Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union

North Lancs Prayer Letter May 2020

Local Schools and Lockdown

Jesus himself stood right in the middle of them and said, "Peace be with you." Luke 24:36

We've had contact with around 30 schools since lockdown and here are some of their prayer requests:

This week nearly all the head teachers and teachers in touch with NISCU said how well the engagement of pupils is via online learning. But there are particular concerns about the future, about some children's wellbeing at home and about the responsibility of grading GCSEs and A levels.

"The challenge now is preparing for any sudden government announcements about opening up more fully, which we are anticipating with some trepidation. There will be so many things to consider, so prayer would be appreciated about this - wisdom for all levels in leadership."

"The worst thing is the speculation re schools reopening. I've had so many calls and emails from angry, anxious frightened colleagues. I'm working with the LA to represent colleagues and share their concerns."

A really worried and saddened head teacher asked for prayer as he deals with child protection issues via Skype with Social Services.

"It's a scary thought that schools may reopen shortly. To be honest I'm a bit scared. Whilst I miss the children and my colleagues enormously, as an over 60 teacher, not having been inside a shop or anything since the lockdown, I may be thrown back into a class of 32 children. But I'm sure restrictions will be put into place."

"Everyone is wondering what the government will have to tell us about when and how schools will be re-opening. I would say that is the biggest focus for staff at the moment - I imagine for parents as well!!!"

"I need peace about the grading and ranking decisions that I've made and wisdom and care to make any adjustments so that each pupil ends up with the qualification they truly deserve."

Please pray as this Sunday the government announces it's decisions about how schools are to start re-opening.

Deadlines for heads of departments to hand in grades are imminent.

What has NISCU been able to do?

Due to financial considerations and the inability to go into schools the trustees made the difficult decision to put our NISCU team temporarily on furlough just before Easter. I (Debbie) have been allowed back for one week and it's been a busy one! As well as keeping in touch with head teachers and asking how we can pray for schools, in the last week before Easter and this week we have produced 7 "dis-assemblies" (YouTube assemblies for homes and schools where assembling isn't possible anymore) and corresponding activity sheets. These have been sent out to all our local primary schools (around 60) and we've had lots of good feedback. Please make use of them if you can.

LGGS CU managed to meet via Zoom—pray that they will continue to support one another and grow in Christ.

Pray for Year 6s that they have a positive end to their time at primary school and that God strengthens them for Year 7 and whatever that may mean.

Resolute inter-church Youth Event met via Zoom a few weeks ago!

You can see Jonny in a chicken onesie, meet our new friends Myrtle the rainbow snail, Steve the woodlouse, Mrs Falmer the sultana and Bob the toilet roll tube by having a look at our North Lancs webpage and clicking on the links. Yes, lockdown has made us a little crazy! Seriously though please pray for the future of our witness and work. There's a special week in July to focus our prayers—but don't wait til then. Thank you so much for reading this and for your support. We are trusting God for the future.

https://niscu.org.uk/areas/north-lancs/