

Soul Space at Chipping Campden School

June 2018

2018 saw our fourth and longest Soul Space, running for 5 days on the theme of IDENTITY. Once again, we converted an RP classroom into a space full of twinkling lights and trees. During the week, volunteers worked with 14 classes of students from Y7 – Y10, in the ten different reflection stations. Soul Space was also open during break and lunch, and in total nearly 400 students visited.



The event was led by Tim Crummack, youth pastor at Chipping Campden Baptist, and Revd Dana Delap with Amy Todd, Children and Youth Leader, in the Vale and Cotswold Edge Team Ministry. Eight volunteers also came to support the students within the reflection space.

After an introduction about where we get our identity from and how our identity is shaped, damaged and distorted, the students were invited to spend time thinking about the things that affirmed their identity, and things which damaged their self belief and confidence. Stations which elicited a response were then written up, and are reflected upon below.



What emotion do you identify with today?

One station allowed students to identify how they were feeling, using emotion blob cards and scrabble tiles.

What are you afraid of?

Squares of paper were available for students to write down those things of which they were most afraid. Responses included a significant number who are scared of death, either their own or the death of someone they love. They were scared of conflict, both internal and external, of terrorism and war. A number feared deteriorating mental health, especially anxiety and depression, and some were particularly scared of being alone. A few were afraid of

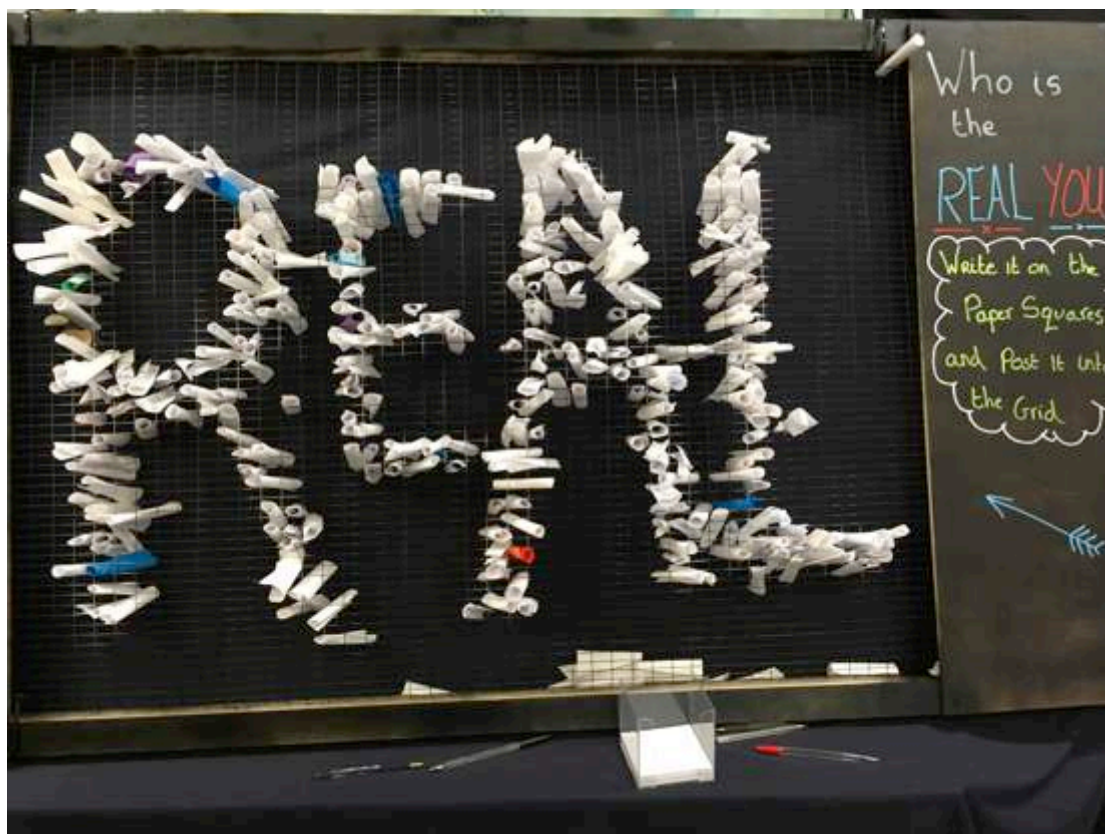
failure, especially in exams, or of 'growing up and taking full responsibility'. Conversations between students and volunteers were particularly profound at this station.

Where are you heading?

Using a roadway and arrows we encouraged students to think about where they were going in life. Apart from some witty answers including, "The next period", some students reflected on their hopes and dreams for the future. These included aspirations towards particular careers (vet, designer, teacher, medic) and towards creating their own family. Having financial security was clearly a goal for some, while others were hoping for happiness and self-acceptance.

Who is the real you?

We all wear masks to protect ourselves from others, perhaps even those who know and love us most. After time looking at their reflection in a variety of mirrors, students were encouraged to write or draw the words that best described them on paper, and to leave it in the wire mesh. By the end of the week, the word "REAL" was spelled out.



As ever, we are enormously grateful to the RP staff for their support, and to CCs for making us so welcome.

Dana Delap
June 2018