



SUMT Winter Newsletter 2021

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Hi,

I hope you are all well. This term has been busy for SUMT, in September we had new team start; see the next page to get to know them. We started by holding two LifeMatters days for the new year 7 students at Ramsey Grammar and St Ninians schools along with starting up the lunchtime groups across most of the secondary schools (unfortunately Castle Rushen is still being sorted).

Also in the secondary schools we have started the RSE work in Castle Rushen and Ramsey for Yr10, with all the other schools booked in, as well as lessons for all Yr7's, Yr9's and the new YouMatter day for Yr8's are also all booked in for this academic year.

Due to the retirement of Geoffrey from CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship), we have taken on some of their primary assembly responsibilities, meaning that we are now doing assemblies in 19 different primary schools, as well as Ballakermeen, St Ninians and Ramsey Grammar at the secondary level.

In addition, across October and November, we ran four different 'Stars' events (for year 3 students) including students from 12 different schools, hosted in Douglas, Onchan, Peel and Ramsey. This week invitations for 2022's 'Lifepath' have also gone out (22nd June - 29th June), and bookings have already started coming in.

I would like to thank each and every volunteer that has made any of the above (plus everything not mentioned) possible this term. We need each and every one of you to make Faith Within Reach possible for each of our students across this island.

Ruth

Who's Who?

You may recognise some of these beautiful faces! It's our SUMT team as of September 2021.

We have been very blessed to have two new Schools Workers join our team this academic year; Hannah Elphick and Kelly Taylor.

Hi, I'm Hannah and, after finishing a Masters in Biblical languages at St Andrews in August, I moved to the Island to start working with SUMT as a secondary schools worker at the beginning of September. My main responsibilities have been running the Christian Union groups at three of the secondary schools on the Island. A huge highlight for me has been seeing the exponential growth in one of these groups, which, after many weeks of no one turning up and a trip to the school canteen with a box of sweets asking people what question they would ask God if they could, now has twelve or even thirteen members who are engaged and are asking lots of great questions.



Hi, I'm Kelly and I work with the secondary schools in the island, assisting in supporting the schools with various programmes run by SUMT. One of my aims is to continue building on the amazing relationship between SUMT, local churches and schools. I also help out where needed with our various events. So far I loved being involved in the Stars and Life Matters events, as well as getting to know students in the QE2 CU group.

Rooted



What did you think about at 11 years old? How about at 16?

I wonder how many hours I spent writing poems or drawing horses, or reading 'just one more chapter' of the latest book in whatever series I was working my way through at the time, (straining my eyes in the dark because I should've been asleep!) And yet, whilst these hours could seemingly pass in the blink of an eye, an evening of maths revision could feel like a lifetime sentence.

I remember talking for hours on end about whatever my interest was at the time, whilst others listened very patiently and said, with either incredible foresight or perhaps just wishful thinking; "It's just a phase - You will grow out of it."

And whilst some of these phases did pass with time, other interests only seemed to grow stronger and have gone on to form parts of my identity.

It always amazes me just how many facts the young people who we work with can reel off about whatever their 'thing' is at the time, whether that be gaming, anime, their favourite YouTuber or creative journaling.

We believe that God has put these interests in each person for a reason and there is something really special about being able to connect with another person who genuinely shares that interest (instead of just politely nodding along!)

So when we think of engaging the 95% of young people not currently connected with a church, we want to start by valuing all of their gifts, passions, quirks and fandoms!

We are looking to do just that by forming communities of young people around shared interests. The hope is that these small groups of young people, representing what has sadly been dubbed 'the loneliest generation', can grow into safe spaces to explore questions of identity and relationship with God.

This is the heart of the 'Rooted' programme, to see young people 'rooted and established in love' (Ephesians 4:17) in a supportive and nurturing 'rooted hub' that can help them to grow in life and faith.

At the moment we are inviting responses from young people to see what kind of activities they would be interested in. Young people can find the survey by scanning this QR code.



If you are a 'not so young' person but have a skill that you could offer to young people with a particular shared interest e.g. gardening, dance, board games etc. we would love to hear from you. Just email Hannah.e@sumt.im or linda.w@sumt.im.

