

Dear Parents/Carers,

Each year we set ourselves a theme for the assemblies delivered to all students by senior staff. In this coming academic year our theme is **'Making a difference'** with the key passage coming from Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount'. In particular we will focus on his teaching about those who are blessed and how we can be salt and light in our world. Our assemblies will wrestle with the idea that those who are blessed are not necessarily the ones whom the world would recognise. But it will also examine the idea that making a difference in small things is really valuable in our development as people, confident to engage in the world.

The aim through these assemblies is to build positive empowerment for all students and staff irrespective of background or faith perspective. Each assembly therefore contextualises the reflection by using a more recent story or case-study – and it is our aim to ensure these reflect the social and cultural breadth of our school communities. **Therefore we are seeking your stories of those people, possibly in your family, friends or those in your neighbourhood who may not be famous but have made a difference in your community in a positive way. You will be asked to give information which can be included (e.g. articles, photos of projects that they are or were involved in) or personal memorabilia. The idea being that the individual or project brought 'salt' or 'light' to a particular community.**

The theme will be developed as follows – I hope that it will stimulate a wide range of suggestions:

10:10 Ethic	Theme / Skill	Summary / Explanation
Term 1: Good gifts used in service	You are Salt	We will focus on the idea that taking care of the small things will make a big difference, and bringing out the best in the ordinary helps to build our characters. Key topics include: Blessed are the poor in spirit, Blessed are those who mourn, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Blessed are the merciful.
Term 2: Don't stay in a bad place	Don't lose your saltiness	We will focus on the importance of regularly reflecting on ourselves and accepting support from others to maintain the small things – and to continue being a positive influence on the world around us.
Term 3: Unique value in community	You are the light of the world	We will focus on how we can use our positive influence more widely – looking outward to the world around us and being good examples in the wider community. Key topics include: You are the light of the world Bearing good fruit, Generous giving, Healthy relationships, Getting the right perspective

Once we receive your responses, the Chaplaincy team will select a range from the suggestions to ensure that the material used has a good balance of cultures and contexts.

Please could we therefore invite you to complete the attached survey. You may suggest an example each term, or just give a single suggestion. Please also explain the reasons for your choice (s) stating the school your child or children attend. **The survey can be found here: [Assembly Survey](#)**

We very much look forward to having your input and to planning our assemblies for the year with these ideas in mind.

With thanks and best wishes,

Dame Alice Hudson,

Father David (Trust Chaplain) and Stephanie Alvis (Assistant Head and SMSC Lead William Perkin)