



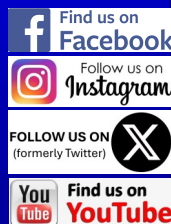
Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Autumn Term 2024

BSCWT, 49 Coxtie Green Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5PS
Phone: 01277 523522 E-mail: office@bscwt.org Website: www.bscwt.org

Registered Charity
No: 1172358

Find us on social media at: www.facebook.com/BSCWT, www.x.com/BSCWT,
www.instagram.com/b.s.c.w.t and www.youtube.com/@BSCWT.

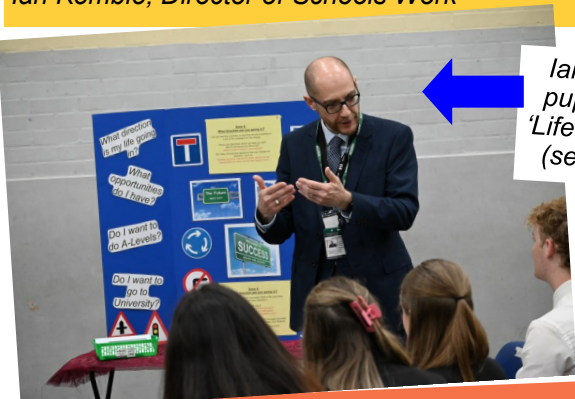
"Serving school communities by providing Christian learning and support"



You Never Know!

A few weeks ago, I was having an informal meeting with a headteacher in a local coffee shop. We were making our way to our table when a young woman stopped me and told me she remembered my assemblies from the school she went to. A short conversation revealed she was now a university student and she said: "I really enjoyed your assemblies. They had a really positive impact on me!" It didn't seem appropriate at the time to start plying this young person with questions about exactly what that positive impact had been, but this brief encounter reminded me of a Bible verse in Ecclesiastes 11:6 which says: "Keep on sowing seeds, for you never know which will grow." Thank you for your support in helping us to keep on sowing and planting seeds of faith and life - you just never know what impact they might have!

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work



Ian with pupils at 'LifeSpace' (see p2)

Schools Ministry Sunday

Formerly known as *Schools Work Sunday*, *Schools Ministry Sunday* will be on **2nd February 2025**. This is an opportunity in our local churches to celebrate, pray for and raise awareness of the various kinds of Christian ministry that goes on to serve and support our local schools. This includes the work of the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust, of course, but there is much more than that! Please note the date in your diary and please plan to take part in *Schools Ministry Sunday* – more information and resources will be available nearer the time.

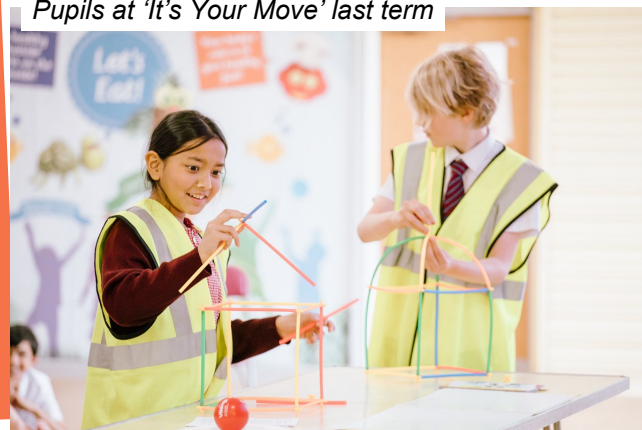
10 things we are doing with schools this term...

- Our 'Christmas Wonder' Project with about 12 schools
- Our 'Darkness to Light' Project with about 14 schools
- 63 assemblies in 27 schools
- A 'pop-up prayer space' for sixth formers
- 15 'OT/NT Mini' lessons
- One-to-one pupil support in 8 schools
- A 2-day whole-school prayer space in a primary school
- Weekly lunchtime clubs in 5 schools
- 'Caterpillars' support group for Year 1 pupils
- 'Prayerfully Learning Together' Project connecting schools & churches

A quick bit of Maths!

