



Secondary Schools Newsletter September 2005

Welcome back:

I hope that you all managed to enjoy a break over the summer holidays and didn't spend all your time working. During August I was privileged, to be part of the World Youth Day events and I return conscious of the fact that I stereotype people far more than I thought I did. I am now in a position to confirm that Germans are not super efficient; their train system does not run like clockwork, the English however are the only race possessing the ability *and desire* to queue! On a more serious note however it was a great privilege to be part of this. It is impossible to fully describe the atmosphere of the major set piece events. Being part of a million people walking literally and figuratively in the same direction is quite something but the less publicised events were equally worth while. The warmth of the welcome of the German families who hosted our group, the catechises in the parishes, the sharing with young people from almost every country in the world; all of this contributed to an overwhelming sense of being part of something that mattered. Many of the young people spoke of their need to find meaning in their lives; to find hope for the future in a world dominated by images of war, hatred violence. For the English group in particular it was a reminder that we are part of a world wide church that transcends culture and nationality, it so easy for young Christians in the UK to feel marginalised. The next WYD will be in Sydney in 2008. Organising this will be a major event. **I would welcome the opportunity to talk to year 11 and sixth form pupils** about the events of this year's WYD and our plans for the next one.

Inspection

As you are aware the new format for inspection begins this September, and we move to a three yearly cycle. Section 48 inspections now rely heavily on the self evaluation forms. The new documentation is now available on the web site, select schools, then inspection. Heads of RE are only responsible for the part referring to classroom RE the rest should be filled in by the SMT team. If you require help with the form please ring.

Examinations

Thank you for all the hard work you have put in with year 11 and sixth form students. Whatever your percentage pass rate I know how much time you put in and what efforts you and your departments made last year. If you could complete the attached form I would be grateful as it helps to give an overall picture of the diocese. If you have a general sixth form group doing a NABS approved course then can I remind you this needs validating. I need to see the documentation and visit the lessons, please make appointments for a time which suits you. If you changed exam boards last year I would welcome your comments on your new syllabus.

Dates for Your Diary

- **Heads of RE Day Thursday 12th 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”. This is a change of date from the original notification and arises because of a meeting Kate has to attend. We did send round an amendment in July. 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. **This year there will also be a new residential course for NQT’S held at Kintbury and developed by the De La Salle Team. This will on 21st March to the 22nd March.** The focus of this will be to new teacher develop their understanding of what it means to teach in a faith school. This would also be suitable for more experienced staff new to faith schools. Further details of this will be sent out later in the term
- **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 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. If you would like to take responsibility for a specific part of the mass please would you confirm this in writing as soon as possible

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

Resources

There is a new magazine called “Roots” which is a worship and learning resource supported by the Church’s Together group. It has three components; a magazine for children and young people, a magazine for clergy and laity responsible for leading worship and a web site www.rootsontheweb.com . You can see samples of their material and order on line or you can phone 01733 325002

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.

Finally we pray;

*Give us O God
The vision which can see
Your love in the world
in spite of human failure.
Give us faith, trust and goodness
in spite of our ignorance and weakness.
Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray
with understanding hearts;
Give us Your hope in our hearts
Even when we see our dreams crash around us
and show what each of us can do
to bring about your kingdom*

(Loreto prayer Book)

R.E SURVEY FORM 2005

Name of School

Head of RE

Number on Roll % Baptised Catholics (if known)

No of full time RE staff (including Head of RE)

No of part-time RE staff

No of those teaching RE without formal qualifications

Key Stage 3

Syllabus

Icons Way, Truth, Life

Other Please give brief details

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.....

% time given to RE

Key Stage 4

Is the GCSE an option or compulsory

GCSE Syllabus - Please give full details including options

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Non GCSE Syllabus (if taken)

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% time given to RE

% of students entered for GCSE in 2005

% pass rate (of those entered not whole year)

If you have any thoughts on any Inset you would like the Diocese to provide please include them here

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For Schools with Sixth Form

Number in Sixth Form

Is A Level RE provided Yes No

Number of Students doing AS Level

Number of Students doing A2 Level

% time given to general RE

Thank you for your co-operation.

Please Note: *If doing an ASET course when filling in the pupil count form, please put the title of the course and the accreditation number.*

If you are following a course approved by NABS, please put N/A where it asks for accreditation number and state it has been NABS approved.