



HIGHER

YORKSHIRE 2019

SCHOOLS PACK



'I RECOMMEND THEM TO ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES'
DAVE BUTT - DEPUTY HEAD, TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL







The Message Trust
Lancaster House
Harper Road, Sharston
Manchester M22 4RG

higher@message.org.uk
0161 946 2300

MESSAGE.ORG.UK

 The Message Trust
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Registered Office: Lancaster House, Harper Road, Sharston, Manchester, M22 4RG.
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No. 03961183. Registered Charity No. 1081467. VAT Registration No. GB 727 177616



HIGHER

Yorkshire 2019

Schools tour: 4-29 March 2019

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

Email: higher@message.org.uk

Telephone: 0161 946 2300

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 OFSTED Inspection Framework

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

Here is our interpretation of the 2015 Ofsted framework, and how we believe we can serve your school in fulfilling the various criteria.

The impact of provision on 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.

1.3 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. Respect ME offer lessons on bullying, and BrightLine investigate the issue of self-esteem, both of which directly connect to curriculum concerns.

1.4 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 Ofsted criteria...

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Our school days help students discuss how a faith framework might allow an individual (and wider society) to process moral and social decisions. The Vital Signs lesson 'Choice and Consequence' and Respect ME's lesson on bullying offer two fascinating case studies.

Other packages 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.

QUALITY OF 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. We offer lunchtime performances during which these discussions may continue. Teams can also have lunch with the students if helpful to the ongoing educational and personal development of the young people.

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 lessons were observed by staff from Geography, History, PE and the senior leadership team as well as RE staff. **Feedback was excellent** from all those who attended. Feedback from pupils has also been excellent. The skills of the team members engaged even our most challenging students and the content was **100% relevant** to their lives.'

NICK WILLIAMS, HEAD OF RS, THE KINGSWAY 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

'BrightLine were the **best outside agency we have ever had** in school.'

ASSISTANT HEAD, THE OAKS ACADEMY

'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 AT HATHERSHAW COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SPORT

'The week they spent in school was excellent. Their **energy, enthusiasm, commitment, faith** and **professionalism** were immediately apparent.'

VINCENT RYDER, ACTING CURRICULUM LEADER FOR RE AT NORTH CHADDERTON 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

