

## Having SACRE, National RE update: Spring 2021

### NATRE curriculum symposium

NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE) will be running a 24 hour residential curriculum symposium in Autumn. The association is hopeful that it will be able to run this as a face to face event in order to create a curriculum learning community.

There will only be 25 places for delegates, therefore NATRE will be running an application process as it wishes to attract delegates from a variety of school types and at different stages of their journey on thinking about curriculum design.

At present, potential applicants are being asked to express their interest via this link: [Curriculum Symposium Expression of Interest Survey \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/survey/curriculum-symposium-expression-of-interest)

As part of the symposium delegates will hear from both experts and practitioners in the area of curriculum design generally and curriculum design in for RE. As part of the process there will be tasks to complete before the symposium that will be shared with other delegates to prepare for the time spent together in the learning community. There is also an expectation that all delegates will provide a write up of their learning and subsequent curriculum development in early 2022.

Parts of this event will be filmed and written up so that this symposium, or aspects of it, can be replicated in NATRE local groups, individual schools etc. This face to face event and the subsequent legacy materials for use by others is generously supported by Westhill and CSTG.

### How should SACRE approach teachers about this event?

### Free Lockdown home learning from NATRE and RE Today

As a response to the work that teachers and school staff have been doing teaching pupils both in school and remotely, NATRE and RE Today made all the home learning resources created in the first lockdown free to all schools, regardless of whether or not they were NATRE members. These multi-faith resources are in the form of PDFs and are all available on the NATRE website and offer support for home learning about religious and non-religious worldviews for primary and secondary school pupils.

During the start of 2021, NATRE and RE Today have produced more home learning resources for pupils aged 7-14. These are in the form of PowerPoint presentations and are based on BBC's My Life, My Religion films.

The link for all of the resources is: <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/>

At present, Havering have made teachers aware of these resources in various ways including the Subject Leader Network, School Improvement Update and portal.

### In what other ways can these resources be shared with all schools?

## Ofqual – consultation on proposed changes to GCSE and A level examinations 2021

In light of the recent government announcement about the 2021 exams, NATRE has already been in contact with officials, and will continue to engage positively and constructively with both Ofqual and DfE as they consult about the replacement for exams. The consultation on the replacement for exams has not yet reported.

### Subject Knowledge Enhancement

Following the disappointing news that bursaries had been cut for most subjects including RE, it was excellent news that RE had been selected for funded subject knowledge enhancement courses. The funding will be available from April 2021 and hopefully will help support those people wishing to apply to teach RE who do not have a first degree in the subject. This decision follows intensive lobbying about the point that around 84% of trainee secondary RE teachers do not have a degree in Theology or Religious Studies and therefore need support in developing their subject knowledge.

To find out more, please follow the link below:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/subject-knowledge-enhancement-ske-courses>

### Art in Heaven 2020 and 2021

The 2020 Art in Heaven and Spirited Poetry competitions attracted record entries – lots of teachers set it in lockdown. Although many schools in England enter, there is international interest – eg from Indonesia, Poland, Australia, India, South Africa, Ireland, Cyprus and New Zealand. The website for the competition has now been updated. The relaunched 2020 section includes many amazing responses to last year's themes. The YouTube video to encourage entries had about 14 000 views last year and another has been made for 2021.

Themes for the 2021 competition have been uploaded to the website. A Climate Justice theme features again this year: 'God's good earth?'. Last year, Climate Justice proved the most popular theme, overtaking the hardy perennial 'Where is God?'

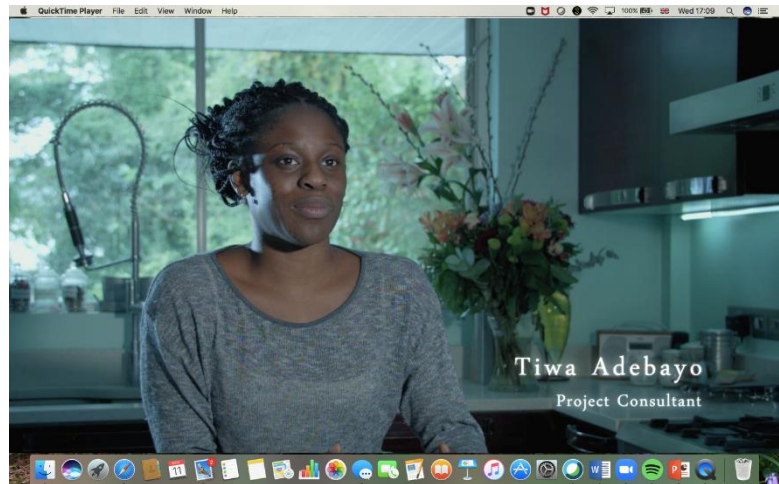
### Promote further study to secondary classes with these films of Graduates in Theology and Religious Studies

TRS-UK (Theology and Religious Studies in Higher Education) has launched a set of recently-filmed interviews with Theology and Religious Studies graduates in jobs as varied as television documentary-making, law, local government, public relations, education, and many more. These high-quality YouTube films are available as ten individual (3-minute) filmed interviews and two 5-minute compilations, where graduates speak about the value of their degrees and show how they put their skills and knowledge to work in their jobs. They do not advertise a specific University, only the value of the degree and the doors it has opened for them.

