

This is the second in a series of worldwide conferences seeking to help schools to engage with and teach about Islam more effectively. Islam is the second largest and fastest growing Religion in the world. Australia has a substantial Muslim population (360,000) and is neighbored by the most populous Muslim country, Indonesia (204,000,000). Australian companies are trading with and Australian soldiers fighting in Muslims countries; it is of vital importance that young people have a good and accurate understanding of the beliefs and practices of Islam before they enter the adult world. This conference will provide teachers with practical tools to support teaching about Islam imaginatively across the age-range and across the curriculum.

A wide range of PowerPoints, video resources and notes will be made available to all participants on an exclusive DVD, which draws on the expertise of Islamic scholars including Professor Tariq Ramadan, Dr. Ataullah Siddiqui, Tahir Alam, Dr. Mohammed Shomali, Dr. Ahmad Achta and Dr Simin Rahimi and leading Muslim Professionals including Samina Akram and Aziza Atta of solicitors Norton Rose and features a filmed interview with Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, the Papal Nuncio to Egypt and delegate to the Arab League and previously the head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE...

Dr. Peter Vardy, the vice-principal of Heythrop College of the University of London, really needs no introduction. He is the main speaker at the largest students RS conferences in England and similar conferences across Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and other countries, addressing more than 12,000 young people every year. He has a passion for engaging young people with the big questions that affect them and has done more than anybody else to inspire the resurgence in the popularity of studying RS. A lively and engaging lecturer, he has a gift for making complex topics clear and understandable. Peter was one of the keynote speakers at the UNESCO conference in Adelaide on Values Education in 2005, at the Kuala Lumpur UNHRC conference on human rights in 2005 and at the IB Principals' conference in Hanoi in October 2006.

Charlotte Fowler is the Director of Studies at Heathfield School in England and a Tutor at the University of London. She studied Theology at Oxford before doing her Masters in Philosophy, for which she received a distinction. Through her company eudaemonia conferences, Charlotte has organised this international series of conferences for the Coexist Foundation and is currently working with CTVC and Microbooks to improve the resources and training available to schools and teachers across the world. She was an advisor to the Tony Blair Faith Foundation and has worked with the Department for Children, Schools and Families on projects to promote community cohesion and prevent extremism. As a practicing and experienced RE teacher, Charlotte has worked on all the sessions and resources to ensure they are of direct and practical use in schools.

The day will also feature a filmed introduction by **Professor Tariq Ramadan**, who is Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies at Oxford University and teaches at the Oriental Institute, St Anthony's College and the Faculty of Theology there. He is also Senior Research Fellow at Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan. Through his writings and lectures he has contributed substantially to the debate on the issues of Muslims in the West and Islamic revival in the Muslim world. He is active both at the academic and grassroots levels lecturing extensively throughout the world on social justice and dialogue between civilizations. The DVD features filmed interviews with **Dr. Mohammed Shomali**, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Religions at Imam Khomeini Education and Research Institute in Qom, Iran. A graduate of the Islamic Seminaries of Qom, he also has both a BA and an MA in Western Philosophy from the University of Tehran and a Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Manchester.

SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE...

Learning about and from Islam.

This introductory session will consider the challenge facing our schools in helping young people and their communities to engage with Islam. Britain is now home to more than two million Muslims and their religion is rarely out of the news; popular misconceptions abound and can lead to tension and conflict. The responsibility for fostering community cohesion has often been assigned to schools – but what can they really do to improve understanding?

Islamic Perspectives on the Philosophy of Religion: The Nature of God and Arguments for God's Existence.

Courses in the Philosophy of Religion are hugely popular with students and universally ask them to consider the nature of God and the various supposed proofs for His existence. This session will examine Islamic perspectives on what God, Allah, is like, what can be known or said about Him and will go on to consider the ancient Islamic traditions of arguing to God's existence. Islamic versions of the Ontological, Cosmological, Design and Moral arguments will be outlined and evaluated. Resources will be provided to enable you to engage students and to give them a different way of answering typical examination questions.

Islam and Christianity: Shared Respect for Mary.

Many Muslims share the respect Catholics have for Mary the mother of Jesus. This session will consider the similarities and differences between Muslim and Catholic belief on Mary and related areas and will consider how the similarities can be used as grounds for teaching about Islam in new ways. It will also consider whether beliefs and traditions about Mary from Islam could enrich Catholic worship.

