

PACE NEWS

May/June 2026



Partnering with Churches, Serving the Schools

Coffee is brewing

Hello!

Yesterday I had the absolute joy of joining the team at Christchurch Baptist Church to welcome a group of Year 10 students to their fabulous new building. As part of their GCSE RE curriculum the students were visiting both Christchurch Priory and CBC to compare their different styles of building and worship.

When sharing with the students, Chris at CBC compared different Christian denominations to different roasts of coffee – originating from the same bean, but roasted to give different depths of taste, from smooth and subtle to deep and rich or strong and fiery.

As a dedicated coffee lover, this analogy really spoke to me! Firstly because, at **PACE**, the staff and trustees come from a variety of different denominations and backgrounds, but we are totally united in our single origin as followers of Jesus. And secondly because, when coffee is brewing, its delicious aroma draws you in and makes you want to taste it.

Psalms 34:8 says

“Taste and see that the Lord is good”.

At **PACE** that is exactly what we are encouraging the young people we work with to do. Our aim is to share the delicious fragrance of Jesus with them so they will want to taste for themselves.

So, whether your coffee of choice is a rich, dark shot of espresso or a smooth, milky latte (or you prefer a cup of tea!) let's pray that more of our young people will want to taste and see that the Lord is good.



Michelle Mitchell | Director of PACE

Cream Tea



Saturday 13 June

2.30pm | St Paul's Church Garden
Landford Way | BH8 0NY



Sign Up Here



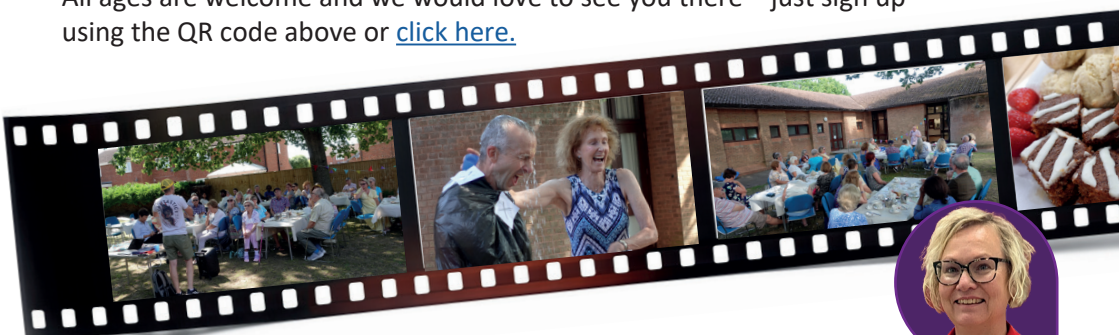
Once again we are looking forward to celebrating the **PACE** year with supporters, volunteers and friends at the annual

PACE Cream Tea

on Saturday 13 June from 2.30pm – 4.30pm
at St. Paul's Church, Throop.

We're praying that the weather will be kind again as we hear from the team about what they have been doing in schools this year, try some of the games they play with the students and share fellowship over delicious scones, cakes and tea (or coffee!).

All ages are welcome and we would love to see you there – just sign up using the QR code above or [click here](#).



Michelle Mitchell | Director of PACE



Moving Up

Do you remember 'moving up'?

We are looking forward to running nine 'Moving Up' workshops in primary schools across BCP during June. These workshops have been designed and written by the **PACE** team to help Year 6 pupils prepare for their transition to Secondary School in September.

The workshop includes video based on the Bible story of Daniel, discussion, games and worksheets that help the pupils explore their hopes, fears and questions about this important step.

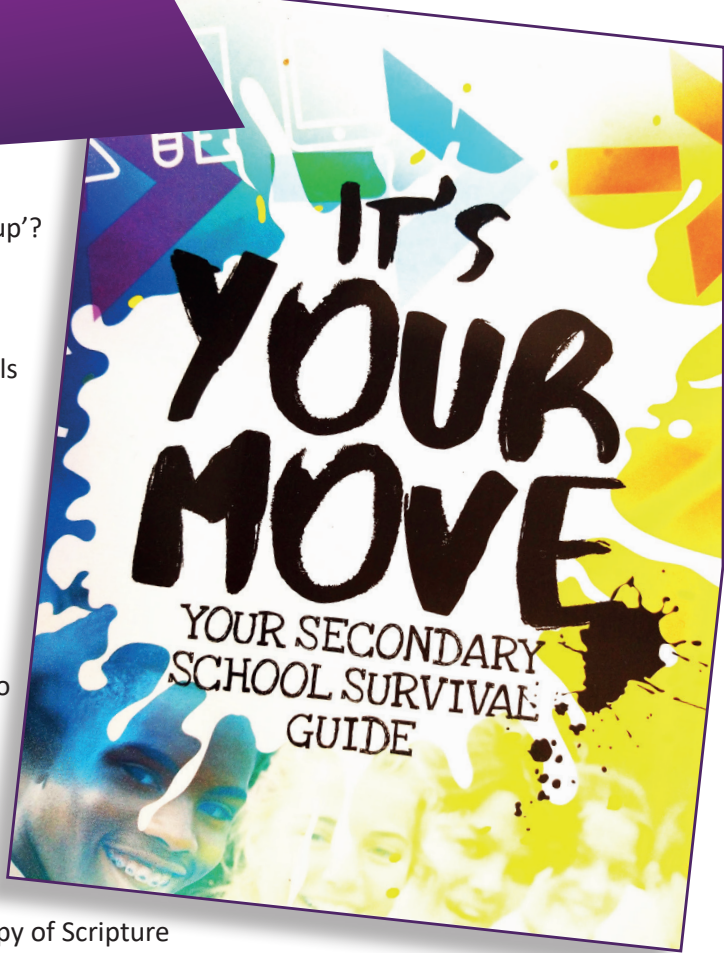
We also give each child a copy of Scripture Union's excellent '*It's Your Move*' book to guide and help them on the day, but also for them to take home and use in the months ahead. Teachers will often use these books and the worksheets we provide to follow up the session with their pupils in class.

