



Nottinghamshire County Council

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Developing Partnerships

Following SEF work, the Authority has worked with local institutes of higher Education in building partnerships to assist teachers with Post 16 Studies in Religious Education

March 2014 saw our

16+ Aim Higher Conference in partnership
with St John's College & Nottingham University.

This has helped with A and AS Level RS studies as well as building good links across diverse institutions. The conference has evolved, shaped by feedback from students. Students and teachers see this as a huge success.

"As a department we actively seek to engage with local schools and colleges in the delivery and development of Religious Studies and to highlight the value of this subject. Collaborating with Nottinghamshire SACRE to run this year's Aim Higher event has provided one way of doing this. In particular it was helpful to be able to draw on local RS teaching expertise to combine training in the skills necessary for RS A Level with the fresh intellectual challenges provided in sessions delivered by our staff."

Peter Watts
Admissions Tutor and Teaching Associate in Biblical Studies
University of Nottingham

There has never been a more important time for young people to engage in questions of faith and how religion operates in the world. Woven into the news stories on a daily basis are implicit and often explicit references to faith - whether it is a report regarding same-sex marriage and the Church of England's 'opt-out' or the day to day affairs of a Muslim school or Richard Dawkins' challenge regarding the teaching of religion and science.

Young women and men need to have the right tools to deal with these debates and to be able to discuss complex and sensitive issues in a safe environment, supported and guided by teachers who have their long-term care in mind.

This is why St. John's College Nottingham is extremely happy to support the work of RS Resources and SACRE as they run 'post 16 Days' in which pupils are encouraged and facilitated to discuss such issues as these, connected with the RS curriculum and with input from experts in the field.

Revd. Dr. Andrea Russell
Director of Studies.
St John's College Nottingham.

One post 16 teacher at the March 2014 event said that the conference has assisted their students in 2013 as they all obtained higher levels than they had been predicted and the teachers put it down to their attending the conference.

I came last year as well. It's great. My class this year is only me, so this gives me a really good chance to talk through ideas with other people and hear different perspectives. March 2013

A course to inspire future students years 10 & 11 to take philosophy and ethics @ post 16.

Enjoyed the three different style lectures, it's good to get a snap shot of what undergraduate students get at university.

Most helpful in 2014 was

First two speakers interesting & brilliant x 2

Controversial speakers which got students thinking

Darwinism x 8

Euthanasia x 5

University talk helped me x 4 hearing why students chose their courses

Looking at University – philosophy, ethics & Theology

Being able to see different ways of structuring answers and revising

Revisiting information

Exam technique x 4

Different ideas on independent learning

How to write effective essays x8

Theological argument

Debate allowed us to share our own ideas

Hearing other people's opinions and how they interpret the same information

Listening to specialists discuss the same topics, good opportunity to listen to others thoughts

Chance to hear university style lectures

Chance to ask questions about university

Making notes

Student evaluations	Most useful	2	3	Least useful
<i>Euthanasia</i>	7	14	8	1
<i>Darwinism</i>	16	9	2	3
<i>Teleological Argument</i>	5	15	5	1
<i>University Education</i>	6	9	9	6
Writing examination answers	12	12	2	3
debate	3	14	7	4