Islamic Perspectives on World Issues: Islam and the Embryo.

Many Religious Studies courses ask students to consider matters of medical ethics such as Abortion, IVF and Genetic Engineering. This session will outline and evaluate how major Islamic schools of thought have responded to the challenges posed by modern medicine and will provide the materials to offer students a different perspective on them.

Islamic Perspectives on World Issues: Islam, War, Peace and Justice.

News stories about Islam are often concerned with involvement in wars and the extreme examples of how Islamic law is enforced. This session will examine Islamic teaching about the ethics of War and about how justice should be established and administered. It will provide the materials to counter popular misconceptions about the concepts of jihad, Sharia law, attitudes to women and non-Muslims and will help teachers to teach about Islamic attitudes to money and business

Engaging with Islam through the Arts.

This session will offer new, practical strategies for teaching Islam through the Arts. The full PowerPoint is suitable to use as the basis for an in-service session within your school, encouraging colleagues to consider opportunities for cross and co-curricular learning and will include material on Islamic art, design, architecture, fashion, music and poetry and will be accompanied by resources which can be used in the classroom at both Primary and Secondary levels.

eudaemonia conferences aim to help teachers to develop their understanding of the aims of education and how these can be achieved. eudaemonia is run by teachers for teachers and we are sensitive to the demands of the job. eudaemonia uses a range of speakers, from international experts in education to experienced classroom teachers. We believe that it is important to examine issues from different perspectives and to consider the practical challenges that teachers face as well as the ideals they seek to foster. The latest thinking coupled with up-to-date classroom experience makes for a truly effective In Service. See www.eudaemoniaconferences.org for details of this and other conferences we are organising.

The Coexist Foundation is a charity established in 2006 to promote better understanding between Jews, Christians and Muslims – the Abrahamic Faiths – through education, dialogue and research. Through the projects and programmes which we support, we hope to help people of these faiths improve their relations – above all with each other, but also with different faiths, and with those of no faith. See www.coexistfoundation.net for further information about the Foundation.

Wombat Education organises a series of teacher-training and student conferences in RE, Philosophy and Ethics across Australia, New Zealand and Singapore every year, it also distributes books and DVDs by Dr. Peter Vardy.

Feedback from this conference in the U.K. included:

“Probably the most intellectually well-supported INSET I’ve been on.”

“eudaemonia is why I came into teaching in the first place”

“I went away feeling refreshed and energised”

“I’ve been given so much on which to reflect and act”

“Thank you; a very good day full of challenging ideas”

“Peter Vardy was inspiring!”

BOOKINGS

Must be made by email or by telephone through Wendy Rowe
Wombat Education, PO Box 100, Binalong NSW 2584
ABN 31 699 068 585
Telephone: 02 6227 4570 Mobile: 0420 381 191
Email: mail@wombateducation.com
Website: www.wombateducation.com

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY CHEQUE TO WOMBAT EDUCATION OR BY DIRECT DEPOSIT TO THE COMMONWEALTH BANK

BSB 062 553 Account No. 1006 0767

New Zealand payment instructions on website.

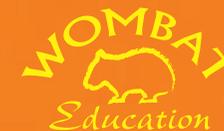
COST PER TEACHER IS \$145.

This includes lunch and an exclusive DVD of resources.

Amendments, cancellations, reimbursements will be accepted up to two weeks before the conference.

Registration will take place at 9am for a 9.30 am start.

Conference ends at 3pm. Amendments and cancellations will be accepted until two weeks before the conference. 75% of fee will be refunded.



Wombat Education presents...

with the support of eudaemonia conferences
and the Coexist Foundation

Teaching Islam Today

With

Dr. Peter Vardy
University of London

Wellington 19th July
Christchurch 20th July
Auckland 21st July
Brisbane 27th July
Sydney 30th July
Canberra 2nd August
Hobart 4th August
Melbourne 6th August
Ballarat 9th August
Adelaide 11th August
Perth 13th August

This intensive teacher-training conference has been organised with the support of the Coexist Foundation and features an introduction by Professor Tariq Ramadan.