

Thursday 11th September 2025



Good afternoon,

Welcome back to another new term! I hope you all had a good restorative break over the Summer. I enjoyed spending time visiting family and friends on the Isle of Wight. I enjoy the chance to swim and kayak, and this year I also made friends with a seal!

Today I was leading some faith leaders training to get them the RE Hubs quality mark in Camden at Bloomsbury Baptist Church – great place for a school visit, just off Tottenham Court Road. So I have got some new contacts to follow up and get onto our place of worship database.

Camden Dates for your Diaries

We have our RE network meetings coming up.

- The **Secondary Network Meeting** is on **15th October from 4-5pm** venue **TBC** – **but always a lovely chance for secondary school leads to come together.**
- Secondary schools are also welcome to attend the Newham and B&D secondary masterclass on **Tuesday 7th October** from 1:45-3pm on Zoom. The masterclass is on Hindu Dharma with Seeta Lakhani - the Hindu Tutor at Eton College, and a teacher at the Hindu Academy for the last 20 years. Any Camden RE teachers free at this point are welcome to join us, and I will record the masterclass and if you email me I can share the link.
- The **Primary Network Meeting** is on **Friday 26th September from 1:30-4pm** at **Edith Neville Primary school** as well as a chance for us to review our 1st year of using our new agreed syllabus; look at strategies to support staff with RE subject knowledge and hear from other Camden schools about RE in their school.

REALLY hope to meet you at these networks.

Exciting news!

Camden SACRE has been successful to gaining one of 4 national grants from NASACRE/Westhill to run some interfaith work in Camden with pupils in 25-27 – so over 2 academic years. We have two projects that we want to run:

1. For **primary schools** to run some 1 day RE conference for year 4/5 pupils that all schools can attend free of charge. The conferences will focus on a different interfaith theme. So in year 1, the theme is 'Community' and in year 2, the theme will be 'Kindness'. The conference days will model to staff how to use Philosophy for



Children (P4C) in RE, as well as give staff and pupils to chance to meet and discuss interfaith topics with local faith and belief leaders and representatives. More information at our network meeting in September.

2. For **secondary schools** we have been funded to run a small project where by 6th form students are training up to speak well about their beliefs and religious practices. Working with the students we will create a database of when they could visit a KS1-3 lesson and what they can offer. Schools will then be able to invite a 6th former into a RE lesson to bring lived experience into the classroom.

I am personally VERY EXCITED about BOTH projects and will be in touch with you all very soon to work out some of the practicalities to get these off the ground.

SECONDARY NEWS

Oak Academy new RE resources and lessons: Over this past year a team of RE teachers have been creating and writing new resources that have gone live. Have a look [here](#) and see what you think! They cover KS3-4.

Ruth Marx has produced a Padlet for teaching [Islam@A-Level](#)

NATRE Secondary Survey NATRE is conducting its eighth secondary survey to gather information about the current state of RE/RME/RVE in all types of schools. This helps support teachers by raising awareness of how government policies impact RE/RME/RVE. As a thank you for completing this survey, you'll be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win a ticket to NATRE's Strictly RE in-person conference on Saturday, January 31, 2026! NATRE will keep your responses confidential; no schools or teachers will be identified in any reports or uses of the data. Closing date: Tuesday, September 30th, 2025. [Survey link](#)

True Tube new films on Humanism: Humanists UK's new schools video with Alice Roberts tells the scientific story of our origins, from the Big Bang, through the evolution of stars, planets, life, and, ultimately, us, revealing what we are made from and how we are connected to the rest of the living world. This short but beautiful animation highlights the wonder in this story that humanists might draw on as a source of inspiration, meaning, and value in their lives <https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/where-do-we-come-from-humanists-uks-new-schools-video-with-alice-roberts/>

Rachael Jackson-Royal's **Post-16 digest** contains interesting, useful and relevant books, articles, videos and podcasts. What are you waiting for? Delve in:

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/teaching-resources/whats-new-an-a-level-digest/>

Divine women <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/z73vwtv>

As part of BBC Teach's resources for KS3 and GCSE Bettany Hughes uncovers the remarkable and neglected stories of women and religion. The films explore: Khadija and the founding of Islam, Should women be priests? St. Augustine's concept of Original Sin and taking part in the Durga Puja. These clips are taken from the original BBC series: Divine Women

NATRE have national online connect groups for A Level and GCSE RE Teachers to network and meet together [Local Groups: Religious Education & Religious Studies Networking](#)

