

# Spring '08 update

**Act for Change** – inspiring young people to act with personal and social responsibility.

Act for Change encourages positive change in behaviour and attitudes with a process that brings young people together with those who have faced extraordinary dilemmas and connects them with stories of choice and action.

Act for Change acts as a catalyst for individual reflection. It provides young people with an opportunity to explore their social behaviour in ways that enable them to be agents of positive change in their own world.

As a result of our conference in September 2007, we explored our values and purpose, and how to define ourselves as Act for Change. Thank you, to the many of you took the opportunity to contribute to the exercise.

## What the teachers say

*"Act for change has the following positive effects on young people:*

- *Gets them thinking independently about their actions*
- *Gets them to evaluate the world around them thinking beyond the constrictions of school*
- *Gets them working together in groups*
- *Allows them to be part of a whole school event that is seen as highly important*
- *Teaches them skills in critical thinking*
- *Encourages them to use empathic skills"*

Louise Cowburn,  
Holy Family School

*" Act for Change has worked with our school closely for the last 3 years, initially when the school was in special measures.*

*The organisation has contributed valuably to the moral and spiritual development of our students and I believe played a large part in changing student attitudes.*

*It gave our students the opportunity to think about something that was so much bigger than they were, and appreciate that the world is what we make of it."*

Matthew Wilson,  
St Mary's High School

## Diary Dates 2008

### 18-19 May – Training Days

What you can do: confirm your place

### 13 March – Cressex Community School

Workshop postponed due to a fire in the school. They expect to reschedule for the summer term.

### 17 June – Royal Masonic School workshop

### 14 July – St Mary's, Cheshunt workshop

### 16 July – Holy Family School, Walthamstow, workshop

### 7 September – Music on a Summer Afternoon

Lauderdale House, Highgate  
Event to raise awareness. Light classical music in a wooded park.

**Note:** Hertswood have yet to fix a workshop date, but intend to.

**Act for Change '08:**  
awakening attitudes of personal responsibility.



# Targets for spring '08

Preparing to offer our programme on a wider scale.

## Q1 2008 Activities

- 3 Survivor interviews: filmed by Year 9 students
- Development Plan
- Brochure: work-in-progress
- Evaluation – collating of data begun

### Programme

- Broaden the range of participants from Years 9 & 10 (14-17 year olds).
- Start in year 7, when children move from primary to secondary school.
- Continue to involve young people in the creation of AFC Live! by interviewing and filming interviews of Holocaust Survivors.

### Recruit

- Create AFC support teams (an anchor, a survivor & a session support facilitator)
- Field these core AFC teams wherever our programme is to be delivered.

### Train

- Provide accredited training or local facilitator teams to deliver the AFC programme.
- We have been developing the session structure in our Developmental Workgroup.
- We will share our thoughts with you and fine-tune the structure together.

### Pilot

Years 7-9 programme in 3 schools.

### Evaluation

Establish baseline. Set-up monitoring at school and school liaison.

### AFC Live!

An interactive educational experience through which students will explore acts for social and personal change.

- Edit filmed interviews
- Create animation for website opening.

### Support Teams

10 Anchors, who will be essential to our AFC support teams.

8 Survivors of Holocaust and other genocides.

### Identify local Partners

Schools and local school support voluntary organisations.

### Study Days

- Learn specific process work tools with a facilitator of process work (an approach to individual and collective change) and explore together what these tools might bring to our workshops.

Existing AFC facilitators as session support and quality control for future local facilitator teams.

### Funding

We have applied for funding from Awards for All for Survivor filming workshops.

### Applying

We are looking at the objectives, outcomes and performance indicators for our overall project, and how each aspect slots into our overall strategy.

We will use the above to:

- Produce a brochure
- Seek more comprehensive funding
- Enable widening of our activities

### Raising Awareness

Our first event (7 Sept) will target some key 100 individuals who can support and help AFC to grow.

What you can do: help us grow and select our guest list. Come on the day to communicate, pass the sparkling wine and enjoy the event.

Act for Change will contribute £70 plus reasonable travel expenses towards your costs for the training day of Monday 19 May.



# In the pipeline . . .

## Website

Our most urgent priority on the website is to create a virtual office to support the ways we work together. Currently we are looking at three main areas:

- 1. Resource Centre** on the various areas under development. The materials developed and prepared by the relevant workgroups will be available for your input and comments.
- 2. Communication Centre** where you will find the calendar, the latest version of this Update and details of the next Spiral meeting, to take place on the web.
- 3. Get Involved** – a section outlines the tasks and roles for which you are needed.

## Plans for next year

To enable us to multiply the number of students experiencing an AFC programme in 2009/10 and to continue to grow thereafter, we are preparing ourselves:

- to recruit, train, and support local teams of facilitators;
- to field AFC support teams (an anchor, a survivor and a session support facilitator);
- to run AFC programmes for young people who are beyond our immediate reach.

The current year was always intended as a structuring year: to take a step-back and plan the AFC provision of services. This is why we are going out to the same number of schools this year as last year.

We have funding for facilitation and material supplies for the school workshops this year and a modest budget for training and fundraising, but for no other activities.

If we are successful with our application to Awards for All, we will have another funded series of workshops in 2008/9, including interviewing and filming sessions.

There are also unfunded heads of activity that are nonetheless opportunities to be involved in shaping AFC and in generating the work that will be funded.

This means that your involvement and commitment is not only appreciated, but also crucial, if we are to prepare to expand and develop the reach of Act for Change.

While this year our paid work, facilitating workshops is no more than last year, opportunities abound if you want to get involved as a volunteer.

Naturally, all reasonable travel expenses and other direct outgoings such as postage will be reimbursed.