Dear HEADTEACHER/SUBJECT LEAD

I am writing to encourage you to make use of the exciting range of *Exploring Secularism* resources available for free at [exploringsecularism.org](http://exploringsecularism.org/)

Secularism raises significant questions about how we balance freedom of, and from, religion with other rights. These are some of the most important questions which arise in all of the humanities, from religious and belief education to citizenship, and from the arts to history.

Of particular interest might be: EXAMPLE OF RESOURCE

What I like best about *Exploring Secularism* is INSERT ANSWER (E.G. it is built around questions. It gives a well-rounded and balanced secularist perspective, but is not about promoting specific answers. Instead it students to explore a range of answers and come to some of their own.)

The Commission on Religious Education has recognised secularism as a key concept in the study of religion and worldviews. By using *Exploring Secularism*, students at SCHOOL NAME can join a long tradition of people from all faiths and none, of artists and authors, of politicians and philosophers, judges and theologians, all of whom have grappled with these debates.

The issues considered in *Exploring Secularism* are growing ever more relevant as British society considers how best to respond to growing religious diversity, growing non-belief, political instability and intolerance.

People will have a range of views on all sorts of secularist issues, including the limits of rights like freedom of speech and of belief, or on how best to practice tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. By exploring how different people interpret these shared values, these resources help students gain a deeper understanding. This directly relates to the ‘fundamental British values’ that schools have a duty to promote.

So far the website features two major resources:

***Exploring Secularism: A guide for teachers*** sets out the principles behind all of our resources “Student led”, “Teacher mediated”, “Built on shared values”, “Balance and critical reflection” and “Transparent”.

Whether or not you are planning on using the other resources, this guide is an essential introduction. It offers advice and a secularist perspective on the key questions, and helps teachers anticipate where these might come up in the curriculum.

***The Core Principles Resource Pack*** features nineteen original resources, presentations, exercises and stimuli for students to explore secularism’s basic political philosophy of separation, freedom and equality. Through real world examples, different viewpoints and thought experiments, students will understand, apply, contrast and critique secularist reasoning.

They’ll form their own opinions and understand others’ on what secularism is, where it comes from and why it is supported or opposed. Students will explore how religious privilege, tolerance and discrimination affect our lives and the decisions we make.

*Exploring Secularism* is a project of the National Secular Society. The NSS works for the separation of religion and state and equal respect for everyone’s human rights so that no one is either advantaged or disadvantaged on account of their beliefs.

I encourage you to explore the range of resources available on the website. Their education team can be contacted for a free copy of the guide for teachers and first resource pack,or to discuss using *Exploring Secularism* at SCHOOL NAME, please contact education@secularism.org.uk

Best wishes,

YOUR NAME