Between God and Atheism This might be useful for A Level revision on arguments about the existence or non existence of God. Panellists are Philip Goff Professor of Philosophy at Durham University, Rowan Williams former Archbishop of Canterbury, Elizabeth Oldfield a popular writer and Alex O'Connor a popular YouTuber. [Episode 137, Between God and Atheism: Live in London \(Part I - The Debate\)](#)

A'Level Essay top tips from OCR: https://x.com/OCR_RS/status/1908414412664295753/photo/1



PRIMARY NEWS

Oak Academy new RE resources and lessons: Over this past year I have been working with Oak Academy to produce new RE resources and lessons for primary schools. Have a look [here](#) and see what you think! They are free to use and I will create a mapping document for primary RE leads and share at the network meeting.

50 free stories when you sign up for RE Teaching resources from RE Today you get these as a download - <https://reteachingresources.co.uk/sign-up-for-free-religious-stories/>

Songsforschools has a selection of uplifting songs that could be useful in assemblies, including themes of Kindness, respect and resilience [Songs For School – A New Generation of School Music](#) which could be used in RE lessons where appropriate.

NATIONAL NEWS & OFFERS!

The SHAP Calendar - Come to a network meeting this term and get a free copy!

The Shap Calendar for 2025/26 is now available in three forms: The A2 printed Wallchart - Large printed wallchart with space for adding your own key does great for the office, classroom or ward wall (September 2025 - Dec 2026)
The A4 ePDF - Three PDFs for use on your screen or for printing off (July 2025 - Dec 2026)
The A5 laminated menu card - a diary sized laminated card great for slipping in the desk diary or desk drawer (January 2026 - Dec 2026) More on these can be found on the Shap website
- <http://www.shapcalendar.org.uk/calendar.html>

The Jewish Museum Learning and Engagement Team is thrilled to offer our [award-winning workshops](#) now in an outreach and virtual capacity! If you are a local London school, you can bring your Judaism lessons to life with an expert facilitator and authentic museum objects. We offer a range of [virtual classrooms](#) and [object boxes](#) you can hire to enhance your lessons. We also offer [free Virtual Broadcasts](#) for Jewish festivals! To see a concise list of our offers, [click here](#).

Inter Faith Week 2025 is taking place this year from **Sunday 9th to Sunday 16th November**. The theme for Inter Faith Week 2025 is: **Community: Together we serve. Serving others, sharing values, building belonging.** Join us to **celebrate** how faith and belief inspires social action; to experience how **working together** towards a common aim can unite across lines of difference; and to **explore what “community” really means in practice**. The theme is optional, and you can use it in whatever way best makes sense in your own context.



SAVE THE DATE
Inter Faith Week 2025
9-16 November



The Interfaith Week for Schools website has been updated with new resources, training, webinars and project ideas to help your school and local community mark IFW this year.

Culham St Gabriels is holding a free event on **Tuesday September 23rd** at South Bank University [Understanding the interplay: Education, lived worldviews and citizenship](#) launches the Understanding the Interplay (UI) project



report and new research-informed curriculum resources. The UI project, led by researchers at LSBU and IOE/UCL applies a Lego-based methodology to explore young people's ideas around citizenship and its relation to religion & worldviews. An expert panel from RE and Citizenship will discuss contemporary curriculum issues and opportunities for collaboration. This will be of interest to RE & Citizenship teachers, mentors, researchers and curriculum developers. [Book here](#) for the event which will be a great opportunity to engage with cutting edge research, innovative pedagogical approaches

Get your MP inspired about RE In September, NATRE Secondary Vice Chair, Joanne Harris Katie Freeman will be attending the Labour Party conference on behalf of NATRE, the Religious Education Council (REC) and The RE Policy Unit (REPU). Through this work, we aim to speak to MPs, party members, SACRE members and local councillors about the importance of high quality RE for all pupils in all schools. Joanne and I hope to share information on bursaries, the retention and recruitment crisis, local school workforce data and much more. To do this important work, we need support from you, our members. We are asking that members email or write to your local MP requesting to meet with us at conference. To make this easier on you, REPU chair and NATRE research officer, Deborah Weston has written a [Template Letter](#) that you can adapt and send to your MP if you would like to.

Humanists UK have a new online resource [Introducing humanism: non-religious approaches to life](#) course with Sandi Toksvig. They have two free online courses available. Both will support you to learn more about humanism. While one focuses on the nature of humanism and its response to life's big questions, the other centres around the people who describe themselves as humanists and the way they live their lives. The courses can be taken in any order.

