



HIGHER

SOUTH WALES 2018




SCHOOLS PACK



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HIGHER

South Wales 2018

Schools tour: 5–23 November 2018

To find out more and book a schools day as part of the Higher Tour, please contact the Higher team.

Email: walesbookings@message.org.uk

Telephone: 029 2051 2247

The Higher Tour

The Higher Tour is an initiative of The Message Trust, an award-winning charity that has been working with young people for 25 years. It was founded by Andy Hawthorne OBE and continues to work in locations across the UK.

The Higher Tour, born out of partnerships with established youth agencies and local churches, seeks to positively reach a whole generation of young people in their schools and local communities. Utilising creative ways and means to aid young people in their exploration of the Christian faith, the Higher bands offer lessons, assemblies or flexible alternatives to fit within your school timetable.

The highly trained bands offer a wide variety of musical genres, all aiming to promote a positive message to young people and to encourage them in their identity, self-worth, and potential.

Culminating in an invitation to an evangelistic end-of-week concert, the professionally led school sessions provide an environment where young people can hear people's stories of faith, creatively engage through different learning styles, and explore the significance of the Christian faith and its moral, spiritual, and social values for themselves.

A Higher Tour Schools Day

Our teams engage with your school through assemblies and lessons. We carefully plan all our schools days in collaboration with you and your facilities staff.



TYPICAL SCHEDULE

6.45am	Sound engineer arrives at school for set-up
7.15am	Band arrive at school for set-up
8.45am	Whole-school assembly
9.00am	Lesson 1: Year 7
10.00am	Lesson 2: Year 8
11.00am	Break
11.15am	Lesson 3: Year 9
12.15pm	Lesson 4: Year 10
1.15pm	Lunch and hang out with students
2.00pm	Lesson 5: Year 11
3.00pm	End of the day

Our work in schools is carefully planned so the entire school can get the most out of the experience. Once we've settled on a date, we ask for you to complete our contract which confirms the booking. We will then be in touch two weeks before the school visit with the final details for the day.

After our visit, we'll send you a link to our online feedback questionnaire so we can continue to improve what we offer schools through the Higher Tour.

We understand that each school has its own unique ethos and we aim to make space for what matters most to you – whether that's questions and answers, personal stories or personal development. We exist to serve the school, so we will try our best to meet all of your specific needs.

ASSEMBLIES

Our teams can take any assemblies happening on the day they are in school. This could either be a whole school assembly or a year group assembly – we can tailor our presentation to either of these types.

A typical assembly features a short performance from the band (e.g. one song), followed by a short thought around the topic of the assembly or lessons.

While assemblies are a core part of a Higher schools day, our primary focus is delivering lessons – so we don't usually accept school bookings that are only an assembly.

LESSONS

The core of our work is delivering high-quality, thought-provoking and memorable lessons tied to Key Stage 3 and 4 learning outcomes in RE. We use relevant teaching styles, engaging activities, and the creative arts to explore aspects of the Christian faith.

Where possible we aim to see the whole school over the course of a day. Our 25 years of experience tells us the best way to achieve this is to move off-timetable if at all possible, ideally engaging with whole year groups at a time in a shared space such as the school hall. However, if this is not possible, we are open to discussion about how we can best engage with the maximum number of pupils with as little disruption to regular school activities as possible.

OUR VALUES

We seek to be...

PROFESSIONAL

Bringing quality to our presentations that captures the attention of the listener, keeping them focused and engaged throughout.

MEMORABLE

Enhancing students' experiences and understanding, ensuring learning progresses through and beyond the end of each lesson.

COLLABORATIVE

Listening carefully to teachers' needs and objectives, utilising clear briefing and feedback processes.

FLEXIBLE

Tailoring our lessons and assemblies to your timetable, facilities and needs.



Andy Hawthorne in the early nineties

Our History in Schools

The Message Trust has its roots in the late 1980s when businessmen Andy and Simon Hawthorne began to feel stirred to present the Christian faith relevantly to the young people of Greater Manchester. They organised a week of gigs at the Manchester Apollo, Message '88, attracting thousands of young people to live performances by bands, and a clear presentation of the Christian message.

We are a Christian organisation with a mission to tell people about Jesus Christ. Working in schools gives us an opportunity to tell people about Jesus and what it means to follow him today. However we never evangelise during school hours: our schools work is an opportunity for us to help young people grow in their understanding of the Christian faith and many other key issues around self-image and social responsibility which critically affect young people. It is one of our main aims to support them and offer relevant opportunities for discussion.



Jon Sewell from SoulBox, teaching students in 2017

Meet the Teams

Our teams have been trained to deliver engaging, thought-provoking lessons, connecting to and enhancing your PSE or RE syllabuses.

Music is at the heart of their delivery: we've found this is often the most effective way to help students engage with the topics we cover. Our teams use original music to tell their own stories and to spark discussion.

Although each team is passionate about particular topics and themes, during Higher we offer one set Higher lesson.

TYPICAL ONE-HOUR LESSON

- Introduction
- Music performance
- Video clip
- Talk 1
- Discussion and feedback
- Video clip
- Talk 2
- Game
- Talk 3
- Music performance
- Summary and Q&A



AMONGST WOLVES

A high-energy pop/punk band with a strong sound and a passion for engaging with young people on the fringes.



