

Nottinghamshire SACRE: NASACRE / WESTHILL CONFERENCE

SACRE’s bid for funding had been successful to enable the first ever young person’s RE Conference to be held at the City Ground in November. This day involved the RE Council RE Ambassadors from The Redhill Academy both in its planning and delivery. We were also joined by a member of the RE Council, the NASACRE Executive, the Chaplain of Nottingham Forest as well as Sarah Julian, a presenter from Radio Nottingham. Our chair of SACRE was present, opening the event welcoming the young people.



This conference was for years 8 & 9 to promote RE as an option subject and encourage young people to represent the subject in their own schools. The Conference was also aimed at promoting a celebration of diversity in our community whilst at the same time promoting religious education as academically rigorous and valuable for future careers. Five County Schools sent 10 young people to the day which also attracted the attention of the Local Media. ITV carried a report in the local news broadcast, along with three radio stations.

The reflections of the young people on the day were interesting reading and many of the schools went away to follow this day up in their own setting.



Our delegates said that they had enjoyed debating, discussing, meeting the radio presenter and talking with other students about the Big Issues as well as working on an advertising campaign for RE. They felt inspired to be more self confident and were empowered by “having teachers & people in positions of influence listening to our thoughts” They also commented on thinking about how we can change the opinion of RE in our own school coupled with the talks from the ambassadors.

In response to being asked to produce action plans to carry this on in their own locality these were some of their plans.

The responses covered producing a presentation & deliver in-house assemblies in order to raise the profile of RE. Many of the schools wished to start a group at lunchtimes such as a RE Club - “Discover RE”; an Ethics / Philosophy club with a Big question of the week to discuss

A couple of the schools wished to raise the awareness of RE in local Primary schools to show RE can be fun and enjoyable. Another group wanted to talk to their Governors and Headteacher about the place and role of RE

“Thanks for having us and giving us this opportunity” “It was brilliant! Thank You! – was a common phrase from the young people.

Each school was given a copy of the film we had made for the conference to assist them in their follow up work. One team have since assisted the SACRE in producing a letter for parents regarding the introduction of the Agreed Syllabus.