Some PRIMARY RE things!

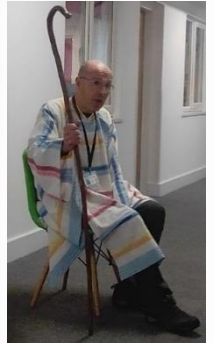
Our work within the Primary RE Curriculum has seen incredible growth in recent years. Here are a couple of highlights from the Autumn term:



This year, our year three curriculum event 'Stars' has been more popular than ever before. We have had enough uptake to deliver four separate events around the Island, in Douglas, Onchan, Peel and Ramsey.

With a small but gifted and dedicated team of volunteers, we have helped approximately 400 Year 2-4 pupils explore what the stars might mean to them, using a variety of learning styles, from storytelling, to craft, to 'p4c' discussion, to group work - choosing from different options to navigate a treasure map.

Using a video of four children looking up at the stars and being reminded of different things, we explored four big themes with the children throughout each event: Special Days, Special Beliefs, Special People and Special Choices.



WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

This time last year, I (Linda) wrote that I had been delighted to train as a Walk Through the Bible - Old Testament schools presenter, qualifying in March 2020.

So far I have taught just over 200 Year 5 and 6 children, with more schools booked in already for the spring term.

Here are some photos of me in action! (Used with permission from Dhoon school)

Look! Here I am saying some important things!

This is me pointing to a map!

And of course, building the Tower of Babel!

Excitingly, I will soon be able to offer New Testament lessons as well! Watch this space!



And we still have Lifepath and It's Your Move to look forward to later in the year, as well as the odd RE lesson in schools as requested.

That is without mentioning the Godly play lessons that happen in various schools and of course the Open the Book Teams and Primary assemblies that we deliver

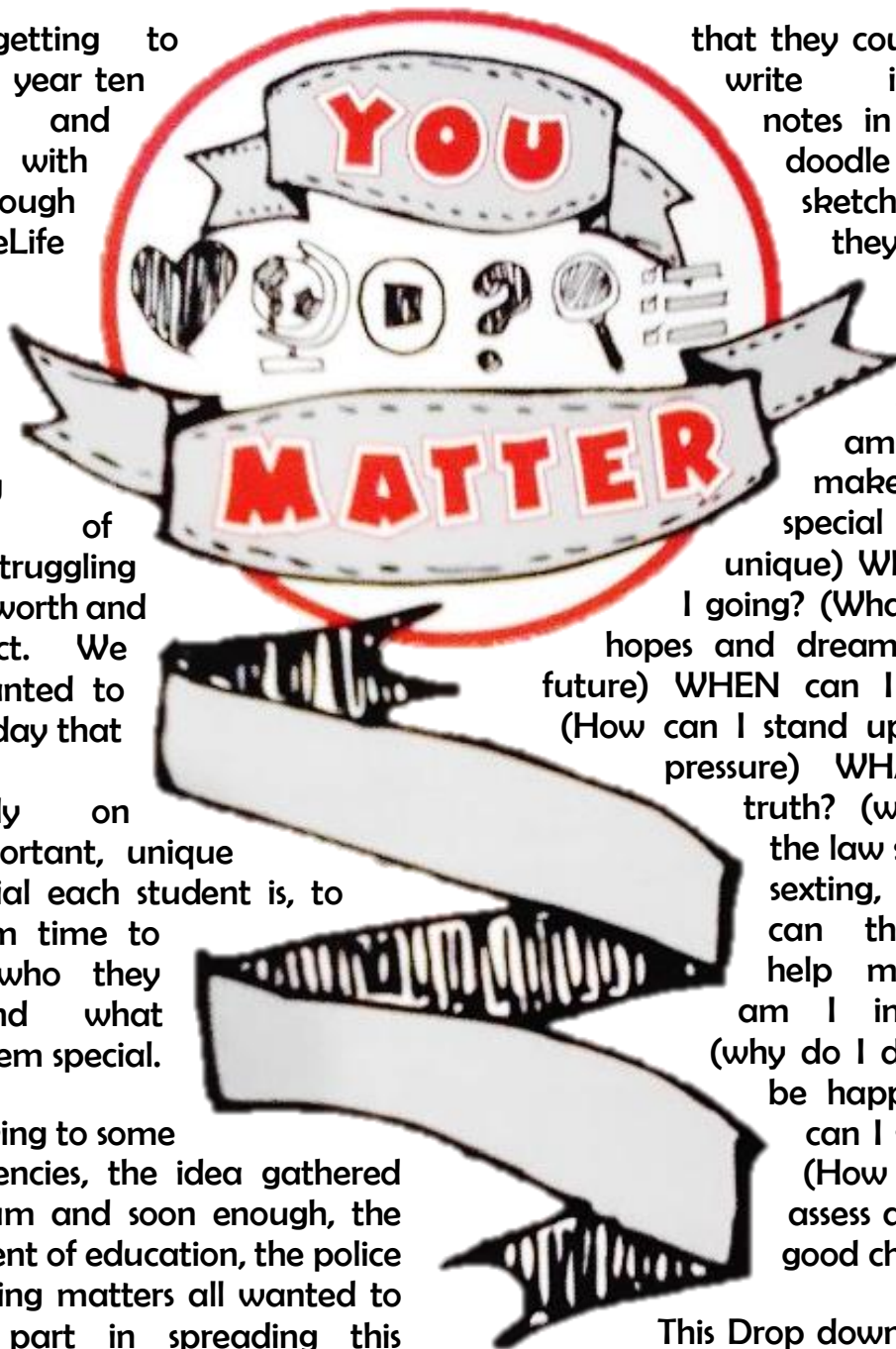
INTRODUCING...

