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- + **World Religion Day (WRD)** – many thanks to the 50 or so people who joined us for our WRD celebrations this week, a fitting way to ‘kick off’ our new year of interfaith dialogue. How enlightening to listen to the perspectives of our 5 speakers on the question “What is the purpose of prayer and meditation in the modern world . . . Why pray?” During a very reflective and harmonious evening, it was refreshing to not only appreciate differences, but also the many strands that bind us collectively. Thank you to everyone concerned, especially the speakers and the Baha’i community who suggested the event. For a web link to the event, click on [WRD](#)
- + **GCSE RE Medical Ethics** - following the successful programme reported in last week’s edition, do have a look at our new web link by clicking on [Medical Ethics](#)
- + **Christ the King RC Primary School** – yesterday it was a pleasure to welcome Year 4 students from the school for a stimulating morning, learning about the Hindu faith and an encounter with Madhubala Pandya. Both students and staff thoroughly enjoyed their religious and cultural explorations. Look out for a web link next week.
- + **Holocaust Memorial Day** – it was humbling to witness the large number of services which took place across the county in recent days, to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. For our part, our thanks to Fr Michael Waters who led us in a moving discussion during our Thursday lunchtime prayers, in which he focused in the meaning of genocide, how prejudice and discrimination has led to the human destruction of whole groups of people, with emphasis not only on 1945 but also, far more recent examples of man’s inhumanity to man. We must never forget.
- + **Review Time** – January is invariably a good time to take stock, reflect and plan the way ahead. Last week, the Faith Centre Strategic Group gathered for such an occasion, allowing our school and faith representatives to consider the underlying aims of the Building School for the Future programme - conscious that all our new buildings are now in place – how our group has worked well, how we can do more to better serve our school and wider communities and so on. Our initial findings will be collated and taken forward to our next meeting in early March. Thanks to everyone.
- + **And finally . . .** during such times of review and reflection, it is good to remember that life in so many ways is a continual stream of endings and new beginnings . . . all vital in the long run, as we look to the mountaintop of serving our communities, increasing opportunities for growth and realisation, against the backdrop of the various external factors that are always before us . . . keeping ahead of the game and remembering that the key to it all is the journey & not necessarily where we end up.

**“What we call the beginning is often the end, and to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from” from Little Gidding by T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)**