

Dear Staff and Parents/Carers,

Each year we set a theme for the assemblies delivered to all students by senior staff. This coming academic year our theme is **'Being in community: Equal Value, Equal Responsibility'**, with the key passage taken from St Paul's letter to the church in Corinth (Greece). St Paul uses an analogy of the church as a body where each person is equally valued, having varied gifts to contribute to the whole community. This theme allows us to celebrate difference while recognising our connectedness. St Paul emphasises this is only possible if we show divine love to each other. Love is not a soft option, it is a demanding one. Similarly, if we wish to make a difference in our school and in community, it takes self-discipline and self-awareness to be fully ourselves and fully appreciative of others.

All of the assemblies are framed, as is the habit of the Trust, with a liturgy from the Christian tradition and contain a Bible reading which forms the basis of the assembly message. The reading from Scripture is explored in the context of a more modern story or example before, finally, we ask students to reflect on its application to themselves. Our stories have ranged from famous people, to literary narratives and local community heroes.

This year the modern stories within assemblies will highlight varied career paths, encouraging students to recognise the school journey they are on extends beyond academic achievement to investment in the wider community.

The coverage for each term follows the ethos statement:

10:10 Ethic	Theme	Summary / Explanation
Term 1: Good gifts used in service	One Body	Workplace / Career examples may focus on a very particular gift or skillset (or drawing out / co-ordinating the gifts of others)
Term 2: Don't stay in a bad place	The Way of Love	Work-place / Career examples may focus on the challenge of developing new skillsets or addressing weaknesses in a work context:
Term 3: Unique value in community	A Distinct Way of Living	Work-place / Career examples may focus on roles which are responsive to the wider community or are enterprising / innovative in addressing an un-met need

We have really valued your input and suggestions regarding modern examples over previous years, so that our content reflects the rich cultural diversity of the Twyford Trust. **This year we would like you to give examples of career pathways you (or someone you know) have taken and the particular gifts which led them to choose/ achieve in this career.** The aim is to encourage all our students to envisage possibilities in their own life with strong and positive role models across a wide range of career paths. If individuals are happy to give personal details, photos etc. this will also help with creating the assembly.

In order to share a story / example, please complete the survey here:

[Assembly survey](#)

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.

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 (SMSC Lead William Perkin)