

For teachers and schools in the north

The RE Newsletter



SPRING TERM 1

JANUARY 2025

NEWS AND EVENTS

HOLOCAUST EDUCATIONAL TRUST – SURVIVOR WEBCAST 2025

On Wednesday 22nd January thousands of people will come together to mark Holocaust Memorial Day by hearing the testimony of Holocaust survivor Mala Tribich MBE. This year will mark 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the former Nazi concentration and death camp. The webcast is a special online event where thousands of schools, organisations and individuals across the UK come together to hear from a survivor about their experiences during the Holocaust. Teachers will be provided with a bespoke lesson pack to prepare for the live webcast and students will have the opportunity to submit questions as a part of the live Q&A. This offer is for students aged 14 and above. To register you can use the link here - [Register Holocaust Survivor - Mala Tribich MBE.](#)



A multi-school Outreach event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day is available for students in primary school and lower secondary on Thursday, 16th January, 10.00 - 11.30. To register, click here - [Holocaust Memorial Day Event - Primary and Lower Secondary.](#)

SECONDARY SCHOOLS COMPETITION TO DESIGN BOSNIA MEMORIAL

Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 marks 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and 30 years since the genocide in Bosnia. Holocaust Memorial Day Trust are running an exciting opportunity for secondary school students to learn about the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia by designing a memorial. Applicants will have the chance to be awarded a prize and have their work displayed at the UK National Ceremony. Entries close on Friday 10 January 2025.

If you'd like to find out more or download the information pack to get involved please visit [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | Schools.](#)

PENNINE LEARNING'S SOCIAL MEDIA FOCUS IS MOVING TO BLUESKY

At Pennine Learning, our mission is to inspire learning, empower educators, and build better futures through collaboration and innovation. In line with our values, we're excited to announce a shift in our social media focus from Twitter to Bluesky.

We believe Bluesky aligns more closely with our ethos, fostering a space for authentic connection and meaningful dialogue. You can now find us at Pennine Learning on Bluesky, where we'll continue to share insights, updates, and resources.



For the time being, our Twitter account will remain active, and we will maintain a presence there. However, we plan to migrate more fully to Bluesky later this year, ensuring our digital platforms truly reflect our core values.

We look forward to continuing to connect with you as we explore this new space together. Thank you for being part of our journey to inspire learning and build better futures!

@penninelearning.bsky.social

<https://bsky.app/profile/penninelearning.bsky.social>

THE FAITH AND BELIEF FORUM – INTERFAITH WEEK

Inter Faith Week has been a cornerstone of interfaith engagement in the UK since 2009. Following the closure of The Inter Faith Network in Spring 2024, The Faith and Belief Forum is now launching a nationwide consultation in England to ensure the future of Inter Faith Week is shaped by the people on the ground. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government intends to fund this nationwide consultation, taking place in January and February 2025. The Faith and Belief Forum are inviting everyone – interfaith organisations, practitioners, and enthusiasts – to share their views and be part of the process. To find out more and how to get involved please visit [Have Your Say on the Future of Inter Faith Week - The Faith & Belief Forum](#).



PARALLEL HISTORIES

Taking place on Tuesday 4th March at 5pm, a short online event for anyone who would like to find out about Parallel Histories organisation. Parallel Histories is an

PARALLEL HISTORIES

educational charity that helps teachers, and their

students engage in evidence led investigation and debate of controversial histories in schools. Bill Rammell - Chief Executive (former Minister of State for the Middle East) will talk about Parallel Histories' work, and how it supports schools and resources them to teach contested history. There will also be opportunities to ask questions.

Parallel Histories aims to:

- Have a strong focus on Israel/Palestine, taking school students through a chronological journey of historical investigation and debate of controversies key to the history of Israel/Palestine.
- Set the recent events in historical context and explores why history is understood differently by different groups, why people think what they think, and why each party sees the other party in the way that it does.
- Help understand why the Israel/Palestine conflict is so difficult to resolve and empowers young people to reach their own evidence-led conclusions.
- Teach how to think, not what to think.

If you would like to attend this event the zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82441685261?pwd=zaVzuQnbEZdSZbOshWBXtZL8dYWCPk.1>

FAIR AND FUNKY CONFERENCE

A reminder that there are limited spaces still available for the fairandfunky Fairtrade Conference for Primary Schools at The Tolson Museum in Huddersfield on Wednesday 5th March. Please email sophie@fairandfunky.com for a booking form.

Links to other available workshops through fairandfunky – [Feed the birds](#) workshop, [The girl who planted trees](#) workshop, and [many more](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

NATRE – STRICTLY RE CONFERENCE 2025 – LAST CHANCE TO BOOK



Many of you will already have registered to attend NATRE's Strictly RE conference, led by expert RE Today Advisers and tailored to support you in refining your skills, exploring fresh perspectives, and deepening your confidence in delivering inspiring RE lessons.

Less than 50 spaces remain - Book before 17 January!

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to deepen your professional development with valuable resources to enhance your teaching practice, all whilst connecting with fellow educators.

