



CONNECT REPORT 2017

Neil Wylie Connect Worker

May 2016 to May 2017 has been a fantastic year for Connect.

We had our first term of exam cafes last year during the months of May and June and will be starting our second year of them imminently. These groups have been a brilliant way of engaging with the wider student base and staff I wouldn't normally be working alongside. The school also put £100 towards the running costs and will be doing so this year.

I was asked to have stands at all the evenings for potential new year 7 students. This was a great opportunity to meet parents and talk about the purpose of the Connect role. It was very affirming to see parents from church/faith backgrounds encouraged that there was a positive Christian presence in the school. I have been asked to have a stand for the upcoming evenings this year.

Frustratingly we haven't been able to arrange the Crossfya group. Everytime we seemed to be close to getting a date, it wasn't suitable for the school or for the group. We finally came to decision this month to not follow through with them as a project as when they gave us a date in July, they discovered it was not available and then offered us one in Dec which we felt was not ok.

We hosted the Youth for Christ Nomad football cage in Sept. This was a great week and was highly praised by the school. We had 600 students engage with the project over the week, all whom got to hear the gospel. The cage was used during the schools open evening for prospective year 7 students and was a great draw for pupils at the front of the school. I am pursuing funding for the coming year, and have potentially secured funding from the school itself offering in the region of £200. Letters will be going round the churches to see if they would be interested in donating towards the project.

Our Homework HUB launched this year. After trying and seemingly failing to launch this project over a number of months. We launched in early part of this year. While the group is small, we have a committed group of students who are very keen and engage well with our volunteers. We occasionally have some targeted students who turn up for specific help. We have a regular 8-10 students who turn up each week. A huge thanks needs to be said to David and Marjorie Sharp who turn every week they can to support the group.

My regular ongoing work has been going from strength to strength with the school happy to give me more responsibility. A standard week looks as follows.

- Breakfast Club (thurs am)
- Film Club (wed lunch)

- 1-2-1 sessions
- Homework HUB (wed after school)
- Media, RS and Food Tech lessons
- Speaking at the various churches and groups in Nailsea
- Running the CU
- Running Staff prayer
- Organising staff breakfasts

I feel very privileged to be starting what is now the fourth year of working for Connect. As there was a chance this would have been an exit interview rather than a 3rd year review. I look forward to the year ahead and opportunities we have to grow the links between the Christian community of Nailsea and the School and that we can the name of Jesus lifted up in the school.