These films (which can be selected at will) would be ideal for showing to pupils wondering about taking a degree in this subject, but unsure about where it might lead, or pressured to answer that question by parents. The answer is: it could take you in a myriad of exciting directions, and

employers are intrigued and delighted to have applicants with a degree in this subject. Theology and Religious Studies graduates have some of the highest employment rates of any University graduates, as they acquire multiple skills and a varied knowledge-base that is crucial for navigating our complex world.

There are 10 individual profiles and 2 compilations.



[View careers playlist](#)

[YouTube TRS-UK](#)

**How can SACRE ensure that all secondary schools are aware of these?**

## **The Culham St Gabriel's Leadership Programme: Finding your voice as a leader of Religion and Worldviews 2021-22**

Following a successful pilot programme, Culham St Gabriel's are now inviting applicants to be part of a new cohort of Leaders for Change in 2021-22. This is an amazing opportunity for teachers.

### **Programme Outline:**

The funded programme aims to develop leaders in the following four areas; research, curriculum, classroom and politics.

### **Stage 1**

This stage is for those local or regional leaders who are beginning to work across more than one school. For example, leading Religion and Worldviews across a MAT or supporting other schools in a Federation and/or leading a local group or hub. Some NATRE Regional Ambassadors, SLEs, REQM Gold award RE leads or LTLRE Hub leads might find this Stage of CPD helpful.

This Stage is for teachers who have completed Stage 1 and/or for those who already have a regional/national role and would like to develop their expertise further. This stage is particularly for teachers/advisers who are likely to continue their specialism into senior leadership roles within or outside of their school situation. Those who are seeking to become advisers, ambassadors or an Executive member of one of the RE Organisations are particularly encouraged to apply.

### **Programme Partners:**

The programme builds on the hugely successful AREIAC REvitalise scheme. It is funded by Culham St Gabriel's and the Jerusalem Trust. It brings together the following organisations who all have representatives on the steering group which oversees the programme:

- Association of RE Advisers, Inspectors and Consultants (AREIAC)

- Association of University Lecturers on RE (AULRE)
- Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE)
- National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)
- National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE)
- RE Council of England and Wales (REC)

**More details, participant guides and the application form can be found on the RE Online website.**

**Applications close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.**

**How will SACRE ensure that teachers know about this opportunity?**

## **Independent Evaluation of the Understanding Christianity Resource**

This report was published on 11<sup>th</sup> December. It presents findings and analysis from a study that examines the impact of Understanding Christianity in schools across England. The study, conducted by Dr Rachael Shillitoe at the University of Birmingham, seeks to evaluate the impact of RE Today's Understanding Christianity teaching resources amongst pupils and teachers across primary and secondary schools, with a particular focus on schools without a religious character.

This study aims to find out the extent to which the resource has 'made a difference' to teaching and learning about Christianity in RE.

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*"Overall, the response to *Understanding Christianity* has been extremely positive, from both pupils and teachers, particularly in relation to the 'Big Story', pupil engagement and increased teacher confidence. Both pupils and teachers noted, in particular, the impact the frieze had on engagement and understanding. Teachers found pupils had an increased awareness of the big story in Christianity and pupils demonstrated their ability to connect this to core theological concepts.*

*Understanding Christianity* was valued for its promotion of pupil agency and individual reflection. Both teachers and pupils found the lessons to be inclusive with pupils from a range of religious and nonreligious backgrounds finding the lessons enjoyable and accessible. Pupils felt their lessons encouraged discussion, individual reflection and debate with a range of different viewpoints considered.

*There was considerable/noted improvement of textual understanding and knowledge of core concepts after using *Understanding Christianity*. The ability of pupils to articulate, discuss and reflect on core theological concepts was significantly improved when the *Understanding Christianity* resources, such as the Big Frieze and the Core Concept icons were used."*

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The full report can be viewed on the [\*\*Understanding Christianity\*\*](#) website, [\*\*available here\*\*](#).

