



## STUDENT NEWSLETTER: JAN 20 2017

Hi all,

Thank-you for your input, sharing and company during the first week of term. I personally found it to be a very moving and growth-filled week, though I was definitely ready for the weekend!  
Lots of important information and exciting news in this week's newsletter so please do read carefully.

### Coming Up

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan

Media Slot: There is no longer a physical class on a Monday morning, but please spend some time today looking at the link(s) below, and come to community afternoon on Thursday ready to share.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

Community Afternoon: A chance to chat about the media we have looked at and any thoughts that arise. We will also have an opportunity to chat about the emerging term.

### Media Slot – Please Read Carefully

Instead of a Monday morning class, we are asked to take some time on our own to engage with some media. This will be different each week – from sermons to social justice issues; from URC policy to church resources. Please be ready to chat about the media that you have engaged with on Thursday afternoon.

This week, we have an opportunity to follow up on the transgender identity workshops by watching a TED talk by a transgender minister. She doesn't talk explicitly about faith, but her talk helpfully describes trans identities and some of the experiences she has had. Please click on the following link to watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCpHCGniGil>

If you would like to go deeper/think more, the following link has some stats and info. NB this is extra/voluntary.

[https://www.stonewall.org.uk/our-work/campaigns/come-out-trans-equality?utm\\_source=Stonewall+Newsletter+-+January&utm\\_campaign=e30b5e3b15-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_01\\_18&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_4dd7c10a47-e30b5e3b15-209581737&mc\\_cid=e30b5e3b15&mc\\_eid=f1a0f01da5](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/our-work/campaigns/come-out-trans-equality?utm_source=Stonewall+Newsletter+-+January&utm_campaign=e30b5e3b15-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_01_18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4dd7c10a47-e30b5e3b15-209581737&mc_cid=e30b5e3b15&mc_eid=f1a0f01da5)

If you would like to choose the material for one of these slots in future, please have a look at the sign up sheet in the common room.

### Bible Studies

If you would like to lead a Bible study, and have not yet done so this academic year, please sign p in the common room.

## Conflict Resolution

I am aware that some were expecting conflict resolution classes to take place during this term. We are postponing this til next term. It absolutely will happen, but we just need to make sure that we have enough time/the right pattern to do it well. This is more likely to work as a block of input, rather than regular separate teaching sessions.

## Student Council

It's time to start thinking about the formation of the student council for next year. The nominations process will open in just over a fortnight, so please take some time thinking and praying about whether you would like to be nominated for a role. Each nominee will require 2 nominators. For more info about the roles, feel free to chat to myself, Jacob or Stephen.

## Block Week Plans

College are exploring the possibilities of moving the Westminster Common Award Programme to a part-time block week model. It is very likely that this will begin to be put in place for the start of next academic year, though it will not directly affect current students.

The Westminster team are starting to explore what this might look like, and it is hoped that students will be involved in that process. If you have any thoughts or questions, get in touch.

## Westminster Living Gallery

(working title)

Dear all,

I believe we have a fantastic opportunity to create an Art Exhibition. Creating and exhibiting art can be an inspiring and empowering experience. The vision is a gallery filled with different pieces, different colours and experiences that make us who we are, prior to, or at Westminster (and beyond). A mix of different pieces of art, poetry etc. created by us to be displayed at the end of Easter Term.

This is something we can work on individually and collaboratively. I propose that in Week A's on a Thursday evening as many as would like to meet in the Art Studio to create or elsewhere. I hope that everyone is able to offer something.

That's all folks

Signing of for now  
Until next time...  
Stay/Get Creative!

Every blessing  
Stephen

## Sit-up Competition

On Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of February from 6pm, in the common room, Esther and Stephen are having a sit-up competition and would like to invite those who are up to the challenge to join in (personally, I will be watching from the sofa with pop-corn!)

## **Start of Term Feedback**

If you have any feedback on the start of term, including the film afternoon, retreat day and trans day, please get in touch with myself, your tutor, or Neil. This will help us to plan future programmes based on your responses.

## **Prayer**

Let's all remember to keep praying for each-other as students and staff alike continue to enjoy and be challenged by the rigours of term, training, calling and ministry.

Peace,  
Alex