

Section 4 - Courses and More (Steph and Maddie)

Haven Hope

Pray for opportunities to run Haven Hope in our schools, especially Verulam, KWS and St George's. Give thanks that Beaumont have agreed to have another Haven Hope this year.

Christmas Extravaganza

Please pray for the planning of the Christmas Extravaganza on December 4th. This is an Illuminate Event in partnership with 267, Young Life and numerous churches. Step will be running our Christmas Wonderland and Craft Zone working in a wider selection of schools.

Leadership Foundations

This term, Marlborough, St Columba's, Samuel Ryder, Loreto and Roundwood will have a Leadership Foundations course. Pray they all go really well, that students engage and grow in their self awareness and that we have some faith based conversations. We also need to expand our team of mentors, so please pray God will lead us to new volunteers.

Wellbeing Events

We shall be hosting three events for parents and community leaders throughout the year. The first one is our 'Parenting under Pressure' evening in October in partnership with Haven Hope. Please pray that it is a useful evening for parents who want to help their children through exam season and that we get lots of parents signing up.

Step Days

We have lots of Step Days booked, starting with two this week with Nicholas Breakspear's Year 7 students. Please also pray for:

- The retreat day on 22nd September at Loreto with Year 7 - a chance to engage with a new cohort of students and for Amy as she builds relationships with new members of staff.
- The Year 8 Step Day at St George's in November that it is a fun and impactful day.
- The SJL Year 10 Step Day in December for those taking RE
- The KWS Year 12 drop down day themed around ethics in November, we'll be presenting 3 of our Blueprint sessions

PUDDING AND PRAYER

September 14th 2026 at Christchurch, Harpenden

Section 1- Big Picture (Lead by Geoff)

Maddie- Our New Schools Coordinator

Give thanks for Maddie our new Schools Coordinator and please pray for her to settle well. Pray that the handover of Nicholas Breakspear from Chris to Maddie is fruitful and providential.

New Theme- Keep in Step with the Spirit

This year Step is focusing on keeping in step with the Spirit, which means we are attentive, match pace, and trust Jesus' direction - please pray Step keeps this a central focus as business seeks to distract us. Please pray for our church visits that we will inspire congregations with our theme for the year as well as recruiting new volunteers, prayer partners and financial supporters.

Fundraising- Grants and Initiatives

Thank God for the success of grants, Love Your Enemy Campaign and growth in individual giving last year. Please pray for God's provision - with grants and our new fundraising initiative - as we grow this year.

New School

We are officially in STAHS as of this term, helping run their 'Ultimate questions and Games club'. Please pray that this group grows in numbers from the 2 that currently come, and that Mary might meet teachers and staff and create connections in the school.

New Heads and Teachers

Pray for a great connection with the new Head Teachers at Nicholas Breakspear and Marlborough, and the new CEO of Ambition Education Trust. Pray for Loreto, there have been a lot of changes over the summer and it has felt like quite an unsettled start to the term.

New Schools Ministry Gathering

Please also pray for wisdom and excitement as Step embarks on preparing for running a Schools Ministry Gathering in April with several other Schools work charities.

Section 2- Lessons (Helena and Chris)

Relationships with Teachers

Relationships with the heads of RE to grow in strength and confidence. That we will be able to be a support to them and they see us as people they can rely on and who help enrich their teaching and their students learning. Pray also for more connections with teachers outside of the RE department in schools.

Upcoming Lessons

We have loads of lessons coming up (see below for just a few examples).

- Townsend: Walk Through The Bible (Yr7), Ultimate Questions (Yr8), and Sanctity of Life (Yr11)
- Marlborough: Ultimate Questions (Yr8)
- STAGS: Prejudice (Yr7) and Sanctity of Life (Yr9)
- Yr10 Christian Worship lessons this week at St George's as it is the first time we have worked with the Yr10s for a long time
- Verulam and SJL Walk through the Bible (Yr8).

Lesson Refreshing

We are constantly updating and refreshing our lessons so please pray for the team to have creativity to make them relevant and engaging. Please pray especially as we rewrite our Science and Faith lesson.

A New Space Mat on the Way

Helena and Jemima, who joined us for work experience last year, are continuing with the creation of the Big Questions Space Mat particularly for secular schools. Please pray for an ease in creating and for school interest when it's complete.

New Lessons

Thank God for the new lessons booked at Nicholas Breakspear. We usually run retreats rather than weekly lessons. Pray for lessons to be booked at St Albans School as we await news from the Head of RE.

New Training Streams

Please pray as we introduce four new volunteer training streams (Lessons, Wellbeing, Leadership/Sixth Form, and Following Jesus) that we can equip our volunteers in these areas.

Section 3 - Following Jesus (Mary and Jez)

Christian Teachers Prayer Meeting

Please pray for the Christian teachers and staff prayer meeting being launched this term. We pray it will be a time to encourage teachers and grow community within St Albans secondary schools and colleges. Please also pray for the existing Harpenden one run by King's School.

Third Spaces and Next Step Mentoring

Pray we will continue seeing young people being invited into third spaces (e.g. Drop in at LX Centre) and churches, and choosing to follow Jesus! And that with this, the need for our Next Steps mentoring course will grow, as we help young people understand what it means to follow Jesus.

Youth Alpha and Bible Resources

New Youth Alpha for schools will be fruitful. Please pray we can start an Alpha course with new Year 7s in NBS. Please also pray that Young people will grow a hunger for reading the Bible through handing out GNFE Bibles, Explore the Bible and a new Bible Lesson which is being created.

Explore Groups - Lunchtime Clubs

Pray for lunch clubs to continue to go well and young Christians will have the courage to invite friends. Please pray specifically for:

- For us to make a connection with the group in St Albans School
- Monday lunchtime group in KWS to find a new room and attract new Year 7s exploring faith
- Year 8 Explore group in Loreto digging into the Bible
- Ultimate Questions group at Beaumont
- STAGS Christianity Unpacked lunch group
- Marlborough's Rebranded Lego, Big Questions and the Bible Club
- Ultimate Questions Club in Verulam which launches on Friday
- New volunteers to lead and restart a club at Roundwood.

Please also pray for Mary as she leads a research project into Christian lunch clubs.

St Luke's New Third Space - Toast

Step are partnering with St Luke's Church on Cell Barnes Lane to run an after school club called Toast for local Year 7 students, where students are able to gather to play games, chat and connect with us and each other. Pray that we are able to promote the club in Samuel Ryder.