

# THE COED FOUNDATION

THE  
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FOUNDATION

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The CoED Foundation Newsletter

ISSUE TWO : WINTER 2016 & SPRING 2017

## GOODBYE 2016, AND WELCOME 2017!

Welcome to this, the second newsletter, which we have produced electronically. This will be our future pattern and hopefully we will update you several times a year. 2016 for the CoED Foundation has been truly incredible! We have expanded the number of associates who work with us, run several school-based events and undertaken a six session course on Compassion and Education with the Birmingham Governors Network. Our work has branched out to include General Practitioners, Youth Offending Teams and those in other caring professions. The final icing on the cake in the autumn term was the showing and discussion of an amazing film, Paper Tigers which movingly and hopefully deals with what is now becoming a world-wide

phenomenon: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's).

Although, for many, 2017 appears to have started with gloom and despondency, for us there is enormous hope. Since starting The Foundation in 2012 we have come to realize that there is a **growing global community of compassionate souls** who, in all fields of life are dedicating themselves to creating a more compassionate world, a world where collaboration and service are paramount.

This newsletter highlights a number of our very successful projects in 2016, and charts our course for 2017 which hopefully will be as dynamic and energizing as the previous year.

A Message from  
our new Chair,  
Professor Mick  
Waters:



*“Schools need to offer pupils the chance to learn with and about compassion. What young people learn should include a fascination for the way in which humans have tried to extend their world, sometimes at incredible cost. Our successes are often accompanied by failings and side-effects. We need future generations to strive for accomplishment while at the same time showing humility. **Compassion should pervade school life and what we teach our young.**”*

- Professor Mick Waters

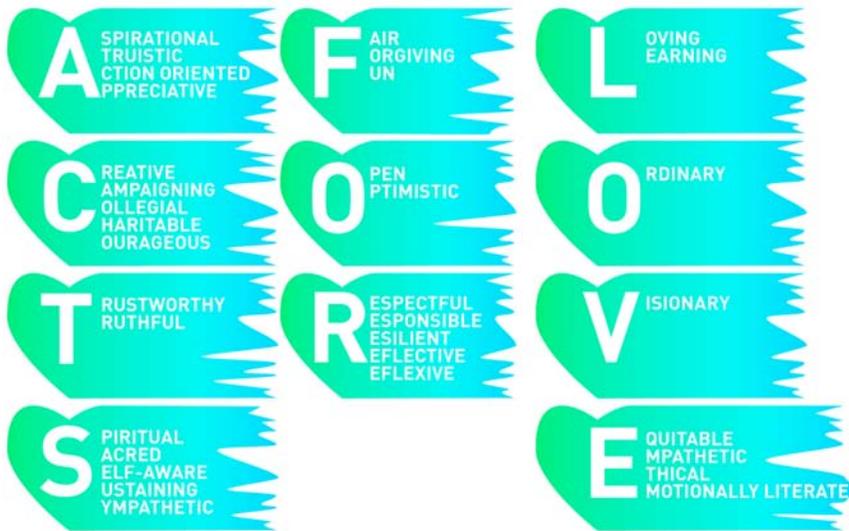


Changing the world one step at a time—some of the Trustees and Advisory Board members leaving Two Snow Hill

## In This Issue

- BGN Sessions
- Our publications
- Collaborative projects
- Further developments
- News from our Austrian partners

## A COMPASSIONATE HUMAN BEING MIGHT BE...



One of the ideas presented in the book "Towards a Compassionate School"

## TOWARDS THE COMPASSIONATE SCHOOL

Our first, and critics kindly say, 'seminal,' book was published in the late autumn of 2015 and launched in 3 conferences in 3 cities. All reviews, and all the inset based upon the book, have been incredibly positive and to date we not received one word of criticism. As one reviewer on Amazon put it,

*"...this book is well written, well edited and well worth reading. It is a book about the core purpose of schooling and the most profound meanings of education. It presents a compelling call to action that is at once aspirational, motivational, practical and - most importantly - values driven ...As the Bible puts it: "So now faith, hope, and love remain; but the greatest of these is love" (Corinthians 13:13). Sign up now for a more compassionate, more loving, more forgiving, more inclusive, more tolerant world: order this book today."*

