HTA – Student Chaplaincy Team

Our Student Chaplaincy Team has continued this academic year. As a Christian school community, we are delighted to see it grow year on year as more and more students hear about what the Team gets up to … sees the Team in action around the school and then feels that this is something that they would like to be a part of. We currently have 12 students this year who have expressed an interest in joining the Team and have already come along to our Friday form/break meetings in the chapel.

Five of our SCT members (who had signed up at the end of last year) attended a training / workshop afternoon at the Telford Minister at Meeting House in the town centre in September. They spent the afternoon in discussion, reading and exploring Scripture, taking part in icebreakers and games … all with the focus on what it is to be a part of a SCT.

They examined what the believed their role should be within the school, what they hoped that they and the school community would gain from their participation and how we could continue to grow the spiritual life of the school. Their ideas and reflections were fantastic.





And as group, they decided that the SCT should have 4 key goals:

1) To help people understand Jesus' message and for them to realise that He loves them no matter what

2) To help our school community to follow God more closely

3) To teach others about Jesus … what He did in his life and why

4) To know that God will forgive us if we ask Him

As a school, we are very impressed that our Year 8 students have chosen these as their focus this year.

All members of our SCT will be heading into Form groups over the next couple of weeks to lead each Form in prayer. The SCT have chosen 'Salt of the earth & Light of the world' [Matthew 5: 13-16] as their theme to highlight the importance of the Faith element of our Mission Statement (see following slides for the SCT-led Form Time prayer session.

Later in the year, they will lead all the Forms in prayer sessions on the themes of Unity and Aspiration.

A big thank you to the Telford Minister Team for helping to organise the training session.

Student Chaplaincy Team … Faith

Welcome / Introduction:

Introduce yourselves as member of the HTA Student Chaplaincy Team … and tell them your names!
Tell them you meet every Friday in the Chapel to think of ways to help the spiritual life of the school to grow
Tell them you are here to lead them in Form Prayer today

"*We begin our Form prayers by reminding ourselves that we are in the presence of Christ … and we do this by making the sign of the cross … so, if you could join us … in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*"



Icebreaker / Discussion:

What are all the good things and bad things about salt? … can do this on their whiteboards and feedback to you.

Some suggestions might be …

Good: Adds flavour to food; Preserves food (like in the old days on board ships); Could be / has been used as currency (in Roman times!); Cleans / heals wounds (rinse mouth our with salt water when tooth comes out)

Bad: Too much can make you sick / vomit; Dehydrates you / makes you thirsty; Raises blood pressure; Too much salt is linked to some cancers; Too much can destroy the taste of food

Scripture: [you will need to ask for a volunteer from the Form group to read the Scripture]

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Reflection:

To everyone here today … you are the salt of the earth and you are the light of the world. As members of our Christian school community, we must be both salt and light. We should never seek to be self-serving. As salt, we must add flavour, and as light we must illuminate the lives of others. So, what must we do in order for the salt not to run out, or to make sure the oil to light the lamp does not come to an end? Pray. The "battery" we use to generate light is simply prayer.

There are many things we can do in our lives, many works of generosity, many great things for the charity and for others … and these are important … but if we do not pray, it will be tasteless and dimly lit. As a Christian school community, prayer is what lights up our daily life here, for prayer must come from the heart. The words are not important. What is important is the sincerity and genuineness of prayer.

We are the salt and we are the light. We become salt when we add the Christian flavour to lives of others. We do this by giving our ourselves … helping others … enriching their lives with the message of the Gospel. Salt is something to be used, not to keep for oneself. In the same way chefs use it to flavour the food they serve others. Light is something we use to help others see. Both salt and light are for others, not for ourselves: salt does not give flavour to itself and light does not illuminate itself. And right next to us, helping us give salt and light to others, is God. He supports us so that we can be that salt and light.

Prayer: Lord, let us be Your salt and light in this world.
Empower us by Your Spirit to live in obedience and faith.
Let our words and actions have a great impact on those around us,
and use us to draw people to You rather than away from You.
Amen

[Sign of the Cross]

