

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016



**TEACH:RE**  
TO ENTHUSE. TO EDUCATE. TO INSPIRE.

**RE Teaching: Beyond the Ordinary**



### **Campaign legacy sees recruitment momentum continue**

The second year of the Beyond the Ordinary campaign to attract people to do secondary RE PGCEs is now underway.

We are building on the legacy of last year's efforts – efforts that saw RE PGCE recruitment in 2015 outperforming all other PGCE subjects generally, and other humanities subjects in particular. In fact, RE recruitment equalled its 2014 final performance as early as June last year – with three months to spare!

Most recent UCAS statistics are even more encouraging:

- **In mid-January overall numbers of RE applications were over 30% higher than last year, far outperforming other subjects as a whole**
- **Applicants with either a conditional place or a holding offer numbered 210 – up over 150 per cent on the equivalent 2014 figure (80).**

In short, these potential PGCE students have been captivated by the message that RE teaching is a stimulating and challenging career and a more inviting proposition than a 9-to-5 office job. This claim borne out by James O'Donoghue from the Department for Education's National College for Teaching & Leadership who said: 'you should be pleased your campaign is working'!

However, we must not be complacent and work remains to be done to ensure that any inherited legacy this year is sustainable for future years.

Bursaries are still available. But further changes for 2016 mean places for 2016 are not limited by institution, but that a national target will apply. This may prove testing for some universities and colleges, and while we must continue support them we must not let this deflect us from the immediate task at hand: to encourage first rate students across the country to be the best they can and to keep RE at the heart of the curriculum where it belongs.

And it could not be easier to help...

It is vital we do not lose the momentum. So we ask that you share news about this latest stage of our continuing campaign now, and also regularly over the coming months. The easiest way to do this is to engage with the Beyond the Ordinary social media platforms:

- re-tweet our messages on Twitter at [@ReThinkREnow](#), [@RECouncil](#), and [@NATREupdate](#)
- follow Cuham St Gabriel's Trust on LinkedIn and share our content to inspire your own network
- share this link to our engaging (and award-winning!) video featuring specialist RE teacher from Nottingham, Lynsey Wilkinson [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzvZTFmp6qc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzvZTFmp6qc)
- and every time you do something, ask your network to do the same

It will only take you a few moments, but could be transformational for someone you know.

Remember, the wider the reach of the message, the greater the chance that you will strike a chord with someone. Great RE teachers come from all sorts of backgrounds. So if your network includes someone who is not quite sure about their suitability, direct them to [www.teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary/](http://www.teachre.co.uk/beyondtheordinary/) where they can start their journey of a lifetime.

Finally, this critical campaign is being run on a shoestring budget – if your organisation can help fund part of it, or help us develop other novel ways to attract quality RE teachers of the future, we would be delighted to hear from you.