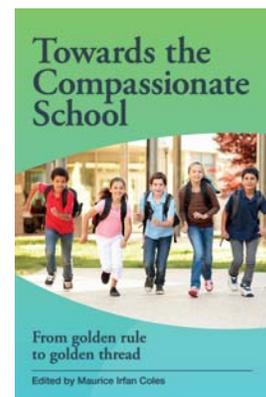
**Rupert Kaye.** Head teacher,  
Christ Church C of E First School  
Frome, Somerset

## THE BIRMINGHAM GOVERNORS' NETWORK (BGN) TOWARDS THE COMPASSIONATE SCHOOL: APPROACHES TO 'BRITISH' VALUES

Nobody could have predicted the outstanding success of the six sessions delivered by the CoED Foundation at the request of the Birmingham Governor Network. Run over three terms the 2 hour sessions were based upon the Foundation's book and covered in depth the compassionate aspects of SMSC and the strategic imperatives to create compassionate schools. Over 200 participants, some attending all six sessions, enjoyed interactive presentations peppered with intellectual debate and practical examples. Overall evaluations revealed that 97% of respondents felt the sessions were good or very good, with 64% of these declaring them to be very good. In fact, only 2 people in the whole course ticked the satisfactory box.

'excellent' were typical. Highlights of the course were the overview, the humorous cultural dialogue between Maurice and Gilroy Brown, and Mick Waters with his Circle of Courage. Many governors were keen to take back to their Heads and governing bodies their new learning and insights and some demanded even more sessions! Others wanted the local authority to develop a compassionate guarantee that all schools could adopt. Let the last word go to a governor who declared: *'Many thanks to the BGN for presenting these sessions through inspirational and prestigious speakers who have their roots in Birmingham.'*

Comments like 'most inspiring' 'challenging,' 'thoughtful' and



To order a copy use the following link on Amazon:

<http://amzn.eu/if807O9>

## A Note of Thanks:



### Prof. David Woods CBE

A great debt of gratitude is owed to our first Chair, David Woods, who supported the CEO from early inception through to his assumption as vice chair in 2016. David has written extensively for the Foundation, spoken widely and generally offered all possible support directly and through his many networks. We are delighted he will remain with us as vice-chair.



### Rev. Dr. Keith McGee —

As our American patron Keith has been wonderfully supportive both in the UK, where he spends much of his time, and across the pond. Not only has he arranged a number of talks for the CEO in Boston, USA, but has also been responsible for the screenings of the film Paper Tigers, which The Foundation was privileged to orchestrate.



Paper Tigers Film showing and discussion

## PAPER TIGERS

Almost 150 people in four different cities attended the interactive screening of an edited version of James Redford's film: Paper Tigers. The film charts the progress of six pupils in a very difficult school in Washington State, all of whom suffer from what is now known as ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences). The school's principal inspired by an understanding of brain neuroscience realised that "Stressed brains can't learn". With great love the principal and his staff devised a curriculum designed to help their charges overcome their ACE's. (Full report on our website).



Launch of the Faith Museum

## RSA— LAUNCH OF THE FAITH MUSEUM

The CoED was delighted to offer a small grant to support the establishment of a Faith Museum at the RSA. Pioneered and orchestrated by Sarah Barnes, Vice Principal of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) Academy, Tipton, England. Sarah, has been on the Trustees and Advisory Board from CoED's inception, and has undertaken some OFSTED acclaimed work in the area of Social, Moral, Cultural and Spiritual Development. The academy serves one of the least prosperous and ethnically diverse parts of the UK and yet achieves some wonderful student outcomes. The links below provide more footage of the museum:

<http://rsaacademy.org/rsa-multi-faith-and-culture-museum/>

<https://goo.gl/photos/vXL3iHrGvvUgjtr8>

## COMPASSIONATE COMICS PROJECT

Generously funded by **Big Lottery—Awards for All**, this innovative project brings together 35 pupils from two Birmingham Primary schools; Colebourne and Nishkam. Working on alternate Saturdays the pupils have been inspired by a story teller and a graphic artist to produce their own short comics with compassion at their heart. The project ends with both schools coming together to share their comics and their insights about the nature of the world. The project will become a downloadable, replicable teaching resource which will be found on our website.