Date: Saturday 25 January 2025

Venue: Leonardo Royal Hotel, Birmingham B1 2HQ

Standard Price: £185 | NATRE Member Price: £160 (to become a member click [here](#))

Booking deadline: 12PM on Friday 17 January 2025

To book your last-minute place click [here](#).

JEWISH LIVING ONLINE

Jewish Living Online is a free course for secondary schools produced by the Board of Deputies of British Jews. It introduces Jewish life in Britain, including diverse Jewish traditions, practices, and ways of life, and aids understanding of the Jewish connection to the land of Israel. It teaches about the forms of racism and prejudice that Jews face and how to be an ally in the fight against it. More information here <https://jlo.org.uk/>.

RE TODAY UPCOMING LIVE PRIMARY COURSES

Help! I'm the RE Subject Leader – 28/01/2025 (to book click [here](#))

Designed to give you the confidence, tools, and knowledge to become an inspiring and effective RE Subject Leader in primary school.

Learning outcomes:

- Develop RE understanding and leadership skills through practical activities.
- Learn to plan schemes of work and monitor progress using local or faith guidelines.
- Gain ready-to-use ideas for engaging both staff and pupils.

Introducing a Religion and Worldviews approach – 12/02/2025 (to book click [here](#))

Explore the key differences between the religion and worldviews approach and traditional RE practice, and discover its benefits for both teachers and pupils. This practical introduction, based on the new RE Council Handbook and Frameworks, provides valuable resources and strategies to enhance pupils' understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews.

Learning Outcome:

- Gain practical strategies and resources to enrich RE lessons.

Browse more primary resources https://clicks.retoday-email.co.uk/email/S-6651@265410@vtltmaV1Flagc2oq1tXjj4PKJzv4Ubb_WY7y33TE26M.@

CULHAM ST GABRIELS LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Are you leading our subject beyond your school, across a trust or perhaps running a local group or two? Applications for the Culham St Gabriels Leadership Scholarship 2025-27 programme will open on the 20th January 2025, and close on the 21st of March 2025.

The leadership scholarship programme provides opportunities for emerging RE/RVE/RME leaders to expand and deepen their reflections on educational leadership in the subject, through receiving mentoring, structured challenges, research insights, inspirational networking events, and experience of professional development delivery.

The funded programme aims to develop leaders in the following four areas:

- Research engaged
- Curriculum engaged
- Politically engaged
- Classroom engaged

CULHAM ST GABRIELS RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in research? It is not too late to apply for funding towards study for a masters or even a doctorate in the field of RE/RVE/RME. Most people study for these part time alongside teaching. Applications need to be in by 31st January. To look into applying visit [Doctoral](#) or [Masters](#).

DISTANCE LEARNING (CATHOLIC THEOLOGY) WITH DURHAM UNIVERSITY

The Distance Learning programmes in Catholic Theology, led by Durham University's Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS), are designed so that participants can work through material at their own pace.

In addition to the Postgraduate Certificate, the Postgraduate Diploma, and the MA, students can now enrol for a single module. Students with a BA or BSc who have not studied Theology or a related discipline before, are able to apply for the core module, 'Catholic Theology: A Preliminary Tour' and proceed to the MA following its successful completion. The single module is also a standalone option for Continual Professional Development and general interest.

Further details are available at [Distance Learning – Durham University](#). If you have any questions contact - theresa.phillips@durham.ac.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Face-to-face AREIAC/AULRE conference "To Boldly Go" 26/27 June 2025.



Association of University Lecturers in Religion and Education (AULRE) and Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC) is delighted to announce its 2025 joint conference will be held at The University of Exeter : 26th and 27th June 2025.

In a time of climate and ecological breakdown, of social and political upheavals and increased polarization internationally, we address the question as to what a high-quality education in religion and worldviews can boldly offer to education at this time. Our conference brings together those with an interest in religious education (including researchers, teacher educators, advisers and teachers). Those working in aligned fields such as Education Studies, Moral Education, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Theology as well as from within Childhood and Youth studies may also be interested in attending and offering presentations.

Full call for proposals from practitioners and researchers, for academic papers as well as practical classroom teaching and curriculum ideas that will be presented in chaired/facilitated parallel sessions will be publicised at the end of January 2025.

Faith in International Climate Policy (UNEP Webinar) January 30th 2025 6-7pm (Zoom)

How is faith shaping international climate policy, and how can young people play a role in global climate negotiations? Join us for this engaging online event, featuring Azmaira Alibhai, Faith and Ecosystems Coordinator at the UNEP Faith for Earth Coalition. Discover the intersection of faith and climate action on the international stage and learn practical ways to get involved in shaping a sustainable future.

Sign up - [Faith in International Climate Policy \(UNEP Faith for Earth Council – Webinar\) - The Faith & Belief Forum](#)

5th February –Youth Interfaith Summit 2025 6-9pm (LSE Centre Building (CBG), Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE)

Hosted by the Faith and Belief Forum and the London School of Economics Faith Centre, the Youth Interfaith Summit is the largest youth-based interfaith gathering in the UK. Through expert speakers, workshops and networking, the summit will offer a space to think collaboratively about the role of faith in driving a more positive climate story for policy impact.