Whilst getting to know the year ten students, and working with them through the LoveLife program,

we began to notice an increasing number of students struggling with self-worth and self-respect. We really wanted to create a day that focused completely on how important, unique and special each student is, to give them time to explore who they are, and what makes them special.

After talking to some other agencies, the idea gathered momentum and soon enough, the department of education, the police and housing matters all wanted to take a part in spreading this important message!

We planned the names of the sessions to create a consistent message throughout the day, and created a workbook for each student to take around with them



that they could use to write important notes in but also doodle and sketch ideas as they went.

The sessions are WHO am I? (What makes me special and unique) WHERE am I going? (What are my hopes and dreams for the future) WHEN can I say no? (How can I stand up to peer pressure) WHAT'S the truth? (what does the law say about sexting, and how can the police help me) WHY am I important? (why do I deserve to be happy) HOW can I stay safe? (How to risk assess and make good choices)

This Drop down day, has been postponed because of lockdowns- but we are really thankful that every school has re-booked it for this year!

- **HANNAH GROVE**

[illegible]

Specify **'Prayer'** to receive monthly emails containing a diary of events to pray for as well as encouraging stories from the previous month.



Title:	
Usual Name:	
Surname:	
Email:	
Address line 1:	
Address line 2:	
Address line 3:	
Address line 4:	
Country:	
Postcode:	
Phone (Landline):	
Phone (Mobile):	
Denomination:	

I am happy for my details to be stored on the SUMT secure database and to be contacted regarding:

- SUMT updates,
- volunteering opportunities,
- training opportunities,
- new projects

by: Post:

Email:

Phone:

Signed:

Date:

I am wanting specific information regarding:



Sumt Hub
Friend



hub@sumt.im



sumt_iom

Thank you for reading! If you feel stirred to give financially to this work, you can use the standing order form below:

Scripture Union Ministries Trust Standing Order Mandate

Your Bank Details:

To the manager of _____ (Bank / Building Society)

Your account number:

Branch Sort Code:

Address of Bank / Building Society:

Name(s) of account holders:

Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Amount to donate:

Instructions:

Please pay:

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC, Douglas Branch, Isle of Man:

Sort Code 30-12-80 for the account of Scripture Union Ministries Trust,

Account No. 00058872

The sum of: £ _____

on the _____ day of the month of _____ in the year 20 _____

(Please delete below as appropriate)

and Monthly/ Quarterly/ annually thereafter from my/our account until further notice.

Address of account holder:

Your signature here, please:

Contact email: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to

SUMT, Manor Ark, Pulrose Road, Douglas, IM2 1AT