Truetube have produced some new films including one about Diwali, one about Eid ul Adar and one about the Life of Jesus [Home - TrueTube](#)

British Library: primary/secondary schools who would like to come onsite for a Sacred Texts workshop, these are still going ahead as normal. All the booking details can be found here: <https://www.bl.uk/learning/#school-workshops-in-london>.

ECT Training NATRE's first New2RE free webinar for this academic year is being hosted on **Monday 8th September from 4-5.30**. This is Café NATRE Panel session titled: 'Where can I find support for teaching RE?' Hosted by NATRE chair Katie Freeman and Fiona Moss, this is sure to be a fantastic session to get the year started! Sign up for free on the link below: <https://www.natre.org.uk/membership/early-careers-teachers/ect-free-monthly-webinar/>

Jewish Living Online is a new, free digital resource for teaching about Judaism (and antisemitism), created by The Board of Deputies of British Jews. JLO offers comprehensive, authentic, and engaging content for KS3 pupils, including multimedia resources (with real British Jewish voices), discussion and critical thinking questions, and assessment tools. [Jewish Living Online – An ADL-BOD Digital Education Initiative](#) The Education Officer from the Board of Deputies of British Jews hosts a monthly Q&A drop-in Zoom session for teachers who teach about Judaism. To be added to the email notification list, email anna.silver@bod.org.uk.

The Farmington Institute supports and encourages headteachers in values and standards, as well as RE and related subjects. The archive contains hundreds of reports from scholars. Browse by type, project, or search by topic. [Scholars Archive - Farmington Institute](#)



Other useful RE news and resources:

1. **RE Hubs** Lots of helpful resources and interesting quick reads including blogs, I liked this idea! [Running an RE book club. – RE with Mrs McGee](#)
2. **BBC Teach has changed to BBC Bitesize** has a set of short films and transcripts for KS1 & 2 showing how people from different religions and worldviews live out their beliefs. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zmyb4wx>
3. **Treasure Champs** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/z4ng9ty> This collection of 30 films presents the stories that explore universal values and are drawn from a variety of faiths, cultures and world views. Each of the stories is approximately 4 minutes long. On each page you will find a series of questions to share with pupils to help them recall the main events of the story, as well as notes for the teacher offering suggestions for follow-up activities.
4. **Religions of the world** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zfxwpg8> This series of animations explores the different religions of the world and their well-known stories. The animation is bright and colourful, and immerses pupils in the story through a clear, friendly narrative.
5. **BBC resources for Assemblies KS1 & 2** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zxyf6g8>
6. **RE:quest** is an online resource for Teachers, produced by British Youth for Christ. It has a series of short videos and interviews for teaching Christianity, across all the Key Stages including GCSE and A Level [Teachers - RE:quest](#)
7. **RE Podcast:** <https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/> Great resource and worth a listen if you haven't done so already.
8. **CPD for Teachers** You might have already tried these FREE, short, online courses from Culham St Gabriel's. Enhance your understanding, update your thinking, with your team, for mentees or ECTs, or for your own development. For teachers in all school types and all age ranges. <https://courses.cstg.org.uk/>