Key Topics:

- *Exploring Your Climate Story: Explore how you relate to the climate considering faith and other aspects of identity by crafting a human library style story.*
- *Communicating Climate Change: Explore the different methods of communicating climate change using digital media.*
- *Youth Influence on Climate Policy: Explore how young people of faith can have a significant impact on climate policy decisions at a national level.*
- *Engagement in the International Space: Explore how young people can get more involved in the climate space at an international level and why this is important.*

Sign up - [Youth Interfaith Summit 2025 - The Faith & Belief Forum](#)

SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE WEBINARS ON WORLD FAITHS – SPACES STILL AVAILABLE!

Develop your subject knowledge of religion and worldviews by meeting and hearing from someone who practises their faith, as well as exploring teaching strategies and resources. Each webinar will welcome a guest from the respective faith/ belief tradition who will share first-hand perspectives and answer questions about the faith or its teaching in school.

All twilight sessions run from 4.00-5.30 pm



- Tuesday 11th February 2025 - Judaism
- Monday 28th April 2025 – Christianity
- Wednesday 11th June 2025 – Hindu Dharma

The webinars are aimed mainly at primary RE teachers but will also provide useful subject knowledge development for many secondary colleagues.

Contact enquiries@penninelearning.com for information on pricing and bookings.

COURSES, NETWORKS AND SUPPORT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEADERS

If you have not already discovered the local RE networks, why not join us this academic year? Primary and Secondary RE Networks meet termly. They are a great way to meet other teachers to share ideas and resources.

Primary RE Networks in 2025:

- Calderdale (1300 - 1530): 4th March, 3rd June
- Kirklees (1300 - 1530): 10th March, 11th June
- Tameside (1600 – 1730): 25th February, 17th June
- Leeds (1315 – 1500; 1545 -1730): 12th March, 10th June. Book via Leeds for Learning

Please contact enquiries@penninelearning.com for details of primary networks.

Secondary Networks: Kirklees/ Calderdale/Leeds (0900 – 1500): 3rd February, 7th July.

Please contact jake@penninelearning.com for details about secondary networks.

Practical and effective leadership of Religious Education (RE Coordinators Course):

Friday 30th January (0900-1530) Venue - Dukinfield Town Hall (£190)

To book contact aimee.pentney@tameside.gov.uk.

Believing and Belonging resource webinar:

Thursday 23rd January (1600-1730) Online.

An opportunity to gain knowledge and share experience with other schools and experts from Pennine Learning who are using the BB resources module.

SCHOOL RESOURCES AND WORKSHOPS

APPROACH TO RE, SPACE FOR THE PERSONAL?

The Religious Education Council recently held a webinar exploring the concept of Personal Worldviews in the Religion and Worldviews Approach to RE, Space for the Personal? There were contributions from Emma Salter, Dawn Cox and Ed Pawson. To watch the webinar click [here](#).

RELIGION, THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT ON THE CURRICULUM?

At the end of the Strictly RE event held in January 2024, a conversation took place between Fiona Moss (CEO of NATRE) and Daisy Scalchi (Head of Religion and Ethics at BBC TV). Fiona explored the approach Daisy and others in the BBC teams take to presenting religion and ethics output across television, radio and the news. Before taking on her current role, Daisy (who has worked for the BBC for a long time) commissioned religious, philosophical and



ethical content on behalf of the broadcaster. So, this conversation provided a good opportunity for her to talk knowledgeably about the underlying thinking in the BBC concerning programmes that include religious or non-religious content. She drew on examples that included specific programmes and series both already seen or yet to be delivered in 2024 on the network. To read a full report of the conversation click [here](#).

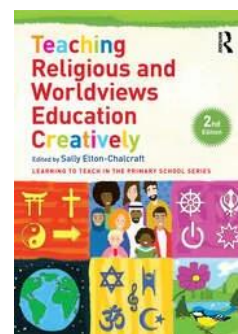
RE FUTURES – AULRE SPECIAL EDITION JOURNAL OF RE

The AULRE special edition Journal of RE: RE Futures which arose from the joint AULRE/AREIAC conference in the summer is free to read. Dig in to read about Identity and influence- RE professional's views on the inclusion of far right extremism as a topic within RE lessons by one of the Culham St Gabriel's doctoral Scholars Faye Lowe or a piece on the use of questions in primary classroom in science and religion. To read the journal click [here](#).

HELPFUL RESOURCE FOR DELIVERING THE CURRICULUM IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teaching Religious and Worldviews Education Creatively offers a fresh perspective on the Religious Education (RE) curriculum. This updated edition is full of practical lesson ideas underpinned by research authored by specialists in the field. It helps teachers understand what constitutes an effective and creative Religion and Worldviews Education (RWE) curriculum, and challenges teachers to view RWE as a subject that offers learners the tools to be discerning, to work out their own beliefs and to answer puzzling questions.

<https://www.routledge.com/Teaching-Religious-and-Worldviews-Education-Creatively/Elton-Chalcraft/p/book/9781032421698>



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