

To: Secondary Headteachers & Heads of RE

January 2009

Dear colleague

OFFER OF INTER FAITH PANEL TALKS TO KINGSTON SECONDARY SCHOOLS

I am writing to you on behalf of the Kingston Inter Faith Forum which I chair. This body was formed five years ago to bring together people from different faiths and to enable greater understanding within communities.

We are very interested in raising the awareness of different faiths amongst young people and feel that a good approach would be to offer the possibility of multi-faith panel visits for schools, for example for 6th formers or those following GCSE RE courses. Successful panel question and answer sessions have been held at Coombe Sixth Form and Tiffin School and can be used to complement:

- the school's planned approach to SMSC, collective worship and promotion of community cohesion, which will be considered during Ofsted inspections .
- the schools' role in promoting pupil well-being – QCA guidance indicates that '*delivering high quality citizenship and RE, to make children understand how society works; to prepare them for playing their part as adult citizens; and to help them understand other faiths and cultures while developing a sense of shared identity*' will be taken as an example of pupils 'making a positive contribution'.
- the 'Learning together to be safe' toolkit which is part of the Government's PREVENT strategy.

We have a number of members who would be delighted to join panel discussions representing their own faiths:

Jewish	Rabbi Charley Baginsky, Kingston Liberal Synagogue
	Rabbi Danny Rich, Chief Executive, Liberal Judaism & Chair of the IFF
	Rabbi Michael Rosenfeld, Kingston Orthodox Synagogue
	Fleur Standring and other representatives from the Kingston Liberal Synagogue
Muslim	Shahid Ghauri, Ahmadiyyan Muslim Association
	Imam Shahid Hussain, Inter Faith Advisor to the London Central Mosque
	Rashid Laher and other representatives from Kingston Mosque
	Hamida Syed, Kingston Muslim Women's Community and Cultural Association
Christian	Reverend Mandy Beck and representatives from the Kingston Borough Deans
	Reverend Jacky Bone, YMCA Chaplain
	Reverend Stan Brown, Ecumenical Chaplain, Kingston University
	Edith Jayne, Society of Friends (Quakers)
	Father Peter Jenner, Roman Catholic Church
	Reverend Bruce Stuart, United Reformed Church
Sydney Assor and representatives from the Three Faiths Forum (Christian, Jewish and Muslim)	

We suggest that Panels have three representatives of different faiths. Each member would briefly outline what it means to be a member of that faith and a question-and-answer session would then follow.

If your school is interested in this proposal, please contact Jean Cousens, Democratic Support Officer at Kingston Council with several suggested dates and times. Jean can be contacted on 020 8547 5023 or by email to jean.cousens@rbk.kingston.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

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