The **PACE** Team will be joined by a range of volunteers from local churches to help deliver these workshops. Some of the workshops will be for 90 children altogether, so we need a team of at least 7 people to help lead discussion groups and ensure each child is able to be heard. We will also introduce them to the **PACE** Secondary workers they will meet in their RE lessons at their new school.

We have been so encouraged by the feedback and response to these workshops in previous years, so please pray for more of the same this time around.



Keith Jewell | **Schools Worker**



Questions That Matter

Some of the most important moments in our work aren't the ones we plan.

We nearly always try to leave time at the end of a lesson for questions, and, more often than not, that's when things come to life. It's where students stop just listening and start thinking things out for themselves. You can see the shift. They begin to test ideas, turn them over, and ask what they really think. And the questions? They're honest. Thoughtful. Sometimes surprisingly deep.

Recently, we were invited into a secondary school in Poole and given a whole lesson just for questions and answers. It was a clear reminder of how much is already on young people's minds.

Then there was a hot Monday afternoon, one of those lessons where energy is low. But as soon as students were given the space to ask whatever they wanted, everything shifted. Hands went up. Conversations started. The room felt different.

The range of questions we've been asked has been huge. One student asked, *'How do you know God said yes when you asked for forgiveness?'* And another followed with, *'Why wouldn't God let a good person into heaven just because they're not a Christian?'* Others went in a completely different direction: *'Why is God letting Donald Trump bomb Iran?'* and even, *'What's the best thing about being a Christian?'*

If we're honest, the hardest part is not having enough time. There are always more hands than we can get to, more questions than we can properly explore. But that tells its own story, students want to engage. They're looking for answers.

Our hope and prayer is simple: that every question matters. Whether it's spoken out loud or kept quiet, we trust that students will keep searching and that, in time, they'll find answers beyond the classroom too.

Lisa Stuart | Schools Worker



Choppy Waters Ahead?

Are we on the cusp of a Revolution in Education?

According to 2024/5 figures from BCP (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) Council, 19.6% of the school population have a SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) need; roughly 20% averaging as 1 in 5 children in a class of 30 pupils. 6% of those children have an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) and 14% have a SEND need but don't have a statutory plan. As you'd expect in Specialist School settings virtually all the pupils have an EHCP. The most common needs assessed for an EHCP are ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), SEMH (Social, Emotional, Mental Health) and speech and language communication needs. As of March 2025, BCP Council had a funding deficit of £107.4 million due to the increase of EHCP requests.

These figures don't include all the children and young people open to Social Care, those experiencing trauma – such as domestic abuse, or those pupils experiencing SEMH needs that don't have an EHCP.

Over the last academic year there has been an explosion in companies specialising in Alternative Provision (AP). One DSL likened it to “The Wild West”. AP is being used to support children and young people unable to access a mainstream education in school for whatever reason. At least 13 specialist AP providers have been employed by BCP Council.

It will be interesting to see what the new academic year holds for BCP schools; with the rise in demand for EHCPs, the expansion of AP due to more children and young people being unable to access mainstream education and the continued rise in Social Care referrals. Please pray for schools as they navigate choppy waters.



Roy Whyte | Pastoral Support Manager

Sharing Resources

As the **PACE** Schoolswork Team partners with local churches to help everyone in schools explore the Christian faith, we are grateful that the work has been growing bigger and stronger over many years. We are always happy to share what we've learned with others who want to do the same kind of thing elsewhere. So we've created **STAR: Schoolswork Training And Resources!**



The idea is to share our vision for schoolswork, some key bits of training and a few resources and ideas to get people started. **STAR** will be used by people based outside BCP who are looking for some guidance and inspiration as well as **PACE** volunteers working with us in local schools.

Sign up to **STAR** and access to the training and resources will be free and we will stay in touch to share new resources from time-to-time, and to personally encourage and support any way we can.

We are just at the 'finishing touches' stage, so do check the **PACE** website soon and look for **STAR** if you're interested to find out more. And if you know people outside BCP who might like to take a look, feel free to pass it on!



Dave Pegg | Schools Work Leader

You are invited to our next
Zoom Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 8 July 2026

12noon – 1pm

Meeting ID: 892 4021 9568

Passcode: 196250

We hope that many of you will be able to join us.



There are many ways that you can support PACE:

• **Pray** for our work -

Join us at the next **PACE** prayer meeting (see details above);
Use Pray for **PACE** to pray daily for the team as they go into schools.

• **Give** to our ministry -

Set up a regular standing order or one off payment to **PACE**;

Account No: 43329178

Sort Code: 20-11-43

Name of Account: Programme for Applied Christian Education

Reference: Your name

Send a cheque made out to **PACE** to the address below;
Gift Aid your donation by contacting the office (details below).

• **Share** with your church/network -

Invite others to sign up to our mailing list or attend an event;
Become a Church Champion to promote the work of **PACE**;
Invite one of the **PACE** team to speak at a church service or group.

• **Volunteer** with us -

Ask us about the different opportunities available in schools or at events.



PACE

St Paul's Church, Landford Way
Throop, Bournemouth
BH8 0NY

T: 07375 672098

E: office@pacetrust.org.uk

W: www.pace.org.uk

Charity No. 1195419

