



1001

TIPS & IDEAS

FOR YOUR BEST
SCHOOL YEAR EVER

1. Start a Group

The very best tip we can give you is, **START!** Start a New Generation group! It could be one of the best choices you ever make! Our motto here at New Generation is "My School, My Responsibility" Even if you've heard it before, it's always good to remind ourselves that we can (and should) take responsibility for the people around us. It may be true that your youth leader or local schoolworker knows more about the Bible than you, but they probably don't know your classmates as well as you do!

So here's the deal: you – an ordinary pupil – can be used by God to do extraordinary things in your school! God believes in you... He really does! Throughout history God has used young people to do amazing things. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a completely normal teenage girl who was terrified when the angel Gabriel came

And told her that she was to give birth to Jesus, the Son of God. Mary couldn't work out how it was going to be possible, but she made up her mind to believe that God could do a miracle through her, and He did!

When it comes to you and your school you might be scared at first to pray and reach out to your friends, but when you make your mind up to do it God will take everything in His hands and bless initiatives you take! So if you haven't already done so, then now is the time...join the movement and start a group!

2

Get your thinking caps on and get creative. Try writing down as many ideas as you and your group can think of and then try to figure out how you will pull them off!

If you're having any trouble with this then don't fret, this little booklet is jam-packed with creative ideas and will help get you going!

3

Remember, you have to plan. Being free and spontaneous is not always the best solution. I'm not talking about last minute panic planning either. Get a calendar, and start looking at what you want to do and when you want to do it, how much your projects are going to cost, and what you need to do to prepare...you get the point. Just make sure you put it into practice!

4

Be seen, be heard! Do whatever (well, almost) it takes to put your school group on the map. The days of the holy huddles in the basement are over. It's time to let your classmates know that there's a group of Christians at your school who are proud of being believers, and who are dedicated to standing up for their faith and living out the teachings of Jesus.

5

Are there any decent Christian bands in the area? Ask if they can perform at your school, and share a short message afterwards.

6

If you're a bit of a handyman (or women), then why not ask if you could repaint some of the worn or ugly-looking areas of the school? If you're artistic you may even be able to do some sort of motif or mural that will enhance the image of the school and brighten up a room or corridor.

7

Invite your non-Christian friends to your youth meeting or church service. If you don't already do this then make sure you start and help the youth team make it as easy as possible for non-Christians to take part.



8. Time to get Wired

If you haven't heard of it, Wired is our leader training event, and is one of the most important resources we have. During these day-long events we dedicate our time to training you to be a better group leader and making sure you can transition out of the group and pass the baton on to someone else when you're leaving the school or college.

Filled with fun, games, teaching, testimonies, leadership training, prayer, fellowship and loads of new friends, Wired is a place to meet with like-minded young people and to be inspired and equipped to make a bigger impact on your school. There's also plenty of time in the program for Q&A sessions and time to network and compare notes with other young leaders. So, you'll not only get great training, have a good time and meet new people, but you'll also get to see the latest New Generation resources and hear what's going in the NG Family all around the country and the world.

As well as equipping existing leaders to develop in their role, we also want Wired to be a place for up-and-coming leaders to get a taste test of what running a Group or CU can be like, and we encourage every leader to bring one or two younger people along who can potentially take over the job of leading the CU when the current leaders leave school. So, Wired is open to anyone involved in running a CU or Christian school Group, anywhere between the age of 12 and 20. To see when the next Wired in your area will be, check out our website www.newgeneration.co.uk

9

Let people know your values! Have a discussion or debate about Christianity's view on sex and marriage. If you're unsure, you may want to have your youth leader sit in on this one for reinforcement.

10

Come dressed as a Bible character on non-uniform day. If that doesn't start a conversation, nothing will!

11

If you have any problem with bullying or violence at your school then why not start a group to voluntarily patrol the school and combat social issues to help contribute to a positive school environment.

12

Learn difficult Christian words in French that you can use during your French lessons. Your teacher will be well impressed and everyone will be reminded that you're a Christian.

14

Get in contact with an organisation like Stop the Traffik or Hope for Justice, who fight against human trafficking. Maybe you could organise a fundraiser in your school?

13

Wash the teachers' cars!

