

## A Busy Start...

Since the children returned to school in September, the Open Centre has been rather busy with **more than 2000 visitors** taking part in our Faith Trails which is over **400 more** than this time last year! We have also seen an increase in the number of schools we have worked with, as this has **grown 20%** compared with last year. The number of workshops has also **increased by 15%** with our most popular workshops still showing as **Marriage and Cookery**.

We believe that the increase in visitors and services used by the schools has been down to the Open Centre staff, who have worked hard to ensure a quality and tailored experience that allows the children (and staff) to be immersed in these culturally rich environments through personal experiences.



However we are always looking for ways to develop our services further in line with the new Derby City and Derbyshire Agreed Syllabuses as approved by the S.A.C.R.E (Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education) and would be eager to hear your feedback.

If you would like any additional information on any of our services or would like to provide us with feedback please don't hesitate to get in contact with us on; [contact@derbyopencentre.org](mailto:contact@derbyopencentre.org)



Why not check out our new website as it is now mobile friendly...?

<http://www.derbyopencentre.org/>

## Dates for your Diary

Here are a few upcoming Religious Events, Festivals and Awareness days this term you might be interested in:

### January

- 3rd January 2016—Islam—Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
- 5th January 2016—Sikh—Birth of Guru Gobind Singh
- 18th January 2016—World Religion Day
- 18th January 2016—Martin Luther King Day
- 27th January 2016—Holocaust Memorial Day



### February

- 19th February 2016—Chinese New Year

### March

- 23rd March 2016—Hindu—Holi
- 24th March 2016—Jewish—Purim



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY 27/1

## New Staff

In the efforts to improve our services further, we are continually looking for new staff or volunteers to join our team in order to expand the services we provide. It is my pleasure to introduce our latest staff members; Pavendeep Johal, Gurnam Singh and Mandeep Singh who all work with the Sikh Youth Committee and will now help to lead the Faith Trails at the Gurdwara. It is always important to the Open Centre to work with different members from the community. This will help us to provide another dimension to our Faith Trails and to help our visitors understand what it might be like to live and work as part of a different community in today's multicultural Britain. We also welcome Danny Wells to our team, who currently runs Historical talks in Derbyshire <http://www.history-talks.co.uk/> and is interested in leading some of our Faith Trails for different organisations.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Open Centre, please don't hesitate to get in contact with us on 01332 360737.

## New Sign

Thanks to Pak Food Stores on Normanton Road, Derby, the Open Centre now has a brand new sign for our office as they have kindly sponsored it.



## Upcoming Competitions...

Keep a look out on our Website, Facebook and Twitter pages for our upcoming competitions.

October Winner - Jenny Stone from Wren Park Primary School won a free Arabic Calligraphy Workshop..

*"A brilliant time. The children really enjoyed learning their names in Arabic and using glitter glue! We liked the Arabic alphabet song too. "*

## Mobile Exhibition for Hire!

The 'Our Heritage' teaching resources are a vibrant series of cross-curriculum resources for all Key Stages designed to engage students with notions of 'British Values' through case studies exploring faith, culture and the legacy of multiculturalism from the perspective of five families.



See our website to find out how you could have this fantastic teaching resource in your school.

<http://www.derbyopencentre.org/our-heritage/mobile-exhibition>