

Sixth Form Spiritual Life – ‘To Lead Is To Serve’

As a Christian Academy, the spiritual life is our foundation – Christ is our cornerstone. Our values are rooted in the Gospels and the Gospel message permeates our community. Therefore, the spiritual life is an integral part of the Sixth Form. Christ teaches us to be the servants of others [Mark 10: 33-34], to ‘wash the feet of others’ [John 13: 5] and to put others first simply because we love them [John 15: 12]. Leadership is crucial at KS5. Our Sixth Form students take on a leading role in the spiritual life of the Academy so that others may learn, benefit and be inspired by their example. We use Christ’s teachings as our core and seek ways to implement them throughout our daily lives.

Year 7 Literacy:

Year 12 students help our Year 7 pupils develop their literacy skills. Every Monday, the entire Year 12 cohort meet up with their Year 7 readers on a one-to-one basis to listen to them read, discuss the texts and narratives and help them with any comprehension issues.

Year 7 & 8 Numeracy:

Year 12 students help our Year 7 and 8 pupils develop their numeracy skills. Every Wednesday, the AS Mathematicians meet with their small group of KS3 pupils to discuss any issues and take them through simple strategies for remembering some not so simple mathematics. Our Year 12 mentors are invaluable.

Acts of Collective Worship:

Every week the Sixth Form have an Act of Collective Worship. Since Christmas 2017, these have been with the Year 11 pupils as well. Our students are required to assist in the planning, delivery and evaluation of these Acts of Collective Worship. Students who have served as ambassadors for the school and have attended specific religious trips or workshops use these as their theme for the worship to communicate what they learnt from these experiences.

Year 12 and 13 students are frequently called upon to help develop and take the lead in the key Christian festivals celebrated at Holy Trinity Academy. Both the Advent and Christmas liturgies and the Lenten and Easter liturgies all have members of the Sixth Form community writing and reading prayers, role playing, reading scripture, singing, distributing the Ashes, leading the Academy in silent reflection and assisting in the evaluation of the liturgy.

Servant Leadership Course:

Every October, just before the half term break, staff from the Religious Education Department take 15 Year 12 students to Glasgow. The group stay at the Conforti Institute and participate in the Servant Leadership course run by the clergy. Students have the opportunity to participate in group and team activities, prayer and reflection and discuss Scripture. Each day begins and ends in the chapel with a liturgical service. Students not only get to see the sights and splendours of Glasgow but also see first-hand the work that the Centre does to support those in need with the Food Bank that it runs. The students from Holy Trinity Academy take the Academy’s food donations with them to the Food Bank as our way of supporting them. On their return to Holy Trinity, students contribute to the spiritual life of the Academy by serving the pupils in KS3 through the literacy and numeracy programmes, playing a key role in the House system and assisting in the planning and delivery of liturgical services.

EPQ:

All Year 12 and 13 students study for the Extended Project Qualification. This course is the foundation of their Core Religious Education in the Sixth Form. Students have 3 lessons every fortnight (6.00% of the curriculum time) with a member of the Religious Education Department. The staff support the students as they plan, research and produce a 5,000 word essay on a topic of their choosing. Students tackle the ethics behind their chosen topics. This year, the topics chosen include Life After Death, Euthanasia, Slavery, Cosmology, Dementia and Religious Experiences & Conversions. In addition to the essay preparation and writing,

students also engage in taught lessons on issues within Religious Education such as human rights, slavery and key Christian beliefs.

PSHE:

It is important that students understand the importance of valuing themselves physically, mentally and spiritually. As we consider life to be a gift from God [Genesis 1], students have the opportunity to participate in workshops that encourage them and guide them in matters of health. Year 12 students have workshops on alcohol and illegal substances. Ethical, political and religious issues are discussed and argued as well as self-esteem and the importance of looking after yourself and others.

Year 13 Leavers Service:



At the end of June we say goodbye to our Year 13 students. We celebrate their time with us by holding a liturgical service in the Main Hall. Parents, family, friends, relations, Governors, and staff are invited to join us on this evening as the service centres around Scripture, prayers and blessings for not only the students, but those that have supported them during their time here at Holy Trinity Academy. The evening culminates in a BBQ and a social gathering to wish them every success for the future.

SMSC Boards:

At the end of June, all Sixth Form students participate in the last Impact Day of the academic year. In their Form groups, the students work with their Tutors on the given SMSC theme. The aim is to research the theme and produce a display that will be put up around the school to educate other members of the Academy community about that given theme. A fun day with a lot of creativity and spirituality.

