

Information for Students

WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP FORMATION PROGRAMME?

The Christian Leadership Formation programme has been conceived and is offered to you because we believe in Truth. When Jesus Christ said to Pontius Pilate, "I come to bear witness to the truth", Pilate responded saying, "What is truth?" Pilate, like many today, including people in positions of leadership and governance, did not recognise or know that there is such a thing as truth, and that what is true applies universally.

At the beginnings of Western civilisation, hundreds of years before God became man, the Greek thinkers understood and looked for the truth of our world: not just physical knowledge, but metaphysical knowledge. In other words, they looked for that which gave sense and meaning to our experience of this world.

Christianity brought together the fruits of their thinking with the Revelation of God's Word, in whom we see the truth of what it means to be human. And the Christianised thinking that followed and flourished, gave us the concepts and structures that stand at the root of our societies.

This course builds on that tradition, and is intended to teach and to re-engage you not only with foundational concepts such as natural law and human dignity, but to apply those to important issues that are much debated within, and often divide, society. This is particularly true of diverse matters such as issues around life and the provision of care at its most vulnerable stages, and questions of taxation and public finance. Besides providing the intellectual groundwork to approach these and broader political issues, the course will offer training and workshops in practical skills such as public speaking, statesmanship and public policy making.

IS THIS FOR YOU?

If the above sounds appealing to you, then quite possibly yes! We need three things in a student, which will tell you if this course is for you:

- 1.** *A real commitment to your Christian faith.* Christianity is not a set of policies that one can subscribe to in theory, and choose between or hope to change in practice. Neither is it an abstract state of feeling or being. It is a practical truth. You should be convinced by this, or at least wanting to be convinced! This means you should be living out your commitment, both towards God and towards neighbour, and you need to be able to evidence this with the help of references.
- 2.** *A desire to serve society.* As a consequence of your Christian faith, you should be able to recognise that moral goodness and evil exist for all of us. You should have a desire to help society structure itself around what is morally good, and to be concerned with the good of each individual. You should be orientated, or at least open, to taking on some role in life that will make it possible for you to contribute to society in this way, whilst recognising that any form of leadership involves service. It would be favourable for us to see this evidenced in some form of service or charitable work that you are already undertaking either within or without the school community.
- 3.** *A certain capacity and willingness to engage with philosophical and theological concepts and reasoning.* The nature of such a course is heavily academic, and primarily builds on the philosophical and theological disciplines. You should therefore be able to demonstrate a certain academic ability, together with a positive and engaged approach to study. It is not necessary for you to have studied philosophy or theology before; however, as a committed Christian, we would expect you to have some knowledge of your faith and therefore a certain familiarity with basic, Christian concepts. Moreover, it would be important for you to have a certain interest and enthusiasm in engaging with these subjects, as these are the bedrock for the leadership model that we are proposing!

If the above sounds like you, go ahead and apply!

WHAT WILL THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course will be delivered over three, residential modules:

Module 1: Philosophical Foundations for the Common Good

24th – 29th July 2023, at Theodore House, Stonyhurst, Lancashire

Module 2: Human Life & Ethical Considerations

21st – 24th October 2023, at SPEC, Pinner, London

Module 3: Applied Political Leadership

5th – 8th April 2024, at SPEC, Pinner, London

Each module will involve lectures from excellently-qualified and experienced academics. Alongside these lectures, there will be workshops or sessions on the more practical skills and aspects of public leadership, offered by experts in those fields. All this will be framed by times of prayer and meals, social time and team-building activities.

There are no formal assessments as part of the course, but your input will be required for learning activities and Q&A sessions. You will also be given a pack containing some minimal, necessary reading prior to each module, as well as plenty of suggestions and materials for further reading both before and after each course.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE COST?

Each place on the course costs us £1,500. Sponsorships are available if your parents or guardians are unable to meet part or all of the cost, as we do not wish to exclude anyone from the course for financial reasons.

Due to the limited number of places available, we will need your absolute commitment to travelling and being available for all three modules in full, should you be accepted.

HOW DO I APPLY?

You will need to do the following:

1. Complete the Student Application Form in the attached Application Pack. Send this, together with the requested Personal Statement, directly to us by email - clf@christianheritagecentre.com - or post - The Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst, Clitheroe BB7 9PZ.
2. Obtain a reference from your Form Tutor and a recommendation from your Head of Year (or equivalent Senior Leader). They will need the Information for Schools and the relevant forms from this pack. The forms should be sent directly to us.
3. Provide a reference from a religious minister who has known you for at least three years, and who can testify to your life of faith. If this is not possible, you could ask a close family friend or some other person who knows you well such as a school chaplain. The form is provided in the Application Pack and should be sent directly to us.

WHEN CAN I APPLY?

Applications are now open.

The closing date for applications is Friday 31st March 2023. Once we have received your application and the accompanying references, we will acknowledge receipt. We will inform applicants as to whether they have been accepted by Monday, 1st May.