Available courses

 Introduction to Religion and Worldviews Short Courses: Number of topics: 10 What is a Religion and Worldviews approach? Maybe you have heard the phrase and are unsure what it means. Perhaps you have not heard the phrase at all. This course provides an introduction to what is happening in Religious Education right now, covering the most recent report into the subject and the thinking behind a new... View course	 Introduction to Curriculum Short Courses: Number of topics: 11 This course offers an understanding of what curriculum is and the central role it plays in education. This is a basic introduction to the purpose of the curriculum, the role of knowledge in the curriculum, progression and subject specialisation in Religion and Worldviews, etc. View course	 Introduction to Subject Knowledge Short Courses: Number of topics: 9 This introduction to Subject Knowledge course is an entry-level course for teachers thinking about subject knowledge in Religion and Worldviews. We consider the type of information explored in the subject of Religion and Worldviews, for all ages of pupils, and what sort of subject knowledge the teacher will be looking for. We find... View course
 Digging Deeper: Religion and Worldviews Short Courses: Number of topics: 10 Welcome to the Digging Deeper level Religion and Worldviews course. You have gained a basic overview of the thinking behind the new Religion and Worldviews approach, and now you are ready to take it further. In this course you will consider in more detail the thinking behind Religion and Worldviews through publications by... View course	 Digging Deeper: Curriculum Short Courses: Number of topics: 9 Culham St Gabriel's 'Digging Deeper' level curriculum course is an opportunity to extend and deepen your understanding of and thinking about curriculum. Building on the ideas covered in the 'Introduction' level course, you will have the chance to critically engage with different visions of the purpose of the curriculum, the question... View course	 Digging Deeper: Subject Knowledge Short Courses: Number of topics: 6 Take your exploration of subject knowledge in Religion and Worldviews one step further with this Digging Deeper course. You will build on an exploration of different sources of subject knowledge, first encountered in the introduction level Subject Knowledge course. Find out about the benefits of using scholarly sources of subject... View course
 Introduction to Research Short Courses: Number of topics: 10 This course is aimed at teachers as a general introduction to educational research and its purpose for both the classroom and wider understanding. It is also helpful preparation for those who are working towards the Chartered College of Teachers' Chartered Teacher status (CTech). View course	 Primary Beginning Teacher Course 1 Short Courses: Number of topics: 1 Introduction to Religion and Worldviews This is the first of three short courses designed for Primary ITE students and ECTs. The courses are aimed at ITE however, mentors, more experienced teachers and RE subject leads will find much here that is useful. Anyone is welcome to take these. View course	
 Digging Deeper: Research Short Courses: Number of topics: 10 After exploring the basics of educational research and how it can support classroom practice, you are ready to extend your understanding and knowledge with this Digging Deeper level course. In this course you will develop your thinking further around the idea encountered in the introduction course. Through examples and lot... View course	 Primary Beginning Teacher Course 2 Short Courses: Number of topics: 10 Teaching and Learning for Primary Beginning Teachers This course is designed to take between an hour and 90 minutes to complete. There is an optional task which may be completed outside the course of watching a... View course	 Primary Beginning Teacher Course 3 Short Courses: Number of topics: 10 Subject Knowledge for Primary Beginning Teachers This course is designed to take between an hour and 90 minutes to complete. There is an optional task which may be completed outside the course of sourcing subject knowledge... View course

9. NATRE run **ECT webinars** for free for subject knowledge monthly. For more details:

<https://www.natre.org.uk/membership/early-careers-teachers/ect-free-monthly-webinar/>

NATRE @NATREupdate - Jan 4
ECTs & new RE teachers, listen up! The New2RE webinars are back! Enhance teaching skills, deepen your subject knowledge, and meet the ECT standards with free monthly sessions by NATRE. Become a confident RE teacher, sign up now! [bit.ly/NEW2RE](#)

NEW2RE WEBINARS
Teaching Sikh worldviews
Adviser: Lat Blaylock
08 January, 2024 - 4 PM



10. Humanists UK also have new assemblies available for all Key Stages at <https://assembliesforall.org.uk/>

11. Woolf Institute The Woolf Institute provide a range of free options for schools, including: flexible resources for secondary Religious Education arising from Woolf Institute research, including teacher guides, videos, and lesson plans; Lunchtime Online sessions where schools can invite a Woolf Institute staff member or student researcher to meet a group of students online during lunchtime to discuss their research and studies or career; and for schools based near Cambridge or greater London, visits from Woolf Institute postgraduate students and researchers to deliver our schools resources in person. You can read more about each option on our [Schools and Teachers](#) page.

12. RE ChatUK: You might already attend NATRE's monthly Twitter forum, #REChatUK. This takes place on the first Monday of the month, from 8-9pm. Have you thought about inviting a friend or colleague along? These fast-paced, fun and informative discussions are a great way to discover new ideas, resources and conversations. The forum is also an effective place to network and meet new people on Twitter. Follow [@NATREupdate](#) on Twitter, and the hashtag #REChatUK.

13. Every Day Ethics :[Everyday Ethics - Restorative Justice - BBC Sounds](#) A provocative weekly debate on moral, religious and ethical issues from BBC Radio Ulster , which you might find interesting for case studies.

Useful on-line resources for RE

1. **RE Matters YouTube channel** has plenty of films you can make use of in your RE at school.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF1Ulugebl4jOVUTAoyH-9A>
2. **RE On-line** – <https://www.reonline.org.uk/>
3. **NATRE** – <https://www.natre.org.uk/>

So, a busy term as you can see with lots of great RE opportunities. I hope to meet you at some or all of the events and training we are running this term and wish you well in leading RE at your school. Do get in touch if we can support you in any way.



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