

CPD courses for secondary RE teachers



For the foreseeable future, schools will be facing many complex challenges to maintain quality of teaching and learning. In response, the God and the Big Bang project (GatBB) based in Manchester Diocese Board of Education, are offering CPD for secondary RE teachers by zoom.

The CPD sessions are designed as 'Bitesize' one hour live interactive zoom sessions, to meet the needs of RE teachers, to become more confident in the interface of science and faith. The CPD sessions are to address the requirements of the Ofsted 2019 framework, which includes the criteria for cultural capital, confidence in subject knowledge, inter-subject knowledge, impact, intent, implementation, within the context of the current challenges facing schools.

They have been developed with RE teachers and reviewed by RE teachers, with comments as follows:

"I have been teaching RE for 20 years and never had CPD on this, it's really needed"

"These courses are just what we need at this time, the content and prices are amazing" (Secondary RS teacher)

The courses are aligned with the secondary RS curricula and arise from the citation in the RS curricula of the special motion 1V by Manchester Diocese to General Synod, on the compatibility of science and faith. The approval of the motion on the compatibility of science and faith by General Synod, lead to the launch of the God and the Big Bang project (GatBB) in Manchester Diocese, which has delivered interactive science-faith events to thousands of students and CPD training to hundreds of teachers.

The courses will be delivered by Dr Suzanne Kalka, project coordinator for God and the Big Bang Project, GatBB. Suzanne qualified as a PhD scientist, before training as a secondary science teacher. She has taught science for many years within the state sector and now delivers student workshops and CPD training for GatBB. The course will be a live webinar, with the opportunity for interactive discussion and Q + A.

Synopses of the courses follows:

1. First Cause Argument and The Big Bang Theory

The course will equip RE teachers with the scientific knowledge to confidently teach the Big Bang Theory, in order to enhance depth of understanding and attainment of their students. The developments of the Big Bang Theory will be introduced from the first concept by Fr George Lemaitre, initial rejection by Einstein and many leading scientists, accumulation of scientific evidence

and current acceptance as the best scientific explanation of the origin of the universe. Divergent views of Religious and non-religious beliefs re the Big Bang Theory, will be explored. Current scientific understanding of the Big Bang Theory will be related to the First Cause argument (Including Cosmological argument and first 3 ways) of Thomas Aquinas, to align with the RS curricula and demonstrate the compatibility of science and faith (Special Motion 1V Manchester Diocese), with reference to sources of wisdom and authority (Genesis 1-2: John 1; Hebrews 1; Psalm 19)

2. The Design Argument and Fine Tuning

The course will equip RE teachers with the scientific knowledge to confidently relate the scientific evidence for the design/ fine tuning of the universe to the Design argument, in order to enhance depth of understanding and attainment of their students. Divergent views of Religious and non-religious beliefs, re fine tuning and design will be explored, including 'Multiverse theory and Richard Dawkins Blind Watchmaker arguments'. Current scientific evidence for fine tuning of the universe will be related to the Design argument (including William Paley and David Hume) to align with the RS curricula and demonstrate the compatibility of science and faith (Special Motion Manchester Diocese), with references to sources of wisdom and authority (Genesis 1-2: Romans 1:19)

3. Evolution and the Genesis Creation story

The course will equip RE teachers with the scientific knowledge to confidently relate the scientific evidence for evolution to the Genesis creation story, in order to enhance depth of understanding and attainment of their students. Darwin's work of origin of species and understanding of 'survival of the fittest' will be explored, together with contemporary evidence of evolution eg transition species. Divergent views of religious and non-religious belief re evolution, including Creationism, Intelligent Design, Theistic and Atheistic Evolution will be explored. Leading contemporary evolutionary scientists will be studied, ie Richard Dawkins and Francis Collins (Head of NIH in USA, leader of the Genome and Coronavirus projects). Current scientific evidence for evolution, including common descent of life via the fossil record and DNA, will be related to the creation story, to align with the RS curricula and demonstrated the compatibility of science and faith (Special Motion Manchester Diocese), with reference to sources of wisdom and authority (Genesis 1-2)

For more information please contact

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