At the time of writing, we have just completed a series of 9 assemblies at 2 local secondary schools, speaking with around 2,000 young people in all. A quick mathematical calculation reveals that 15 minutes of 2,000 people's time equates to 30,000 minutes – that's 500 hours! What an awesome privilege and responsibility it is to be entrusted with such a huge amount of these young people's time! And what a great challenge we have to try to make it worth their while by presenting an engaging message to provoke deep reflection, whilst being from a Christian perspective and being accessible to everyone! In our assemblies for secondary schools this term we are inviting students to reflect on questions including 'Are you developing an attitude of gratitude?' and 'Could God be closer than you think?'

Pupils at 'It's Your Move' last term



Inside this issue:

	Page
From Ian: You Never Know! / A Quick Bit of Maths!	1
Schools Ministry Sunday	1
10 things we are doing this term	1
'Caterpillars', Pupil Support & 'LifeSpace'	2
Looking to Christmas	2
Being an Associate Worker	2

	Page
Primary Assemblies	3
Prayer Spaces	3
Clubs & OT/NT Mini	3
View from the Chair (of Trustees)	4
Finance Update	4
How can you be involved?	4

'Caterpillars'

Our 'Caterpillars' group has run this term at a primary school with 4 year one children. We have explored our feelings and how we fit in and connect with the people around us. To help us with our thinking, we have read the Bible story of the Prodigal Son and had a special visitor - Tricky, the wolf (a puppet!) Tricky struggles with his own behaviour and is always getting in trouble with his friends and family for being rude and unkind. The children have loved meeting with us, especially with Tricky, to whom they have given plenty of good advice on how not get into trouble!

Sue Evans, Lead Schools Worker



Pupil Support

Our pupil support meetings with individual students are continuing in 8 primary, secondary and specialist schools. Ranging from 15 minutes to an hour, these meetings provide a safe space to chat through worries and to spend some time with someone who is interested and listening. Sometimes we play a game with the pupil and sometimes the time allows for an outpouring of the pupil's frustrations and worries. Sometimes we can offer a fresh perspective into difficult situations and sometimes we get to win at Connect 4! Whatever the conversation, it is a privilege to provide pupils with the dignity of believing that they matter - to us and to God.

Sue Evans, Lead Schools Worker

Looking to Christmas



We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Project season. This year, we are offering our 'Darkness to Light' lesson to Year 2 classes and our 'Christmas Wonder' prayer space to Year 6 classes. We are grateful to many local churches who offer the use of their buildings for 'Christmas Wonder', to allow the pupils to experience a different environment and a reflective space to explore the deeper meaning



'Christmas Wonder' last year

of Christmas. We are also thankful to our team of associate workers who invest extra time over this period to allow us to engage with more schools and pupils.

We aim to provide engaging activities for the children, helping them to understand the relevance of this special time of year to Christians and to consider their own beliefs and responses. These projects would not be possible without Evie, our Project Administrator, who organises everything, juggling dates, and the availability of people and venues, to make it all happen!

Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker

LifeSpace

In July, around 200 Year 10 students attended 'LifeSpace' as part of their Careers Day at Shenfield School. The students visited 8 zones, hosted by our staff and associate workers, where they reflected on 'big life questions' with activities to support them. The aim of 'LifeSpace' is to provide space to consider questions which



Fiona with pupils at 'LifeSpace'



students might not normally get an opportunity to think about, and which also support their personal as well as their spiritual development. Students explored topics such as: Who are you as a person?, What values and morals are important to you?, What direction is your life going in?, What do you need to change or leave behind?, What impact do you have?, and How can faith feature in this area of your life? It was a great event and we received lovely feedback from students and staff. One school staff member said:

"We had such a positive response (from the students) and they all had a good time whilst learning. They really liked the hosts (the BSCWT team) as they were all friendly, engaging and funny!"

