



AUTUMN TERM 2016 R.E. NEWSLETTER

The RE Advisory Service

Welcome to the new term and I hope you had a good and restful summer break. The post of RE adviser has now been filled by Amanda Fitton.

I am an experienced teacher having previously been Head of Humanities in a large community school in Leicester. Over the past few years I have been working at the University of Northampton as Curriculum Leader for RE for primary Initial Teacher Training and I will carry on my role there part time. I have also been a member of the Northamptonshire SACRE since 2015. I have plenty of experience of teaching RE from EYFS to GCSE.

As my role of RE & SACRE Adviser will be shared between Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Northamptonshire, I will be working two days a week across the three areas. My role is to support all three SACRE and all the schools in these areas. It is hoped that by conjoining the role with all areas it will encourage cross participation with all schools.

I will be running a variety of CPD opportunities. I am hoping to start the network meetings that have been very successful over previous years for both Primary and Secondary teachers for all Northamptonshire schools. If you wish to contact me please do so at sacre@northamptonshire.gov.uk

The RE Agreed Syllabus

Over the coming months the Agreed Syllabus is going to be reviewed and this will be done jointly between Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. This will take time but we aim to bring RE up to date with current teaching practices that also reflect current social views and thinking. Each SACRE welcomes volunteers for the working parties from all sectors of education, all different religious faiths and backgrounds to work with SACRE on the Agreed Syllabus. This is an opportunity to help influence and shape the RE curriculum taught in all schools in each of the areas. Please find the Northamptonshire SACRE meeting dates for 2016-2017 at the end of this newsletter.

Training and Network meetings

The Religious Education Advisory Service is running a variety of training courses over the coming year. Please refer to the training timetable attached to the email for further details. To book please contact Northamptonshire SACRE at sacre@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Understanding Christianity

A newly launched national resource pack “**Understanding Christianity: Text, Impact, Connections**” will set the bar for the quality of teaching and learning about Christianity in **all** schools and academies across the country for years to come. It is an enquiry based programme which supports an in depth look at the concepts and beliefs which underpin Christianity, and resources teachers and pupils alike to engage with them at an appropriate level. It consists of 29 units, over 150 photocopiable resources, and full teacher support materials. “Understanding Christianity” will both support your work on the core units of the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus, and also provide an abundance of material for effective School Designed RE Units.

The materials will only be available as part of an RE CPD programme which will be run out across the county from next term in a variety of ways (whole days, half days and twilights).

Please see the attached flyer from Lesley Pollard an education adviser at Peterborough Diocese who is coordinating the launch and the training events.

Want to know more about Sikhism?

Peterborough Diocese and Northampton Gudwara based in St Georges Street, have organised a training session for all schools in Northamptonshire to help develop a better understanding of Sikhism. This is on Thursday 10th November 2016. Please see the attached flyer for more information and contact details.

Want to know more about Judaism?

The Synagogue in Northampton run educational events for children and students. They will also come out to your schools. You can contact them on the following link.

www.northantsshc.org

Consultancies

The Religious Education Service is happy to provide a tailored training programme to fit the needs of individual schools. The fee for this is £96.00 per hour (+VAT where necessary) this includes preparation time, delivering of the training or support, resources for the school, admin, support and travel expenses. Please contact sacre@northamptonshire.gov.uk for more information.

OFSTED/Curriculum news

Ofsted have updated the framework guidance for the academic year 2016/17. The guidance again refers to the need to actively promote British Values and RE can be a good way to promote these values. It is important to note that a judgement will be made on the effectiveness and impact for the provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and good/outstanding RE can be used to help promote SMSC. We will endeavour to keep you informed about any changes and their relevance to RE.

NATRE have recorded a rise in A level entries for 2016 an increase of 6.8% from 2015. They state that 'The subject matter and approach of an RS A-level helps to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to succeed in modern Britain.' They go on to say that RS is a subject that helps young people gain access to a wide range of degree courses including those at the most prestigious Universities. Our most recent FOI request found that more than 1 in 10 students admitted to Oxford's PPE and History courses had studied RS A-Level, this statistic increases to more than 1 in 5 for students admitted to study English.

Good resources and teaching ideas can be found on the Guardian web page and these are updated on a regular basis please follow the link below.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/religiousstudiesandtheology>

If you have found other excellent sources of resources please share that with us and we will include these on the SACRE website and in the next newsletter.

Feedback on whether/how you used these sources would be gratefully received—please let us know at

sacre@northamptonshire.gov.uk

CONTACT:

If you would like to get in contact regarding anything mentioned in this newsletter please contact:

sacre@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Northamptonshire SACRE meetings:

- Wednesday 7 September 2016 at 4.30 pm
- Tuesday 6 December 2016 at 4.30 pm
- Tuesday 7 March 2017 at 4.30 pm
- Tuesday 6 June 2017 at 4.30 pm

All meetings are held at: County Hall from 4.30 –6.00pm

Amanda Fitton

RE & SACRE Adviser

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