

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 16TH MARCH 2017

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON GCSE CONSORTIA ARRANGEMENTS/REVISED WJEC SPECIFICATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

A BACKGROUND

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 are already being taught from September 2016.

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

WJEC free CPD (Continuing Professional Development) 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, 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.

EAS Consortia**Memo to SACRE from James Kent at EAS (January/February 2017)**

1. EAS will be appointing an advisor to lead/co-ordinate the work of GCSE Curriculum Hubs over the next two months. The successful candidate will be co-ordinating the work of the different groups across the subject areas. James Kent to line manage the successful candidate. - This person will also become the main contact point for this work and will be happy to provide the SACREs with updates on progress etc.
2. EAS will be appointing 1-2 Curriculum Hub(s) for RE during the Spring term to complete work deemed useful by the teaching community - and not duplicating the work of Hubs in other Consortia.

Memo from James Kent 26/1/17 – EAS Weekly Bulletin Item for a RS appointment

EAS to appoint lead schools for Religious Studies to provide support for non-core WJEC GCSE subjects first teaching September 2017. The successful department/s will receive £4,900 to develop a support programme for the new GCSEs.

Memo from James Kent 8/2/17

Despite only having limited interest from schools, EAS were able to secure two schools to lead in this area - both of whom submitted strong applications. These are both schools who deliver to large cohorts at KS4 with good outcomes for learners within this subject area:

- Rhian Davies – King Henry VIII
- Clare Lane - Ebbw Fawr LC

JK will meet with the schools in February to determine the forward work plan - but it is likely to include:-

1. Identification of key areas of challenge for practitioners.
2. Focussed development of resources to support the above (following consultation with other lead practitioners across Wales - to avoid duplication of effort).
3. The leading of half termly network meetings for schools in all EAS LA areas - dates TBC. This will be an opportunity to share good practice (resources and pedagogies) and develop an understanding of the requirements of the new Specifications (assessment etc.).
4. Teachmeet events to share thinking and practice (probably at least one teach-meet style event (twilight) open to all practitioners to share most effective lesson ideas).

**Full details will be agreed on a subject by subject basis dependent upon needs arising from a survey of practitioner requirements.*

Despite a likely cut in the GCSE grant to Consortia for the next financial year, EAS are looking to sustain funding for non-core subjects as part of our business planning processes. Whilst the role will largely focus on GCSE for the first year, there will also be scope for the group to begin looking at the emerging thinking development in the new Curriculum, as they emerge.

B RECOMMENDATION

Caerphilly SACRE to note and discuss the developments relating to the support for schools with the revised specifications for GCSE Religious Studies.