Fiona Mason, Operations Manager & Schools Worker

Being an Associate Worker

As an associate worker, I visit a local specialist school regularly to mentor students and help with assemblies. Both are remarkable experiences on many levels! Mentoring involves listening, encouraging, reassuring and advising, but above all empathising with young people as they mature and wrestle with anxieties and uncertainties. It is very personal and very precious to watch children blossom. Presenting assemblies is extraordinary – we are greeted with such enthusiasm and interest! We have even been known to receive a round of applause!



Angela at 'It's Your Move'

I also help with 'Wonder Space', a secondary school club which encourages thought and debate about life issues in extremely creative ways. Answering some of the questions is fascinating and sometimes quite challenging! I also help with prayer spaces, the Easter and Christmas projects and the 'It's your Move' lessons for Year 6 children moving to secondary school. BSCWT is a unique organisation, comprising people of all ages and backgrounds who work together joyfully and harmoniously to serve local schools.



Angela Oakley, Associate Worker



Primary Assemblies

A new year and a new assembly topic for our local primary schools! This year we are excited to share the story of David, a man who loved, and talked to, God. As well as following the life of David from his anointing through to his reign as King, each assembly will conclude with one of David's psalms, as an example of how David talked to God through all his trials and successes. Our first assembly explores how God knows us inside and out and knew that David had the right heart to be anointed the next King of Israel.

Holly Coleman,
Schools
Worker



Holly at
'LifeSpace'

Prayer Spaces



This half term has been a bumper one for our 'prayer spaces' in schools! It has been wonderful seeing pupils explore spirituality. In primary schools, we ran a whole-school 2-day prayer space with St Mary's School and contributed to a whole-school prayer space led by St Peter's Church, Hutton, with Willowbrook School. Our weekly Wonder Space lunchtime club has continued in a secondary school and, for our *Prayerfully Learning Together* research project, we have led 3 outside sessions with Year 5, 1 outside session with Year 6 and 3 focus groups reflecting on prayer. Themes covered included: Peace and Conflict, God in our daily life, How connected do you feel to God? and Thankfulness.

We've had some great comments from pupils, including: "It was relaxing and made me feel connected to God.", "My experience reminded me of how lucky I am to be alive!" and questions such as: Why do we die? God, what is it like to be in charge of the world? Are you real? And I wonder what God is doing right now.

Frances Coe, Schools Worker

Clubs

We have great news to share this term with answers to prayer for our lunchtime clubs... Last term's experiment of a 'pilot' club at Holly Trees has resulted in an ongoing permanent club thanks to the willingness of the team to continue! And with new volunteers joining our team, we've had the opportunity to re-start our lunchtime club at Mountnessing School.

We now have five clubs across both primary and secondary, all providing an opportunity to share the GOOD NEWS and focussing on exploring Christian faith and belief. We are so grateful for all the volunteers who help us run these clubs. We would love to be able to start even more clubs, so please let us know if you are interested in applying to volunteer with us!

Sue Evans, Lead Schools Worker



Alison
leading an
'OT Mini'
lesson



OT/NT Mini

We have had some exciting opportunities to teach 'OT Mini' (Old Testament) and 'NT Mini' (New Testament) lessons in local primary schools. This term, Barbara has been teaching NT Mini to a year 5 class, following on from teaching them OT Mini



when they were in Year 4. I have now completed my NT Mini training and have been teaching OT Mini to a mixed year 5/6 class as well as NT Mini to a year 6 class. Many of the children have been enthusiastically practising the 40 handsigns that accompany the lessons and have been keen to show them to us when we arrive!

