (www.re.cceducation.net)

RE and Community Cohesion

Another new course this term is 'Promoting Community Cohesion through RE'. In the light of Ofsted comments since last September 2008, when it became a statutory requirement for Ofsted to make judgements about schools' ability to promote community cohesion, there are significant links to Religious Education. If you feel this is an area where your school could improve upon, or you want some fresh new ideas about how to promote this, come on this course.

Support for the new GCSE Religious Studies Exams

If you feel you need some support or ideas about how to teach the new GCSE Religious Studies courses from any exam board please do not hesitate to get in contact, as I am Chief Examiner for Religious Studies for one of the major exam boards.

RE Adviser Visits

I have now been in post three years. I cannot believe where the time has gone. When I first came into the county I contacted many of you and arranged a visit to meet you and introduced myself. I am aware that there have been changes in some departments in schools. Also there have been significant

changes in the secondary curriculum. I would like to know how SACRE and I could support you in the future. Next year also sees the beginning of the review process of the Agreed Syllabus. There are going to have to be major changes in the document to reflect the national change in the curriculum. So I would like to come and visit you and your department some time in the next year and see what has happened in your school with RE, how SACRE could support you and offer some funded projects about curriculum development that I have in mind. I will be in touch once the term has started and hope to meet teachers from all of our secondary schools.

Resources for teaching Islam

'Q Fatima', a charity aimed at the production of Islamic resources, has recently released a Qur'an Toolkit to aid the teaching of Islam. The resource includes key concept cards and a poster all designed to encapsulate the message of each chapter of the Qur'an.

For more information see <http://www.qfatima.com/>

Invite to India

Now that the summer holiday is a distant memory, it's time to start planning next summer – what about a visit to India?

The Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council (i.e. all churches in Cambridgeshire) is linked to the Diocese of Vellore in South India – the Diocese straddles a predominantly rural area on the border of the states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Regular visits take place between the two countries, and in August 2010 it is proposed to take a group of teachers across for approximately three weeks to spend time with the local Christian communities and to also have the opportunity of trying their hand at teaching in Indian schools (in English!). The visit will also include sightseeing opportunities and some visits to Hindu temples, but the focus will be on being with Christians in India. If you are interested in finding out more about this trip, why not take a look at the host of photographs

on <http://www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/vellore/> to whet your appetite, and then come along to a meeting to find out more on **2nd November**. The meeting will be held at 7.30p.m. at the Diocesan Office in Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DX. Everyone welcome – even if you are “just looking”! If you have any queries in advance of the meeting please contact Shirley Hall on shirley.hall@ely.anglican.org.

Multi-Cultural Library

Don't forget that at Cromwell Road Children's Services, Peterborough, there is an excellent library of resources to support the teaching of RE. Artefacts, as well as books, can be loaned out free to schools in Peterborough. Contact Vika Joblonskyte 01733 864584 for further details.

Courses Autumn Term 2009

Let RE Lead the New KS3 Curriculum,
Hinchbrooke Park, PE29 6DB
30 Sep 2009, 9.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Course Code 19633

NB - This is a **FREE COURSE** for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Heads of Department and Teachers of RE. Don't let this opportunity pass you by.

Promote Community Cohesion Through RE,
7 Oct 2009, Over Community Centre,
1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Course Code 19417

RE Network Meetings Autumn Term 2009

10 Nov 2009 - Ely Community College,
CB6 2SH 4.15 p.m. - 5.45 p.m.
Code 19545

19 Nov 2009 - Hills Rd 6th Form College,
CB 2 2PE 4.15 p.m. - 5.45 p.m.
Code 19546

To book a place on the above or request further details, please phone 01480 375634 or e-mail CAS@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

To find out about the objectives for the courses above look at the details on www.cas.ccceducation.net

The HSEP RE Network meeting will be held at St Peter's School - date to be confirmed.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.re.ccceducation.net
