

Leicester City Annual RE conference

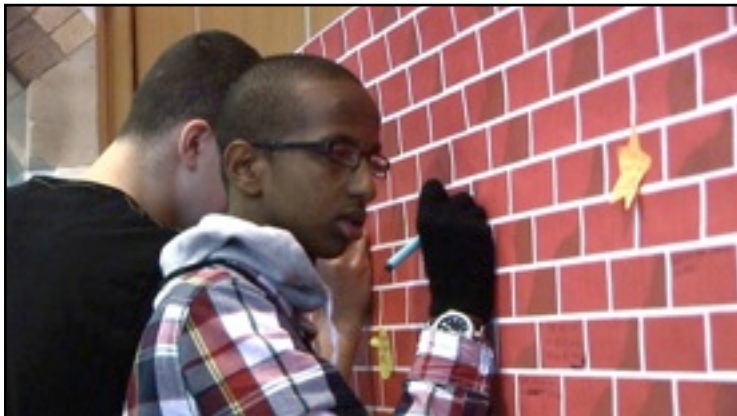


On Friday October 29th 2010 Leicester City's 2nd Annual RE Conference for gifted and more able students, entitled "One Leicester: Faith for the Future" was held at Holy Trinity Church in the city centre. 160 students and 30 members of staff from city schools attended. I also was pleased to be present as an observer and NASACRE link.

The conference was fully funded by a grant of £5,000 secured in June 2010 from the Westhill Trust via NASACRE to support the Leicester Youth SACRE in helping to plan and deliver the conference. The conference was presented to schools as an inspirational day of RE with a choice of twenty different seminars and eight lunch time activities. The aim of the conference was for students to experience exciting RE first hand and to consider the positive difference that beliefs can have in our diverse society. The additional aim was to raise the profile of the SACRE and Youth SACRE. Members of the Youth SACRE planned and delivered three seminars. The seminars covered unfair trading today including a religious perspective, and a personal view of Islam and Christianity. Members of the Youth SACRE also spoke about the Leicestershire community cohesion youth charter and their contribution to this, and helped with a variety of lunchtime activities.



From the student evaluation forms many found the conference a fantastic opportunity to meet other young people their own age from across the different faith communities.



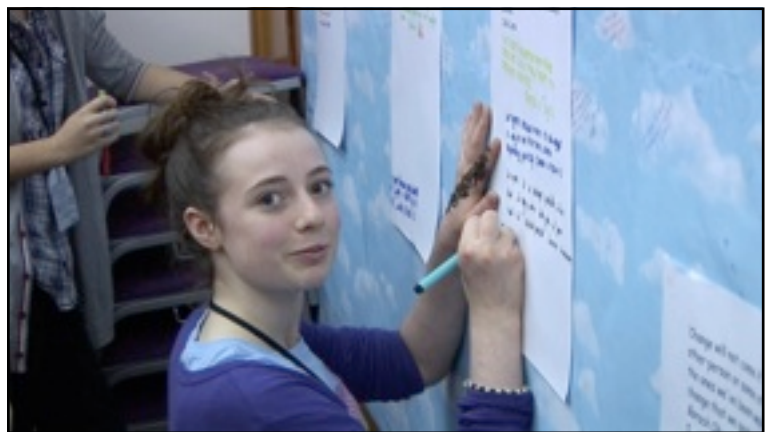
'I loved meeting and working with different groups of people and getting to know them'

'The best part of the day was finding out more about what other people believe'

As a second part of the project, and leading on from the conference, Youth SACRE members worked with a Schools Youth Worker from Holy Trinity Church and with Nick Hamer from Intrepid Media

to make a DVD. The DVD's purpose was to make a short promotional film promoting RE and the Youth SACRE in the city. Members would then go on to discuss why their faith is important to them and topical issues, with an eye to current GCSE RE syllabuses, and how their beliefs affected their moral decisions and judgments.

The DVD has duly appeared, after some delays, but with a high production quality. It is easy to navigate, and is intended to be available freely to Leicester City Secondary Schools as a teaching aid and introduction to important areas of discussion. An opening section introduces the Youth SACRE and some of its members. This is followed by a sequence of videoed conversations between



young people from a variety of faith and stance backgrounds.

Leicester City SACRE and Youth SACRE, together with RE Adviser and project leader Jill Carr, are to be congratulated on successfully completing their Award-winning project and on providing such an effective stimulus for promoting excellent RE within their schools.



Michael Metcalf

