

## National RE news and initiatives

### National A-level results 2014

- 20,196 RS A level entries were recorded; nearly double (96%) the number in 2002/03 (10,313 entries were recorded in 2002/03)
- RS A level entries increased more than any arts, humanity or social science subject this year (up 5.3% on 2012/13)
- RS A level entries have increased more than any arts, humanity or social science subject over the past 10 years (the nearest is Economics with an increase of 57%)
- In line with other subjects the results are generally lower, but the percentage of students achieving A\* at RS A level has increased from 5.4% to 6.8%

NATRE and RE Council report that RS A-level is highly valued as preparation for university, despite some government briefing in favour of so-called 'facilitating subjects'. <http://bit.ly/1vDY1CT>

### GCSE Results 2014

Increase in full course, but decrease overall, and dramatic fall in short course:

- 387,915 RS GCSE entries (combined short and full course) were recorded; a decrease of 8% from 2013 (420,151 entries)  
Full course entries increased by 7% from 251,063 in 2013 to 269,494 in 2014
- Short course entries fell dramatically by 30% from 169,088 in 2013 to 118,421 in 2014

<http://bit.ly/1Dshadb>

### GCSE and A-level reform:

After some detailed negotiations between the DfE, Ofqual and representatives of the RE community, the draft criteria for new GCSE and A-level examination specifications were published on 7 November. Public consultation is now open until 5<sup>th</sup> January:

<http://surveys.ofqual.gov.uk/s3/developing-new-qualifications-for-first-teaching-in-2016-part-3>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/religious-studies-gcses-as-and-a-levels-new-qualifications-for-2016>

<http://comment.ofqual.gov.uk/developing-new-qualifications-for-2016-part-2/>

Once amended and approved, these criteria will be sent to exam boards, from which they will develop a range of specifications for teaching from September 2016.

### New Ofsted Guidance

The new handbook for Ofsted inspectors has mention of RE on p.8. Definitions of spiritual, moral, social and cultural have been updated to include additional references to awareness of pupils' own and others' faiths and beliefs, respect for different beliefs and traditions, British values etc. E.g.

*Pupils' spiritual development is shown by their ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values.*

Handbook available here: <http://bit.ly/1mVewTz>

Culham St Gabriel's Trust is supporting the pilot of **regional RE hubs**.

<http://bit.ly/1sUGPCU>

### Holocaust Memorial Day: 27 January 2015

<http://bit.ly/1B1mhgA>

Stephen Pett, RE Today

Herefordshire SACRE November 2014