



Christians and Sheffield Schools

connecting ● encouraging ● resourcing

Christmas Term 2013

**“A body isn’t just a single part blown up into something huge. It’s all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together”
From 1 Corinthians 12 (The Message)**

It is always a pleasure to meet people in my work for CaSS. As I have listened to folk over the last few months, I have felt that there has been a reoccurring theme – ‘connecting’. People seem to want to connect, support each other, meet to pray and sometimes work together. This is embodied by the Lydgate Open the Book group, which is made up of people aged 20 – 70+, from several denominations and at least 5 churches. They work together to take Bible stories into 3 different schools. Together they are stronger, better supported and resourced, plus they are a great witness in the places they visit.

Last term was an exciting one for CaSS in terms of connecting - we held our first conference. The aim was to facilitate networking, to encourage those working in schools and to offer a range of resources, as 11 workshops and stalls. Bob Hartman was an inspirational keynote speaker, the conference was very well attended and delegates gave it some wonderful reviews. Here are a few snaps



Although the conference took a lot of CaSS time last term, the period April to July saw CaSS start to share the office with Love2Last, launch a facebook page, make connections with Beauchief Abbey and Plexus Christian magazine, attend a marketing course, get mentioned in the The Star and The Yorkshire Post, be interviewed twice on Radio Sheffield, speak at Beauchief Baptist Church, help with transition activities at St John's School, Deepcar, work on the website, act with two Open the Book groups, help with after school Tea & Toast at St. Stephen's, Crosspool, run CaSS stalls at Ecclesall Mission Day and at a Care for the Family Event amongst other things!

This term promises to be exciting and busy too. It is the longest term for schools and offers many opportunities for Christians to serve and connect with their local schools. Harvest, Remembrance Day, Advent or Christmas can offer starting points - CaSS will be adding ideas for these times of year to the resources section of the website. Collective worship offers a point of connection – CaSS hopes to hold another Open the Book training session for those going into Primary Schools. There are opportunities to meet with others for prayer and CaSS is planning to help host meals where people working in schools can connect and get to know each other.

Please consider connecting with CaSS by coming to - 11 November - CaSS AGM/Bring & Share supper at 7pm on 11 November at the CaSS office and/or attending the Pray Day for Schools on 13 November (Broomhill Methodist 1.30pm - tbc.) which was an encouraging event last year and a time for many to join together.

During this next term CaSS will continue to work hard to meet with people across the city, encourage them, pray with them and for them, introduce people working in schools to each other and help connect them to great resources.

May I encourage you to make stronger connections this term – with God, with schools and with each other. Together we can then encourage, support and resource each other and the schools, children and young people we serve.

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CaSS is the work of the Sheffield Schools Christian Worker Trust

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