

'ACTuality has been a great help to me to be able to post info to my Head to keep him posted on certain issues. Thanks so much. Keep it up this year.'

'Thanks for this new communication initiative.'

'ACTuality is great. Loads of information. I wish it had been thought of years ago. Thank you.'

'Thank you so much for doing all the work of finding all these pieces of information.'

'Can I thank you for all the work and dedication that goes into the production of the ACT updates. They are a most encouraging and positive addition to the ACT provision, supporting Christian teachers who can feel very isolated in their own work situations.'

'Thank you for the update. The article on trade unions is most helpful and an example of how ACT can advise Christian teachers without prejudice.'

ACTuality

What is ACTuality?

ACTuality is a new provision from the Association of Christian Teachers. Towards the end of each week during term time we issue an email bulletin containing news of events and training and reflections which relate to the issues which impact on Christian education professionals. Using ACT's extensive network capability, we gather and distil this information into a convenient web page. Many of the briefly described items contain hyperlinks to other pages stored on the ACT website and external web pages, enabling members to select the information which interests them. ACTuality embraces issues from a wide perspective: early years foundation stage through to post sixteen.

Why ACTuality?

We live firmly in the days of instant web-based communications. By contrast, newspapers and magazines have become most suited to reflective material and cannot respond quickly to topical workplace issues. For example, I am writing this over the Christmas period. The editorial, design and production timetable for *ACT Now* is formidable. Of course *ACT Now* is a very valuable resource

and has a feel of permanence. It can be picked up and put down at any time. You may be reading this on the train, on the beach or in the staff room. On the other hand, an electronic channel such as ACTuality can be highly responsive to situations in schools. For example, it's important for members to know quickly how the new Ofsted framework is working. Education professionals need to know the issues and the latest thinking, even if sometimes they don't like what they hear. Only then, are they best placed to give a robust, thoughtful and spiritual response.

ACTuality comes in the simple form of a text email delivered directly to your computer email inbox. You can open it at leisure. Click the link into the website and simply scroll down the items to find topics which interest you, and click for more details as appropriate. You can do all this at your leisure. Website statistics reveal that members read ACTuality at every hour of the day and night, except between two and three am! Not so surprising when you remember that our members work right around the globe.

And the best thing is, it doesn't clutter your house; no need to store or recycle. When you're done, just

Email alert to members most weeks



The ACTuality web page



delete. Previous weeks' bulletins are archived on the website, so that nothing is lost.

ACTuality includes relevant news from the DCSF, Ofsted, QCDA, TeacherNet and other government and non-government agencies as appropriate. There are hot links into education news stories which consistently inhabit the national daily newspapers, and it's good to see what's being said even if the stories are not the whole truth. News on issues around child poverty, trafficking, diplomas, Academies and Trust status are included, so that Christians can be better informed. ACT works with partner organisations such as The Evangelical Alliance (UK), Scripture Union and the Stapleford Centre, so ACTuality reflects news from partners too. We also include prayer requests and biblical quotations to inspire and encourage.

Members who are planning to provide training and support initiatives, or who are involved with local agencies working amongst young people can, and do, submit items to share with members. ACT already has a facility for advertising job vacancies on the website, and ACTuality can draw members' attention to specific vacancies.

How to receive ACTuality

The simple way to sign up for this completely free service is to go to www.actupdate.org.uk/actuality and click on the subscribe link. Just give us your name and we'll add you to the list. Of course, recipients are able to unsubscribe at any time. Please do encourage colleagues, friends and church members who have an interest in education to sign



The 'Get a slice of the ACTION' postcards.

up for ACTuality. If you send them a copy of the email, they will have access to the on-line sign up process.

Seated at breakfast at a Christian conference a few months ago, I got into conversation with a teacher. As you might expect, I mentioned the Association of Christian Teachers. 'I didn't know there was one', was her reply. If you'd like to make this experience a bygone myth, then share ACTuality with other Christians in your school, or other education professionals in your church. To support you in doing this, ask for a supply of 'Get a slice of the ACTION' postcards. Ring the ACT office 01727 840298 or email act@christians-in-education.org.uk

'It's good to be in touch with ACT. At 83 I don't have much contact with schools and teachers these days!'

'This is a terrific service I greatly appreciate!'

'Thank you for adding me to your circulation list. I am i/c pastoral care and student counselling and my students are mainly from the mission community and so the support will be most welcome.'

'I have appreciated using the link www.actupdate.org.uk/actuality.html Thank you!'

'Another brilliant edition of the "ACTuality" bulletin. Great stuff!'

'Delighted with ACTuality; it is an excellent device to keep lively interest in ACT and in Christian education generally.'

'... a good diverse group of news items and ideas to provoke thought.'

Examples of various websites

