

ACTION

'The voice of joy, the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say: Praise the Lord of hosts, For the Lord is good, His mercy endures for ever.'

Jeremiah 33:11

Editorial: The Lord is Good

Praise Him indeed! As we come to the end of another year, we are all thankful to Him for getting us through. There have been highs and inevitably, there have been many lows, but He has been there and He has kept His promise to be with us in every situation.

Transfer Latest

For some of you, the summer may mean changes, whether a new school, promotion or retirement. Whatever the reason, we pray that God will go before you and prepare the way so that you can face whatever is thrown at you in the year to come.

VQ Hero Awards

If you are around for New Horizon, then make a point of attending a NIACT inspired seminar where the speaker will be John Shortt, a Tipperary man, who is now the travelling secretary for the European Christian Educators group. He is also the joint author of 'The Bible and the Task of Teaching'. We are privileged to have John with us, as he is a very popular speaker across Europe. The seminar is on Thursday 23rd July. We hope to see you there.

PC RE

The autumn term will see changes to NIACT and how we keep in touch with you. Further details will come with the autumn posting and we hope that you will welcome the changes and help us to remain a Christian voice in education.

News in brief

From the committee of NIACT, may we wish you a very relaxed but inspiring holiday, wherever you happen to end up and may you find time to get closer to our Father and enjoy fellowship with Him.

Fred Corscadden,
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In Brief

Opportunities to serve abroad:

www.hebronooty.org/staffing.htm

<http://www.sim.org/index.php/opportunity/countries>

Students ... !

A 6ft snake and a life-size skeleton are among the bizarre items left behind as students leave university halls for the summer.

They'll have your eye out!

A Devon school has banned pupils from wearing swimming goggles - because they get slippery when wet .

NIACT

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The Northern Ireland Association of Christian Teachers

The Northern Ireland Association of Christian Teachers aims to advance and apply the Christian faith in schools and colleges by supporting, uniting, equipping, and representing Christians employed in education.

We're on the
web:
www.niact.org.uk

Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

Matt 9:19

Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.

Matt 15:36

Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Mark 16:20

Up to 6,000 expected to sit AQE test

By late June the Association for Quality Education had 4,500 applications to sit its Common Entrance Assessment and expected the number to reach 6,000 by the closing date in September.

Thousands are also thought to have signed up for tests run by English company GL Assessment for another 34 schools. Each of these schools runs the tests independently so exact numbers are unknown.

Teachers get a Plato

Actually on June 15th at the Waterfront it not just teachers but governors and teaching assistants were recognised for their contribution to education. The Teaching Awards were founded in 1998 by Lord Puttnam to encourage inspirational teaching.

Categories included: Sustainable Schools, Teaching Assistant of the Year, Governor of the Year, Teacher of the Year (primary, secondary and special needs school awards as well as Outstanding New Teacher).

Headteacher of the Year in a Secondary School award was won by Dr Michael Dobbins, from Foyle View Special School in Londonderry which caters for children with severe learning difficulties. He is known as Mickey, or Mr Sunshine, by the pupils because he is always smiling. The school's accolades include the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award 2008 and the Silver Health Promotion Award 2008.

The full list of winners can be viewed on: www.teachingawards.com where nominations for the Teaching Award 2010 are now open.

Principals under pressure

Primary school principals are finding themselves under pressure on the one hand from the Department of Education to teach the Revised Curriculum and on the other from parents and boards of governors to teach for the new grammar school entry tests.

The NAHT has reminded its members of their contractual obligation to deliver the Revised Curriculum.

OCR Pilot Includes Druids and Moonies

With questions like: "What problems can wearing religious symbols cause?" and "describe the positive outcomes of interfaith marriage" it is hardly surprising the Religious Studies GCSE OCR is piloting in September this year has been described as "populist".

However, it is the inclusion of "new religions" including Rastafarianism, Unification Church (popularly known as Moonies) and Druids that has attracted most criticism.

The unit Religion and Belief in the Modern World, looks at the impact religion, secularisation and Humanism have on society in terms of business, politics and personal freedoms and offers the opportunity to explore two "new" religious movements.

"This new GCSE pilot allows us take a fresh look at how religious studies is taught," according to Clara Kenyon, OCR's qualifications director. "It addresses a range of issues relevant to students today, who often see religious issues in the news without necessarily having an understanding of the background."

40 Different Languages in NI Schools Send Them to the Head's Office for a Tongue Lashing

According to Chief Inspector Stanley Goudie the last school census carried out showed there are "around 7,000 newcomer children speaking 40 different languages" in Northern Ireland schools.

Inspectors visited 25 schools to assess support for newcomer children. They concluded that overall the provision of support is good.

The services and resources provided by the Inclusion and Diversity Service (IDS) were singled out for particular praise.

Caitriona Ruane Takes Daughter to Cyprus

Even as the Belfast Telegraph ran a story urging parents not to take children out of class during term time Caitriona Ruane had her daughter with her in Cyprus on an official trip. The Education Minister was defiant when challenged. "She missed three days of school but I am a mother as well as a Minister and I will decide the priorities in relation to my family," she said.

VQ Hero Awards

At the inaugural VQ Hero Awards ceremony in June Sir Reg Empey, minister for Employment and Learning announced the Young Learner of the Year and Learner of the Year.

The 24 years and under category was won by Alex Greene. A former student of the Southern

Regional College, Alex is now working at Gordon Ramsey's restaurant Claridges London having excelled in his placement there.

Geraldine Byrne, also a former student of the Southern Regional College who now runs her own hairdressing salon won the 25 years and over category.

An old fashioned bawling out rather than suspension would be a better way of dealing with many pupils according to former headteacher and government behaviour advisor Sir Alan Steer.

In an interview in The Independent Sir Alan also discussed his plan to back measures such as detention and confiscating mobile phones by enshrining them in law. He believes this is necessary as some schools have become reluctant to use traditional methods of discipline because parents are often inclined to challenge rather than support them.

Join Us

Thursday 23rd July
11.45—12.45pm

New Horizon Seminar

John Shortt
(travelling secretary for the European Christian Educators Group)

Speaking at the ceremony Sir Reg Empey said: "Vocational qualifications underpin everything my department is doing to raise the skills levels of the local population. This is why we are recognising vocational achievement through the celebration of VQ Day".

