

Three brief items – more to come later in August

Preparing for the beginning of term...

Some tips that have been gathered, do respond with more as you wish.

- 1) Spend the holidays wisely: spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and physically
- 2) Ask for copies of student photographs as soon as they are ready at the beginning of term
- 3) Find out in advance who are the new members of staff. See if you can find time to greet them early on in term
- 4) Be confident about what is happening in the first week, and your role in each occasion.
- 5) Be prepared for the unexpected – pastoral needs may have been brewing over the holidays and your time may be sought immediately. Thus, what can be prepared for the expected (lessons etc) should be done so.

A Diary Moment: JUNE 2011

Your prayers and presence are requested..

16th-18th June

Liverpool Hope University

A unique conference bringing together all who are committed to and concerned about Christian education in our nation

The 200th anniversary of the National Society, 200 years since the birth of Nathaniel Woodward. We at the SCA are not having our usual School Chaplains' Conference so we can all go to this one instead. Please put the dates in your diary – more details to follow

A good initiative to note:

Archbishop of York Youth Trust Discipleship Award

I am writing to introduce you the award scheme from the Archbishop of York Youth Trust. We have been asked to assess whether there is a need or desire for the scheme to be made more widely available and I would be grateful to hear your thoughts on the matter

The Discipleship Award is a three-part accredited programme intended for youth groups and/or secondary pupils as part of their RE curriculum. Each part of the award runs across a period of a term. Awards are given for actions of 'Faith' during the first-year of study, and then 'Hope' and 'Charity' for the following years. The Trust's focus is on empowering young people to make a difference in their communities, wanting them to "be the change you want to see."

As an example of how this works in practice, Year 7 students engaging in the 'Faith' award begin by studying the teachings of Jesus, drawing on key sayings and parables such as the Good Samaritan. Starting from this theoretical framework, students next discuss actions that could have a positive impact on their communities. These are then undertaken in groups and reflected upon, with additional support from mentors from the school and local community. Such activities support learning about key aspects of Christian belief in practice, as well as developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills. During the pilot, one pupil said that they felt "happy inside because they were giving to somebody else".

The Discipleship Award recognises students' achievement in three ways. Lapel badges and certificates are given to those who successfully took part in some activity. An awards evening hosted by the Archbishop at Bishopthorpe Palace is held for those young people who did exceptional acts. The Youth Trust is also keen to make additional funding available to exceptional schools or churches to support further delivery.

We would very much value your reflections on the above by filling in the short form online at <http://tinyurl.com/aoyytrust> For more information about how the Award has been piloted in a school, watch a short video here: <http://tinyurl.com/AASvideo>

Should you have other reflections or questions please feel free to contact me on Richard.bromley@yfc.co.uk. With many thanks in anticipation,

Reverend Richard Bromley
