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[Faith Centre Website](#)

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TIME TO LOCK UP YOUR LAPTOPS & BURY YOUR BLACKBERRYS . . . REST!

So dear friends, we reach the end of another memorable academic year. What a full, enjoyable and eye opening year it has been. In the two years since we opened the doors of our "new" Centre and Campus here on Barden Lane we have had the privilege of welcoming thousands and thousands of people through our doors, young and not so young, people of all faiths and none, of different cultures and ethnicities, from all the continents of the globe. Who knows what the total would be if we added the numbers from our two years of "foundation building" at our "old" Centre, still so warmly remembered by many. It has been a privilege to welcome all our visitors, ever conscious that our journey is all about discovery and self discovery . . . listening to the witness of others, the witness of those "who come in peace and respect for themselves and for others, and who desire to learn and grow", from the words of our Mission Statement . . a place also to pray & reflect.

As I type this, friends at our final four colleges of Blessed Trinity, Hameldon, Rose and Unity will be packing in readiness for their move to new, state of the art facilities, new homes of learning and education, which will open in September 2010. Come September, all the new colleges in our £250m journey called Building Schools for the Future – well bar the snagging – will be complete. It is worth remembering the hard work and endeavour of so many back in 2002, when the ideas and vision were first put to paper. Never forget, all the good things take time. And we have seen some very positive things going on at our colleges across Burnley and Pendle this year. Sadly, others in this area will not have the opportunity to enjoy new facilities or improvements to their current schools and colleges.

Our final week or so at the Centre has been an absolute joy . . . our first wedding at the Centre, international visitors from all over the globe and a visit from a Space Man. It simply doesn't come much better than that!! Now the activities are gradually starting to slow down, the fatigue is kicking in and rest is required. That all said, whatever you do, do not miss this week's quote. One of my favourites actually, which I have been holding back!!

Finally to you, dear readers. May I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all your support and regular feedback. Writing weekly bulletins was never in my plans back in September 2006 when this voyage kicked off. Then again, what do I know about "plans" anymore. We live for every moment, encounter and opportunity that Almighty God presents. We now have well over 1200 "takers" and I am aware that others forward the document on too, with an increasing number going out to other continents. All very humbling really. So to you all, a big THANK YOU. Be assured of my love and prayers. Do continue to remember us here too and we look to 2010/11 and the surprises ahead! Have a lovely summer, keep safe and see you in September . . . God Willing, Insha'Allah . . .

- ✚ **Opening Hours** – please note, the Faith Centre will be in full operation up to and including Friday 23rd July. The Centre will then be closed w/c 26 July, 2nd and 9th August. We will be partially opened w/c 16th and 23rd Aug around the time of exam results being issued, and back in earnest mid w/c 30th Aug after the Bank Holiday.
- ✚ **International Visitors (A)** – last Friday we were delighted to welcome 3 visitors from Turkey who were in Burnley as part of a link up with a local project. As part of a very interesting couple of hours with us, they spoke very highly of our work with young people and our various links with the Campus and community as a whole. We hope to make further contact in the new academic year at some stage. We wish them well
- ✚ **International Visitors (B) - Mosaic International Summit** . . yesterday, we were absolutely delighted to welcome 22 summer students from Egypt, Oman, Qatar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey, Algeria, Kenya, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. What a splendid group of people they were, here as part of a 2-week innovative leadership programme in the UK. During a very diverse four hours, they listened to inputs from Angela Rawson of Lancashire County Council and myself, followed by a series of interactive workshops led by the young people of this area, young people who have all demonstrated excellent leadership ability and been agents of change in Burnley and beyond. Our visitors were extremely complimentary of our work and our young people’s vision and endeavour. They later returned to London to prepare for a meeting with HRH The Prince of Wales today.
- ✚ **Wedding at the Faith Centre** – earlier this week it was a joy to witness my colleague, Richard Hoyle, officiating at our first ever wedding ceremony at the Faith Centre . . . well, to students at the Reception Class of Barden Primary School!! All the students and teachers dressed up accordingly and a fine time was had by all!! The celebrations continued well into the night . . . well, till just after 1500hrs!! There was a magnificent feast to share and out of the blue, a Space Man popped by too!!!
- ✚ **Endings and New Beginnings** – our very best wishes to all Friends of the Centre who are moving on, especially Alasdair Jamison and Sarah Montague, two members of our Strategic Group, who are retiring and moving to Montserrat respectively! Go well.
- ✚ **Upcoming Events Around the Area**
 - **Islamic Conference** – Burnley Islamic Cultural Centre, Thursday 22nd July 1300hrs to 0400hrs Friday 23rd July. For further info tel. 07977 205 357
 - **October Conference** – Lancashire Global Education Centre and Lancashire County Council are jointly hosting a: **'Equality and Diversity in Action: Community Cohesion and Beyond'** Conference on Friday 8th October 2010 at the **Dunkenhalgh Hotel and Spa** near Blackburn. Sir Keith Ajegbo is the keynote speaker and there will be presentations from a range of schools sharing the successes and challenges of their Community Cohesion projects. For more information and bookings click on [Equality & Diversity Conference](#)
- ✚ **And finally . . .** the end of a busy year though never forget . . . **‘Skidding in Broadside’** "Life is not a journey to the grave, with the intention of arriving safely, in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out and loudly proclaiming **“WOW!!!”** **“WHAT A RIDE”**. Author Unknown