



Secondary Schools Newsletter June 2005

As we begin the new term it seems appropriate to invoke the presence of the Holy Spirit to bless all we do:

*Life giving Spirit, we open our hearts to receive you,
That we may learn how deeply you are present to us.
Bring us your love, peace and joy.
Complete the work you have begun in us.
Your activity is beyond all human words.
You are the love that unites us together
You are the strength that gives us hope to endure everything
You have recreated us in the image of Christ.
Continue to renew us today and everyday of our lives*

I know that most of you are in the middle of the exam season and if I hope it goes well, if you have just changed boards to Ed Excel or OCR I would appreciate feedback on the results.

Thank you for all your help in the planning and preparation of the Secondary Schools' Mass. The Bishop also wishes to extend his thanks to those of you who worked so hard to make it a success. There are some pictures available on the main Clifton web site but we took more on the day. If you would like to see these or use any of them for your own newsletters please contact the department.

Congratulations to Terry Shetcliffe who has been appointed Head of RE at St Benedict's Cheltenham. Terry takes up her post in September.

Section 48

New regulations come into force from September. New documentation will be available on the web site in late August. Meanwhile please continue to use the existing self review form.

22nd June 2005. Head's of RE Meeting

This will look at Relationship Education. There will be a presentation on the Birmingham scheme and a scheme devised by Marriage Care. As we have a speaker there is a charge of £45, which includes lunch. During the day there will be an opportunity to look at the work of The Clifton Catholic Children's Society and tour their new premises. They are anxious to develop closer links with schools and further information on this will be

provided on the day. If you haven't already confirmed with Jenny that you are coming could you do so as soon as possible. This issue is an extremely important one and if you are unable to be present yourself I would appreciate it if your school could be represented. This day is also open to relevant governors.

Service level Agreement.

This is now in operation. All VA Secondary School RE departments are entitled to two days of my time. How you want to use this is up to you (within reason!). The following are suggestions;

- To work with individual teachers or NQT'S
- To carry out classroom observations
- Inset on various aspects of Teaching and Learning
- To support or develop retreat programmes
- To help the department prepare for inspection

Please note a full review of a department normally takes three days, you may use your allocated two towards this if you wish. Whole school inset is charged separately. I would appreciate it if you would book your time in advance though I would always try to respond to emergencies. I would also appreciate being invited to a departmental meeting at an appropriate time during the year. As well as making me aware of your concerns this would also give me an opportunity to meet all members of the department.

Dates for Your Diary

- **Heads of RE Day Thursday 6th October 2005.**
This day will be led by Kate Ricks who so successfully led us in thinking about the teaching and learning strategy last year. This year the focus is "Assessment for Learning". The day will be held at Alexander House and the cost is £40 including lunch.
- **NQT Day Tuesday 11th October 2005**
This day is also open to those who are new to Catholic education and will be held at Alexander House. Further details will follow later.
- **Mass for Teachers and Governors Tuesday 8th November at 7.30 pm.**
This will be held at Clifton Cathedral and our main celebrant will be Bishop Declan. It will be an opportunity for all to rededicate their work to God. Afterwards tea and coffee will be served in the Apostle's room to give everyone a chance to meet their colleagues from around the diocese. I would appreciate it if you could draw this event to the notice of all your colleagues and encourage them to attend. If you would be willing to help with the music, (please!) could you contact me as soon as possible.
- **"Come Lord Jesus" Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th November 2005**
An opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Advent and Christmas as individuals and as members of school communities. This will be an ideal opportunity for all members of a school community including teachers, governors and support assistants to come together in prayer. The aim will be not only to reflect on the meaning of Advent for ourselves as individuals but also consider

how we might best open up the meaning to our students. This event will run both in Bristol and Salisbury. Further details will follow later.

- **Education Sunday February 12th 2006**
A more detailed information pack giving details of how you can support this event will be available from the CES in November
- **“Come Back to Me” Tuesday 28th February 2006**
An evening of preparation for Lent to be held at Prinknash Abbey. Further details will follow later.
- **Heads of RE Day Wednesday 15th March 2006 (To be Confirmed)**
This day will be led by Lat Blaylock from RE Today and will continue the work of Kate Ricks on assessment.
- **Secondary schools Mass Wednesday 17th May 2006**
Further details will follow before Christmas

Further details of all courses and events will be found on our website

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all your work this year. I hope you have a well deserved rest this summer. From the 9th to the 22nd August I will be in Cologne with a group taking part in World Youth Day. Please pray this will open up the hearts and minds of all those taking part to the power of God’s Spirit. On a more mundane level please pray we all get back safe and sound. I suspect I may be getting too old for this I am sure I never used to worry so much when I was younger!

Finally (honest!)

On September 4th the department will be running a day for 18-30 year olds in Prinknash Abbey. The course called “Renewing the Vision” will aim to encourage, challenge and inspire young adults to become involved in parish life. If you are aware of anyone in that age range that you think might benefit from such a course could you please actively encourage them to take part? Further details are available from Joanna, phone 01179025594 or e mail joanna.jensen@cliftondiocese.com

God Bless

Ann Fowler

Secondary Schools Adviser