BRIGHTLINE

Brightline are an indie pop band – think feel-good music, catchy melodies, synths and guitars, then add a bit of beatboxing and you've got Brightline. Through their lessons and stories, they aim to bring a message of hope and life to young people.



SOULBOX

SoulBox blend soul, rap and beatbox – with cool beats, infectious melodies and personal stories of transformation.



TWELVE24

A fusion of feel-good pop, EDM and rap, Twelve24's music transcends borders, using their stories and skills to bring a current sound as well as a current message.



VITAL SIGNS

A hip-hop collective with impactful lyrics and messages, using their experiences to communicate a powerful message.

Our Schools Work and the ESTYN Inspection Framework

We understand that the school environment is assessed continually and in light of this, all our lessons, workshops and assemblies are aimed at complementing ESTYN's inspection framework.

Here is our interpretation of the 2017 ESTYN framework, and how we believe we can serve your school in fulfilling the various criteria.

4.2 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT)

All our school engagement aims to be effective in developing young people's understanding in this area. We offer a well-rounded explanation of how the Christian faith underpins decision-making and development, with specific applications as follows:

1.1 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The lessons we deliver offer a presentation of Christian beliefs and these sessions are accessible, professional and respectful of the education environment.

1.2 MORAL DEVELOPMENT

Our lessons fit well in this area, exploring with pupils why they make the decisions they do, and what consequences their choices might have. This is something that SoulBox and Vital Signs in particular are passionate about, using their personal experiences to share with the pupils.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

All of our lessons and workshops are designed to be engaging and thought-provoking, encouraging debate, discussion and reflection on each student's journey through life so far. A successful lesson for us means that young people leave stimulated to think about and discuss the role of faith in their life and this world. BrightLine, Amongst Wolves and SoulBox investigate the issues of self-esteem and identity, both of which directly connect to curriculum concerns.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Although historically a Christian nation, Britain is becoming increasingly multicultural and diverse in its outlook. Both here and abroad, however, Christianity continues to play a crucial role in shaping our world. In a relevant and engaging style, our teams aim to explain life through the lens of the Christian faith, exploring the interesting, and sometimes challenging, dynamics that our different approaches to faith can create for us in a modern society.

Other areas where we can help your school meet ESTYN criteria...

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Our lessons allow pupils to engage with the Christian faith through dialogue, group activities and discussion, encouraging a deeper exploration of spirituality. As students grapple with the Christian faith, they explore how it relates to other worldviews and see for themselves the daily impact upon those who believe in it. Better understanding promotes tolerance.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

We take excellence very seriously and expect nothing short of an excellent learning environment to be provided by our teams. Our approach challenges typical stereotypes of Christian faith and what it means to engage with Christians who take their faith seriously (for example, those who would identify as 'practising' Christians). All our teams are committed to serving the education environment without compromising their own core belief system, as shared by almost one-third of the world's population.

We always promote two-way engagement in our lessons. Times of question and answer are an essential element in all our lesson plans, giving each class member the opportunity to ask questions or to state their own opinions in response to things our teams have said.

CURRICULUM

If you have any ideas about how we might be able to serve your school's vision or interpret the curriculum better, please contact us. We always aim to be flexible in our approach to meet the needs of the students and your school.



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'The team at Message Wales are **organised, friendly and extremely accommodating**. The lessons they deliver are professional, engaging and include student interaction tasks, videos and age appropriate activities. **I would highly recommend lessons from Message Wales.**'

RHIANNON MORGAN, PSE CO-ORDINATOR,
RADYR COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

'Your use of music, drama, audio-visual presentation and discussions was **enthusiastic, lively and original**. You grasped the attention of the students and stimulated their interest in both lessons and assemblies.'

HEAD OF RE, TYTHERINGTON SCHOOL

'Amongst Wolves were absolutely amazing! What a great band! They created such a purposeful atmosphere and totally **engaged the pupils with their words**. They were also wonderful to work with and very nice people!

MRS MARGED WILLIAMS, HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES,
LLANTWIT MAJOR SCHOOL

'These are "real life" Christians talking about their faith... pupils were engaged and focused. A positive input without alienating non-Christian children. **You made our pupils feel valued** by listening and **taking an interest in who they are.**'

ANN ROBINSON, HEAD OF RE,
HATHERSHAW COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SPORT

'The students really enjoyed the sessions and I have also had really positive feedback from staff!'

NATHAN LAMBERT, TEACHER OF RE AND ICT/ASSISTANT HEAD OF
YEAR 8, MARY IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL

'**An absolutely amazing experience**, jam-packed with engaging, relevant, inspirational and motivating content. It is such a pleasure to have the team in school promoting respect, understanding and a love of music and education. **I would recommend The Message to all schools.**'

CLAIRE DAVIS, HEAD OF RS, CHEADLE HULME HIGH SCHOOL

'The Higher Tour has enabled the students to get in touch with **the most important things** in life in a **relevant and engaging** manner.'

MATT MORGAN, ASSISTANT HEAD, JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE

