

On 29th June 2017 the GCSE RE Conference at Grafton Manor, organised by South Bromsgrove High Teaching School, supported by REToday, NATRE, local SACREs and Worcester University, provided CPD for over 80 attendees with the aim of bringing the new RE to life. Speakers Kate Christopher, Stephen Pett and Razwan Ul-Haq along with faith experts Sushma Shajpal, Chris Hewer, Gerry Cohen, Waqar Ahmedi and the Venerable Tenzin Choesan answered teachers' questions on the new GCSE specification. Other highlights of the day included networking and a Teach Meet where teachers shared ideas. Some twitter responses on the day were:



Brilliant keynote by [@sfpett](#) on ways to get kids interested in texts. What a story is called has an impact on how it is read.

[#REtolife17](#)

Discussing [#Islamophobia](#) and how to deal with it when teaching [#re](#) [#REtolife17](#) [@ethicsgrrrl](#) (Kate Christopher) [@Islamic Artist](#) (Razwan Ul-Haq)



Such a privilege to have the esteemed Dr.Chris Hewer speaking on Islam content and methodology. [#REtolife17](#)

[@NATREupdate](#) [@RE Today](#)

So thankful to have [@KosherCrooner](#) (Gerry Cohen) sharing his knowledge and heart on Judaism great insights on the new syllabus. [#REtolife17](#) [@RE Today](#)



South Bromsgrove High Teaching School is

hoping to provide further CPD this year for RE teachers.



Feedback from the Conference:

Evaluation forms highlighted what delegates...

Enjoyed:

- Meeting colleagues and sharing ideas
- Expertise of the speakers
- Insights into the new GCSE course to develop resources.
- Getting interesting ideas
- They were inspired to do more trips
- The Teach Meet

Would have liked:

- More time on the Teachmeet
- More time to network
- More time with the faith experts
- Bit of a mixed response on faith expert sessions – Islam in particular would have been better if it hadn't had been split between 2 people.

What they want to see covered at next conference:

- Marking and moderation
- A-Level
- GCSE Assessment
- KS3
- Transition from KS2 – KS3
- A-Level expertise, especially on religious issues, e.g., Christianity

EVALUATION SHEETS Scale of 1 to 4, 1 = High Score and 4 = Low
All figures are in percentages. 2% represents approximately 1 person.

	1 (High)	2	3	4 (Low)
Keynote 1: Brining the new RE GCSE to Life.	74	22	4	
Keynote 2: Teaching Islam & Handling Difficult Issues	70	22	8	
Workshop: Meet the faith experts	78	14	8	2 (Due to 1 workshop leader not turning up)
Keynote 3: Getting Pupils into Texts	80	12	8	
Teach Meet	82	16		
How useful did you find the conference overall?	90	8	2	

“All keynote speakers were excellent, good strategies and ideas for the classroom. Getting pupils into sacred texts was helping when thinking of deeper engagement and in a cross curricular nature.”

“I thought the day was fantastic and I have been inspired by the teaching ideas shown. I have also sourced some of the wonderful resources shown to us and so it has had a direct impact on my knowledge and teaching.”

“Tips for the new GCSE teaching and ensuring academic rigour”

“Being able to meet the experts, I would have love to carried on our discussions, really interesting”

“Bringing the new RS GCSE to life, meeting other colleagues, sharing some interesting ideas and thinking outside of the box”

“Excellent talk from Dr.Chris Hewer answering our incisive question eloquently and brilliant ideas shared during the TeachMeet”