

Good idea – tutorial project – speakers from faith communities

South Gloucestershire and Stroud college won a Faith and Belief initiative award to bring speakers from different faith communities to deliver talks in tutorials.

What was your project?

It was a tutorial project programme for Health & Social Care & Travel and Tourism, covering 350 students.

How did you ensure students were involved in the development of your project?

Tutors of each class were asked to have a discussion with their students about how the subject/topic areas that they were studying related to faith and belief matters.

What impact did this project have on students you work with and within your students' union or college?

Speakers from different faith communities came into a number of tutorials to talk about their faith and how it impacted on the students' prospective careers and/or professions. Students very much enjoyed the opportunity to have access to first hand information and to ask for accurate and concise clarification on issues to improve their existing/basic knowledge.

The chance to engage with persons of different faiths was the first opportunity most of the students had ever experienced, very few said that they had adequate knowledge, if any, of other faiths at school level and that faith education was very brief and textbook orientated.

The Students Union's profile has been redefined including incorporating faith and belief into the SU arena, where before it was not included as an integral part of its activities. The SU is now much more engaged with the Multi Faith Chaplaincy, which is now a partner and useful resource for the education of faith and belief.

Were there any other outcomes from the project?

Most of the students were very keen to take part in future sacred place visits.

What lessons did you learn in delivering the project that might be useful to other students' unions?

Making a relationship with tutors, HOD's and HOF's proved very useful and ultimately paved the way into tutorials.

Keeping the tutorials both exciting and informative is extremely important. It is crucial that the Faith speaker is willing to engage with controversial issues.

Do you have any feedback from participants at your event?

All students were given a feedback form and it was pleasing to see that overwhelmingly the sessions were felt positive and the students would recommend the experience to others.

