

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: MARCH 7th 2017

SUBJECT: GCSE CONSORTIA ARRANGEMENTS/ SPECIFICATIONS

SACRE has been regularly updated on progress with regard to the revised specifications for GCSE and A/AS Level examination courses.

The A/AS approved specifications, training programme and courses already being taught from September 2016.

The GCSE level specifications have been approved and in place for first teaching from **September 2017**.

WJEC free CPD training days

- Monday 06 February 2017, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm- Carmarthen - **low availability**
- Tuesday 07 February 2017, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm - Cardiff - **low availability**
- Wednesday 15 February 2017, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm – Bangor
- Thursday 16 February 2017, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm – Mold

WJEC GCSE Religious Studies Route A and B Preparing to Teach (Wales Centres Only)

Course Aims:

This full day course is designed for teachers who are preparing to teach the WJEC GCSE Religious Studies spec A and B for first teaching from September 2017. Each session will look in-depth at the new specification including its assessment objectives, examination structure and other key areas and review sample assessment materials. It will also show how supporting resources may be used to help you teach the new qualification.

Outcomes for delegates:

- Gain an understanding of the content and assessment requirements of the new specification, including key reforms that need to be addressed.
- Support planning for teaching and understand the implications of reforms on pedagogy.
- An opportunity to view new resources and those in development to support teaching and learning and gain practical ideas on how these may be used in the classroom.
- An opportunity to network with colleagues and subject specification specialists.

You will also be provided with a comprehensive pack of materials which you can take away with you and share with colleagues.

Course Personnel:

The course is led by subject specialists who have in-depth experience and knowledge of the content. They will be subject officers, specification developers, examiners or moderators with a wealth of experience in this field.

Course Costs:

FREE (including refreshments and course materials).

- Due to anticipated popularity, places are limited to one delegate per centre.

GCSE Support programme

ERW Consortia

Tonia Antoniazzi (ERW)leader of learning for Non Core Subjects for GCSE. She informed WASACRE of the work ERW are doing to support RS at GCSE level.

She has a team of teachers/lead practitioners who will support her in sharing and developing good practice. The work from ERW is intended to be collected by end of June. The good practice will be shared through HWB. The intention is for a collaborative approach between WJEC and the Consortia. Currently discussions are ongoing with WJEC Subject Officers about resource development.

Process

Schools will celebrate and share their work through HWB. There will be a need to sign in as an approved member to access HWB. Every school in Wales can access HWB. The intention is tie in with other consortia to share good practice and materials.

Central South Consortia (CSC)

CSC contact: Cathryn Billington-Richards/ Area Lead: lead practitioners, language, literacy and communication

Curriculum Lead Practitioners for RE to provide support for non-core WJEC GCSE subjects first teaching September 2017

- Catherine Rees/ O'Brien, Pencoed Comprehensive School
- Lisa James, Cardiff High School

They will be working with the ERW practitioners along with those in EAS and GWE. One of the roles of the Hub lead will be to run HODs network meetings to share good practice and develop an understanding of the new specifications.

A subject leader network meeting was held on January 26th to look at developing collaboration between schools for the new specification.

The lead practitioners are also developing resources for the new GCSE which will be shared via hwb

Recommendation

SACRE to note and discuss the developments relating to the support for schools with the revised specifications for GCSE

If possible the curriculum lead/s will be invited to address SACRE on their work.