



The Vine



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Summer Term 2014

A Message from the President

for all those working in Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am delighted to tell you that this year we have had over **60% of Catholic Schools in England and Wales join CATSC**. However that means that 40% are still not members. Information about membership including a copy of the updated handbook is sent out in the Autumn Term so that all schools can renew their membership. Thank you to all the schools which are supporting and joining in with the CATSC activities but please if you know a school which is not a member in your area then encourage them to join!!

The Annual General Meeting followed by the Executive Council Meeting were held on 14th June at St. Paul's High School for Girl's in Birmingham. During the meetings members of the executive gave their reports and laid out their plans for the coming year. Printed below is a flavour of the activities which will be taking place during the next academic year.

- The Twitter Account which began a year ago is gaining more followers who are offering ideas, comments, resources, support and interactions. The Web Site has been changed and will be developed with updates on the resources, content and ideas from CATSC meetings and conferences.
- The Secondary Leaders will be held on 29th /30th January 2015 at the Thistle Hotel in London, whilst The Annual Study Conference will be over the weekend of 28th Feb-1st March.
- The Vine will be published throughout the year and we ask that you offer ideas and quotes to the Editor, for use in future editions.
- Our links with the World Union of Catholic Teachers WUCT remain strong, with a great emphasis next year on the 50th celebration of the publication of "Gravissimum Educationis" following the 2nd Vatican Council.
- We will be represented on The RE Council and thus involved in the reforming of the GCSE and A Level RE Syllabuses.
- At the Education Show in Birmingham there will be a stand shared with CAFOD and Mission Together. Look out for the green bags containing superb resources for Primary or Secondary, whichever is your area of expertise!!
- We continue to have good working relationships with the Catholic Education Service and CAFOD and continue to support the journal Networking and will be seeking to develop stronger links with the editor.

In schools and colleges you will all be completing the academic year and looking forward to a time of rest and relaxation during the summer holidays. May I send you my very best wishes and prayers for a good summer and a successful start to the new school year.

God Bless,
Mary Sainsbury

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Working with the Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica



As readers will remember I recently spent a week with my daughter Elizabeth working with the Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica. The week was an exacting one as it meant rising each day at 5.15a.m. and working alongside fellow volunteers in very hot and humid conditions. During the time spent in the five different homes that the brothers run, Elizabeth and I used our time helping to feed, dress and care for over four hundred needy adults and children who live in downtown Kingston. Much of the work we did was simply carrying out the corporal works of mercy with people who have so very little. During the week I had learned so much about myself and my fellow human beings that as Elizabeth and I departed we felt determined to return once again but this time with a group of fellow teachers from England so that they too could experience the sheer joy and spirituality of working with the brothers of the Missionaries of the Poor.

As our plane lifted off the runway for the return flight to England we sang wistfully the words of the old Harry Belafonte song we had adapted for the group the night before. "I'm sad to say I'm on my way, won't be back for many a day, my heart down, my head is turning around I had to leave some special people in Kingston town.

So if there are any Catholic teachers, teachers working in Catholic schools or other members of staff who work in our schools that are interested in participating in such a trip then please don't hesitate to contact either of us. I can guarantee it will make a difference to you and those you serve as well as support the outstanding work of the Missionaries of the Poor.

Please also look out for a detailed account of our work in the next issue of Networking.

Our contact details are as follows

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DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

Would all members please insert the following dates in their diaries for the new Academic Year

Executive Council Meetings

Saturday 18th October 2014 Newman College Birmingham 10.00a.m.

Saturday 7th February 2015 St. Mary's University College Twickenham London 10.00a.m.

Saturday 13th June 2015 St Joseph's Catholic & Anglican School Wrexham 10.00a.m.

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 13th June St Joseph's Catholic & Anglican School Wrexham

Conferences

Secondary Leaders Conference

Thursday & Friday 29th 30th January London

Annual Study Conference

Saturday 28th Feb & Sunday 1st March 2015

What Do Teachers Make?



The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a Managing Director, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?" He reminded the other dinner guests what they say about teachers "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach." To stress his point he said to another guest;

"You're a teacher, Susan. Be honest. What do you make?" Susan, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, You want to know what I make?

I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could.

I make a 3c feel like the winner of the Olympic Games.

I make kids sit through 40 minutes of study in the hall in absolute silence.

You want to know what I make?

I make kids wonder.

I make them question I make them criticize.

I make them apologise and mean it.

I make them write.

I make them read, read, read.

I make them show all their working out in maths and perfect their final drafts in English.

I make them understand that if you have the brains, and follow your heart, and if someone ever tries to judge you by what you make, you must pay no attention because they just didn't learn.

Susan paused and then continued. "You want to know what I make?"

I MAKE A DIFFERENCE. What do you make?

(Reprinted in appreciation of all those teachers and staff who work in our Catholic Schools and make a difference to the thousands of children we serve every day of their working lives .Thank you!!!)

AGM Update

The CATSC Executive Council is looking to expand its membership so as to ensure that all areas of the country and all sectors of the Education Service are represented on it. If you are interested in becoming a member and live in one of the southern dioceses in particular or a newly qualified secondary teacher then we would love to hear from you. If interested please contact the President Mary Sainsbury by email at

CAFOD volunteer school resources support

CAFOD is seeking five talented R.E. teachers, each of whom is currently teaching RE in a Catholic secondary school in England or Wales, to help our schools team by contributing six days over the summer holidays to develop CAFOD resources for a new nationally available 11-14 R.E. Curriculum.

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute towards your own CPD and you will have the satisfaction of seeing your own ideas and copy, designed to a professional standard, online on CAFOD's website and being used by teachers across England and Wales in order to support children's learning.

To find out more and request an application form please email Kathleen O'Brien at kobrien@cafod.org.uk



CATSC & CES Secondary Leaders Conference



Would all members please note in your diaries the date of this important conference which takes at the London **Thistle Hotel at Marble Arch on Thursday and Friday 29th & 30th January 2015**. As there is to be a General Election next year the Planning Group have invited

representatives from all the main political parties to attend and explain their policies for schools should they be successful and form the next government. So please consider coming in order to participate in the question and answer sessions with them.

Details of how to book a place on this important conference will be published in the September issues of the Vine when full details of speakers and costs will be available.

R.E. Council Update

At the recent AGM Dr John Lydon updated The Executive Council of his work with the R.E. Council of England and Wales. He informed those present that he had been invited by the DfE to be involved in the forthcoming discussions regarding the review of the GCSE and A Level exams by OFQUAL. This is another example of how CATSC is able to voice the opinions of Catholic teachers and those involved in Catholic Education with the national government.

Finally a reminder to keep you inspired during the remainder of the summer term.

A wise physician said "The best medicine for children and adults is CARE and LOVE. Someone asked "What if it doesn't work? He smiled and answered "Increase the dose"