

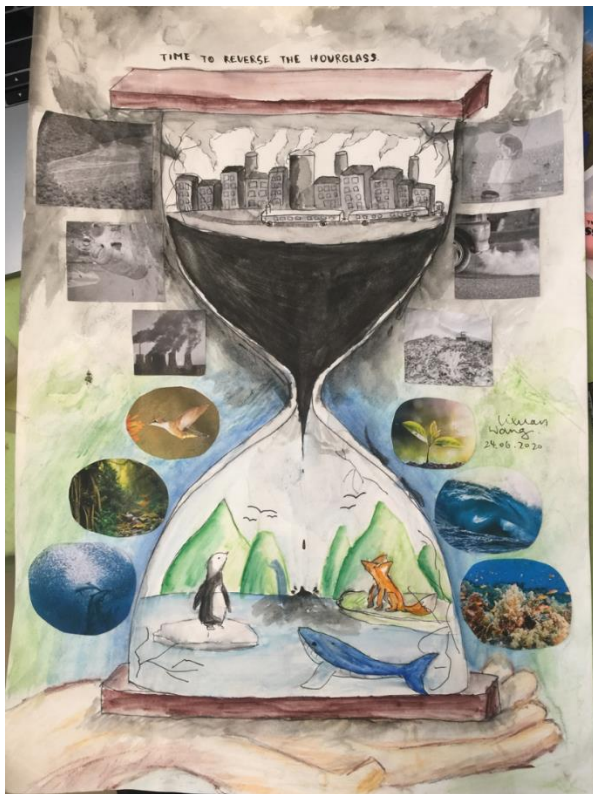
Updates on RE resources and training: Spring 2020

Gloucestershire Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE) receives termly updates on what is happening in RE, curated by our adviser Stephen Pett from RE Today and the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). We thought schools would like this handy newsletter to inform you about some of the resources and training on offer.

NATRE's Spirited Arts competition: results and next year's competition

The competition has attracted record entries this year – it was a popular lockdown activity set by hundreds of teachers, and the YouTube lesson to accompany it was viewed about 14,000 times. Many of our schools have taken an interest in this competition. There are over 30,000 entrants.

Here is one of the inspiring entries, the best of which can be viewed at www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts



This piece is called **The Hourglass**. I wanted to show a contrast between what the earth was like, and what it was now without a too obvious division of the page. I did not base it on a particular religion, but on the overall belief that God is watching over us, holding our hourglass with his hand. I got my inspiration from a picture of an hourglass with the mountains, the forests, all flowing down into the other side of the hourglass, where it is all rubbish and pollution. I've switched the concept subtly. Instead of the wonderful nature flowing and rotting into trash, I decided that it would be the other way round: the black tar that shows our pollution is flowing and dark drops are contaminating the Bright nature on the other side of the hourglass, and the animals are watching in vain. The whole hourglass is cracking. I wanted to show that if one system breaks, then, like the Buddhists say, the whole interconnected and interdependent community will fall. I have put pictures of the opposing sides on either end of the hourglass, they are examples of the wonderfulness of nature, and the heart wrenching truth of what we have done with our planet; on the bottom, corals, birds, forests, and on the top toxic fumes, fossil fuels, plastic, pollution, landfills, and deforestation. I hope that when people see this piece, they will see God's good Earth, and realise what we are doing to it, and strive to reverse the damage before the hourglass breaks.

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The competition for the next year is being launched and 5 themes are available to schools for them to engage and respond creatively.

Next year's closing date is 31st July 2021.

Themes for the coming year:

- "We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us."
- God's good earth?
- Where is God?
- Healing
- Inspiring!

Diocese of Gloucester Reflections on Faith RE & Art competition, closing date 31st March 2021

Note this local competition for Gloucestershire schools.

www.gloucester.anglican.org/welcome-2/schools/primary-religious-education/

Farmington Scholarships 2021-2022

Farmington Scholarships are now open to Head teachers and UK secondary and primary school teachers, teachers of RE to children with Special Educational Needs

The Farmington Institute

The aim of the Farmington Institute is to support and encourage Head teachers working on values and standards, and teachers of Religious Education in schools. The Institute awards Scholarships to UK Head teachers and teachers of Religious Education in schools, and publishes discussion papers and arranges conferences.

What types of Scholarships are available?

The Scholarships are divided into two types: university-based and school/home-based. Teachers who live within a reasonable distance of one of the selected universities or colleges may be awarded a university-based Scholarship. The academic facilities of the colleges and universities are available for Scholars.

Find out more here. (www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/)

Materials available for home-learning and socially distanced RE

RE Today has produced **free** resources that ALL teachers can use and share with pupils and parents in order to support with home learning and also socially distanced RE in schools. [Access resources here](#)

Resources for anti-racist RE

NATRE and RE Today, working with the Free Churches Group and Methodist Schools, have launched a project to help teachers tackle racism in RE lessons. The project aims to:

- Enable a team of 60+ black, Asian and minority ethnic teachers of RE and members of different communities to articulate perspectives on the contributions of RE to anti-racist education, accessible for all teachers of RE
- Provide challenging and well planned resources, case studies, plans and lessons for teachers of RE in both primary and secondary schools to use in RE that challenge and confront racism and are also good RE, mounted and free from web platforms hosted both by RE Today and by the Free Churches Group and the Methodist Schools.
- Create a forum for teacher education and development in relation to anti-racist RE, recognising that practice in RE in this area is patchy and inconsistent (also online)
- Disseminate better practice in anti-racist RE widely, using the wide range of contacts and networks available to RE today

Wide partnerships to maximise the impact of the project have been used, including for example with NATRE and the Jo Cox Foundation. Teachers can access a planned unit of six topics for primary and of 8 topics for secondary RE, including ready to use resources and a wide range of support materials.

www.natre.org.uk/anti-racist-RE

Worldviews in Religious Education

Following the Commission on RE report recommendation that RE be called 'Religion and Worldviews', there are two reports to read about the implications of this potential paradigm shift towards 'worldviews' in RE. National think tank *Theos* published *Worldviews in Religious Education* on 21 October

www.theosthinktank.co.uk/ . T

he RE Council of England and Wales set up an academic group to examine how people understand the term 'worldview'. They have produced a set of position papers to help the RE community explore the issues.

These are available here: <https://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/news/project-worldview-conversations/>

Stephen Pett

Gloucestershire SACRE/NATRE/RE Today