



INSPIRE

INSIGHTS, SNAPSHOTS & NEWS

SUMMER TERM 2022

NOT Back to Normal!

With lockdowns behind us, I am pleased to tell you that Spinnaker is NOT back to business as usual. I know that from the outside it might look normal - Assemblies, Lessons, RE Days, Moving-on Workshops (the schools are bending over backwards to get our team in for visits) - but Spinnaker has not returned to normal, and never will do! Instead, Spinnaker is catapulting into the future, and I am so VERY EXCITED about what lies ahead...

In recent years, we have responded to the wellbeing needs of children, and reacted to the unusual social environments created by Covid and lockdowns. I'm really proud of the team and the resources that they have created - the Psalms and the Proverbs have been our friends while writing during a strange season, which means that they've been the children's friends, and the teachers too. I'm so happy that Biblical wisdom and poetry has touched the hearts of so many thousands of lives.

Now Spinnaker is drawing a line under being led, rather we are taking the lead once more, demonstrating and advocating for the heart of excellent collective worship, and for us that starts with the person of Jesus. I am overjoyed, therefore, to announce that September will see the launch of our most ambitious resource pack ever: 'It's Jesus!'



'It's Jesus' will explore all the key moments of Jesus' life: the events and activities, the stories and teaching, the miracles and sacrifices. Each week of the entire school year will be dedicated to an episode of Jesus' life, all told as individual parts of a comprehensive and (broadly) chronological series. Whilst the foundations of the material will be 100% Gospel, the reflections and applications that children encounter will, as ever, be gentle, generous, fun, engaging, thoughtful, inspiring, and value-laden - universally accessible to kids of all household backgrounds. Furthermore, the pack is being written in such a way that both Christian visitors and teachers of any/no faith-subscription, can feel confident to use it.



Jesus in the temple. An early 'rough' sketch from our Illustrator

Each episode is accompanied by a bespoke illustration of Jesus which we have commissioned from a professional children's illustrator. Personally, I'm filled with excitement (and a few nerves) at the thought of levelling up our resources - not only in terms of content and quality, but ease of use. I hope that it sets the standard for what can be expected from Spinnaker in the future, and one that can be built on to create increasingly sought-after resources. Quite simply, this pack is a game-changer for us, and I am so very happy that it starts with Jesus!

Every week, thousands of children will hear a truth, discover a miracle, learn about an event and will ponder 'who is that guy?' and each week the answer will be the same - it's Jesus!

We know that you, as Spinnaker supporters, will share in our hope and expectation surrounding this project. Please pray with us that we accurately present the life and character of Jesus with inspiration and wisdom to communicate them to the hearts and minds of children and school staff.

- Mike Harrowing, CEO

Above & Beyond is the current worship series being shared in schools, in person and via You Tube. Children and the team are enjoying the challenges brought each week to be inspired by Jesus to 'go above and beyond to be our best self'.



Throughout the term we are looking at some 'heavenly' values such as generosity, compassion, reconciliation, inclusion and courage. We love to hear the stories and quotes from the schools team, here are a few snippets:

Jess had the amazing incident of chicks hatching

whilst she was doing a Spinnaker assembly! She has also felt increasingly part of her school communities since returning after lockdown. *"One of the great things about working with Spinnaker is not just that you connect with children but that you can connect with and support teachers as well."*

During a recent visit, Katie offered to pray for an RE Co-ordinator, she told us: *"She immediately stopped what she was doing and closed her eyes. What a privilege. I had no option but to pray for her there and then, which of course I was delighted to do, and she was so grateful"*.

Sam, our Eastbourne Hub Leader, writes: *"In supporting schools with collective worship and RE, we are able to demonstrate that by engaging with Christian beliefs and specifically the person and teachings of Jesus, everybody can be inspired to live in a more meaningful and fulfilling way"*.

As we close this edition of INSPIRE, we thank you again for your support and hope you are refreshed and inspired by our news.

Dear God, thank you that you are with us wherever we go and whatever we do. May we soar like eagles and keep going as we face the future with courage. Please help us to go above and beyond, to become our best selves.

Amen

(from the Above & Beyond assembly series)

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LONDON UPDATE

Another big step forward for us is the recruitment of a Lambeth & Southwark Hub Leader. We have been seeking God about this for some time and are so excited that one of our current team, Heather Hawthorne, has decided to step into this role. Heather is an experienced teacher and RE co-ordinator who knows this area well and is passionate about inspiring children to engage with the story of Jesus.

35 FOR 35



Encouragingly, we are almost halfway to reaching our target to raise £35,000 in our 35th year! We thought it would be fun to do a team sponsored walk to help reach our goal and have invited everyone in the team to take part in our 35,000 steps challenge. We are taking the opportunity to make this our summer social event. You can donate or sponsor your chosen Spinnaker team member here: www.spinnaker.org.uk/35-thousand-steps