



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The National Society

RE NEWS UPDATE

Spring Term 2015

Welcome to the Spring term news update. We would like to extend our thanks to Jane Chipperton who worked as the RE Consultant for The National Society for two years. During Jane's tenure we saw the annual RE conference for Heads of Department go from strength to strength. Jane was especially effective at sustaining the network and keeping practitioners in schools close to the work of the Church and the Church close to the issues of the Chalkface. We wish her every success as she concentrates on the schools in her diocese.

Nicola Sylvester

RE for REAL

In February Westminster Faith Debates held a public debate on the future of Religious Education, following a

morning consultation with invited schools and RE professionals on what is working well and what needs to change about Religious Education in the UK. The event which was chaired by the Rt. Hon Charles Clarke included contributions from speakers such as Dr. Mark Chater, Professor Linda Woodhead, Professor Adam Dinham and Andrew Copson. A number of local schools attended the event where students were asked to reflect on questions such as *'what is the most important and effective part of learning or teaching in R.E. for you?'*

The students offered some very insightful views on how the RE curriculum can increase knowledge and understanding for the real world today. More details here:

<http://faithdebates.org.uk/debates/re-for-real-religious-education/>

Annual Religious Education Conference

The annual conference for subject leaders of religious education takes place in London on **Thursday 25th June 2015**.

This year we invite our **primary** colleagues to attend for the first time and the programme has been designed to reflect this. Speakers include Deborah Weston, Alan Brine and Mary Myatt (REQM) Cavan Wood.



Alan Brine will discuss the outcome of the Making a Difference report on the provision for RE in church schools. Contact: jemma.adams@churchofengland.org

GCSE and A Level reform: Religious Studies

The consultation on the criteria for GCSE and A Level examinations in Religious Studies closed on 28th December 2014. The government published its response in February 2015.

The full detail can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gcse-and-a-level-reform--2>



Over the last few months Lat Blaylock has been working with the **BBC** on 5 new RE programmes for 7-11s. They will all go on to the BBC website and be free to stream. If you prefer to record the programmes the transmission will, almost certainly, be overnight on these dates:

Christianity: 0530 - 24/03/15, **BBC Two**

Sikhism: 0500 - 25/03/15, **BBC Two**

Judaism: 0530 - 25/03/15, **BBC Two**

Islam: 0500 - 26/03/15, **BBC Two**

Hinduism: 0530 - 26/03/15,

BBC Two

They can sometimes change at short notice, so please keep an eye on TV schedules.

Taizé School & College Weeks 2015

Taizé is an international and ecumenical monastic community founded in 1940 in the village of the same name, in Burgundy (France). From the 1960s the Community has welcomed young adults (minimum age 15) for week-long meetings. 80,000 young people from all over the world participate in these meetings each year.

Some weeks in June and July are designated *school and college weeks* for which school groups (Years 10-13;

Scotland: S3 - S6) and 6th-form college groups are especially invited.

In 2015 the community celebrates its 75th anniversary and invites its friends to remember its founder, Brother Roger, 100 years after his birth. From 21 June, during the whole summer there will be special exhibitions and hands-on workshops led by world artists.

http://www.taize.fr/en_article12380.html

Professional Seminar Days

RE Advisers

27th to 28th April 2015

Church House

Advisers are invited to attend seminars on Theological Enquiry and classroom practice.

The sessions will be led by Dr Esther Reed, Dr Rob Freathy and Dr Anna Davis from Exeter University. They will take place at Church House, London.

A limited number of spaces are available for the 28th April, but all places on 27th are now fully booked.

Please contact

jemma.adams@churchofengland.org for further information.