# FROM HEART TO HEAD: CONVERSATIONS ON COMPASSION AND EDUCATION

This, the Foundation's third book, is now well underway and consists of a series of structured interviews with 30 or so 'experts' in the field of compassion, as well as practitioners who can demonstrate how they live their compassionate ideals on a day to day basis. Respondents are asked questions about the nature of compassion, their perceptions of the imperatives that demand change, and what makes a compassionate leader. The interviews are providing some wonderful and very hard hitting gems which the book's editor, Maurice Irfan Coles will bring together in several overarching analytical chapters. Much of the book, however, will consist of abridged versions of the voices of the respondents. The full texts will be available on-line so that readers can appreciate the depth of the arguments in a range of disciplines. Publication date will be 2018 but shortly the full texts will be uploaded as we conduct the interviews.

## 101 QUOTABLE QUOTES

### WITH WARM HEART AND RECEPTIVE MIND: a compendium of 101 sayings on the themes of compassion and education

This, the Foundation's second book, will be available in the summer of 2017. With a foreword from Sir Tim Brighouse, It has been compiled and edited by Dr. Bill Gent, a trustee of the organisation. Let him speak eloquently for himself:

'Since late teenage years, I have been an inveterate collector of quotations and sayings. So, when CoEd Foundation colleagues asked me to gather 101 examples relating to compassion and education, I felt a sense of destiny. With the help of the group I set about gathering suitable examples, many from my own collections. Some were obvious candidates

for inclusion – such as 'I strongly believe that the purpose of all learning should be about changing oneself and thereby the world in some small way.' (Mona Siddique) and 'The central task of the school must be sensitive, warm, efficient, human, realistic and thorough' (Michael Marland). And there is the matter of how best to display the quotations: at present, I am toying with two different ways – one or two sayings per page and then notes about their provenance at the back of the book, or one saying per page including provenance and notes on the same page. And then, of course, there are the issues of publication and distribution ... Still much to do then, but remember the hill walker's adage: 'Slow and easy gets you far in a day'.

- Bill Gent with love to you all.

### Forthcoming Events:

- The Peace Club : a weekly youth club for 11-14 year olds in Handsworth January 11th until March 2017
- The Viennese Graphic Novel Exhibition March 2017
- Publication of our Compassionate Comics teachers pack: Summer term 2017
- Birmingham Governors Network – Towards the Compassionate School July 8th 2017 9.30-1.00,
- More major work on ACES ( Adverse Childhood Experiences) 2018 TBA
- Further Think Pieces.

And we are delighted to announce the appointment of **Tam Martin Fowles** to become the UK Coordinator, Charter for Compassion International. This is the first time we have had such a post and is further evidence of the growth of global compassion.



### NEWS FROM OUR AUSTRIAN PARTNERS : DR FRITZ PLANK

In co-operation with CoEd, UK, our concerns have increasingly moved to supporting underprivileged children and youths worldwide. Our current centre of activities are first and second generation migrant children and youths, who have come to Europe for reasons of war, personal oppression, hunger and hardship, who need to be integrated in our societies for all the good reasons.

Our latest project "Graphic Stories", based on an original idea of Maurice I. Coles, and Fiona Scoble, started in January 2016 with a very successful pilot in two New in Vienna classes. It has been run by the Vienna Board of Education, who employed "our" graphic artist Safwan Alshoufi as the students' first confidant and artistic instructor. With their form teachers Safwan encouraged immigrant children from war-torn parts of the world to relate their dramatic personal stories by drawing and writing, thus enabling them to communicate with their new environment for the first time.

Several hundreds of these Graphic Stories have already been produced and document the students' achievements by way of the internet and in public exhibitions: on our pro-ed Website: see [http://pro-education.org/en\\_GB/grafische-novelle/](http://pro-education.org/en_GB/grafische-novelle/) the first public presentation was in the Vienna Stadtschulrat on Nov. 11th, 2016, and the next big one "Vienna Exile Graphic Novel", presenting Safwan Alshoufi and his students' Graphic Stories, will be shown at the private Vienna FivePlusArt Gallery starting on March 1st 2017, (visit <http://www.fiveplusartgallery.eu/en/>).

On this basis we are currently developing a much wider European project: Our ERASMUS bid in the making will link congenial partners in Austria, the UK, Italy and possibly Romania in creating a curricular module at whose centre ART is instrumental in bridging and bonding cultures, faiths and languages, and attempting to make a success of diversity.

FHP for CoED, Jan 7th, 2017

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