Alison Carmichael,
Schools Worker

Frances with pupils at 'It's Your Move' last term



Thank you

We would like to thank all those who attended our End-of-Year Celebration on Tuesday 16th July, enabling us to have a very positive and uplifting evening. We gave thanks to God and celebrated all that He has been doing through the work of BSCWT in schools. As well as an encouragement from Ian to keep on 'sowing seeds' and a financial report from our Chair of Trustees, members of our team also shared news about the five core activities of BSCWT's work - pupil support, clubs, assemblies, lessons and prayer spaces - including feedback we have received from pupils.

Evie Bartlett, Project Administrator





VIEW FROM THE CHAIR:

I would like to start by thanking the staff and all who took part and came along to a very successful End-of-Year Celebration in July. It was a very good evening looking back and celebrating the work of the Trust over the last academic year.

The staff have started this academic year leading a large number of assemblies in our local schools and the Trustees are very pleased to see, that with some additional Associate Workers, we are now able to run two more lunch time clubs.

The Trustees are looking ahead and planning for the future. There have been some changes in roles with Joan Dewhirst retiring as a Trustee. Tim Barfoot has taken on the role of Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and will be reviewing and updating the Safeguarding Policy. There are some challenges ahead, so please keep the Trustees in your prayers as we organise and manage the strategic running of the Trust.

Mick Bastable, Chair of Trustees

Finance Update from the Treasurer & Trustees



The Trust, as always, is extremely grateful and thankful to all individuals, churches and charitable trusts for their continued generous support of BSCWT.

The accounts for the 2023/2024 financial year are complete and a copy is available on request.

To the end of August, regular income was £24,478 and expenditure was £57,464 giving a deficit of £32,986. The deficit is covered by previous legacies and one-off larger donations.

Now we have started a new academic year we are excited for new opportunities that allow us to communicate with young people in our local schools. However, in order to ensure that our invaluable work endures and expands, we continue to be dependent on donations from both individuals and churches. If you are a UK tax payer, you may be able to make your donations go further by allowing us to claim gift aid. The charity would receive 25p for every £1 that you give.

For further information about making a donation please do contact me by email on treasurer@bscwt.org.

Please continue to pray for the work of the Trust and for the children that we are reaching on a regular basis.

Claire Lim, Treasurer

Recent feedback from a student: "Your assemblies brighten up my day!"



Pupils at 'It's Your Move' last term

All photos in this newsletter are used with permission. Photos of our It's Your Move lessons are provided by PhotographybyAnnaMarie.

How can you be involved?

If you are a Christian with a passion for schools, education, children and young people, and think you might be interested in being involved, please get in touch with us at the BSCWT office. Please join with us to:

GIVE: BSCWT depends on the continued generosity of people who support us financially. If you'd like to support the work financially, please:

- Set up a standing order or a donation via your online banking. Please contact us for a Gift Aid Declaration form, if applicable (or download one from www.bscwt.org/downloads).
- Contact us for a standing order mandate.
- Donate online at www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20028156 or send a cheque to our office.
- For on-line banking/standing orders, please contact the BSCWT office for our bank account details.

PRAY: We believe praying for our local schools, children and young people is really important. Please contact us to:

- Request our weekly prayer email, termly prayer calendar and newsletter by email or post. Contact us at office@bscwt.org or 01277 523522 or visit www.bit.ly/BSCWTconsent
- Start a prayer group for schools in your church or start/join a prayer group for a particular school.
- Just pray — on your own or with others!

VOLUNTEER: There are over 40 people who give their time and energy to volunteer with BSCWT:

- Our **Associate Workers** volunteer with us in schools, working with children and young people.
- Our **Trustees** oversee the running of the Trust.
- Our **Support Teams** assist the Staff and Trustees by doing important tasks in areas such as prayer, finance, human resources, policy-writing, events, monitoring and publicity.
- Our **Church Reps** help us to liaise with our local churches.
- We are also open to applications from people interested in doing an internship or work experience with us.



In association with

Scripture Union

If you no longer wish to receive communications from BSCWT, please contact us at office@bscwt.org to be removed from our circulations.