

Education Matters

Monday 8th December was a significant day for evangelical Christians working in education. At the invitation of the *Forum for Change*, facilitated by the Evangelical Alliance, representatives of twelve different organisations met to discuss how they could work more closely together to promote their vision that education is about the development of the whole person under God.

Longstanding players such as Youth for Christ, Scripture Union and the Association of Christian Teachers were joined by relative newcomers such as Festive, who are exclusively focussed on supporting Christians in Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges.

Key points that emerged from the discussion were:

A shared Christian vision that education is about far more than gaining skills and qualifications but is about the development of the whole person under God, promoting wisdom and character development.

A shared concern that as a Christian community we should be speaking into national debates on education, seeking to challenge the influential secularist idea that faith in God is a purely private matter.

A shared desire to become more effective in expressing a distinctively Christian voice in education which contributes to the well-being and flourishing of all pupils in our schools.

The other highlight of the day was sharing the current work engaged in by the various organisations around the table. These included resources production, events, media and policy work, training, assemblies and school visits.