15

Ring local churches and let them know about your group. Explain what you're doing and ask if they can pray for you.



16. MAG

If you're a member of NG (which you probably are if you're reading this!), you'll get every member magazine we publish by post, all for free. The magazine is printed three times each academic year: one in the beginning of the year, one halfway and one shortly before the summer. It's jam-packed with testimonies from schools around the country, updates on what the NG Team has been up to, and any other articles that might be interesting for you as a member of NG.

We also post a version online, so it's even possible to read it on any slick device you own. Smooth!

17 Write a faith questionnaire and hand it out at your school or college. Use questions that will get people thinking about faith and will open up the way for good conversations.

19 Make a prayer concrete: go on a prayer walk. Pray against bullying and other negative issues you see in your school and pray that God would move in your school grounds.

20 Get pro-active! As a group, commit to asking your non-Christian friends if you can pray for them when you hear about negative things happening in their life.

21 Organize a "Jesus quiz" with some sort of prize. One school wrote questions about Jesus and Easter and printed them on t-shirts. The group wore them all day and walked around school bearing messages on the front of their shorts...and they even had the answers to the questions on the back.

18 Hand out Easter eggs or chocolates with a short note about the true meaning of Easter.

25 National Teacher Day is a great day to do something special for your teachers! You know how hard it can be for teachers; so let them know that you appreciate them and that they're doing a great job!

28 If you're sporty, arrange a football tournament and invite the whole school to join in on the fun. The football pitch can be a great place for working on your sanctification(!), and a sporting event will be great publicity for your group.

22 Have an "Acts of Random Kindness Day" once a week where you and your group challenge each other to spend the day being nice and encouraging to your classmates. Don't just go for your best friends, be adventurous and come up with new ways of showing kindness and being a light for Jesus!

23 Why not "Grill a Christian"?! Just put together a panel of confident Christians and allow pupils to ask questions about the Christian faith. If you're all new Christians or you don't feel confident enough, then you might want to get your youth leader to help you on this one, but it's a real opportunity to break down barriers and address some of the preconceived ideas non-Christians may have about our faith.

26 Start a lunchtime club! You could have table tennis, pool, or even Guitar Hero! Every now and then you can take a few moments to share a testimony or explain a little bit about the gospel to the people who come.

29 Make a blog for your New Generation group. You can blog about your faith and also upcoming events.

27 Wash the bikes in the bike shed. Just make sure you dry them so people don't accuse you of vandalism if their bike turns rusty!

30 Do what one school in Nottingham did and have a load of chocolate fountains in a room during lunchbreak. Once you've got your peer in the room you might want to share a short message about who you are and what you believe. If not, just bless them with free chocolate!

24 You and your group could have a "Service Week" where you dedicate a whole week to serving the school. Things like removing graffiti from walls or chewing gum from under desks are a great way of taking responsibility for your school. Let your head teacher know your plans, they'll most likely be more than happy for the help.

31 Organise a carol concert! Christmas is an excellent time to share the gospel!! You could even show a Jesus presentation, which you can download from our website.

32 Ask if you can take an assembly to talk about your group and the Christian faith. You may want to link it to a day in the NG Calendar. You can use everything from World Book Day to Cookie Monster Day... your imagination is the limit!

33 Organise a party for all year 7's in the beginning of the year.

44 Try getting onto the school council. You'll be in a place of influence and hopefully in good standing with the school staff.

49 Have a non-uniform day to raise money for a charity. It's a great opportunity to pull out one of our t-shirts with thought-provoking images, messages and cool designs.

34 Bake your head teacher a cake on his/her birthday! Find out when their birthday is and you can either bake a cake or you can buy one and then give it to them in person. Just make sure they're not allergic to dairy products or nuts, or then it might not have the desired effect!!

35 If you have Group members from several denominations you'll probably find out that you pray differently. Don't be alarmed; there is no right or wrong style to pray in. The important thing is to show respect for each of the group member's wishes. Remember, the most important thing is not HOW you pray, but THAT you pray!

36 Go out of your way to spend time with people who may not have very many friends. Get your whole Group involved in this and you can make a real impact on your school.

37 Arrange a fashion show.

45 Bake muffins with Bible verses in them. You could even divide them into different categories, with plates for happy people, sad people and tired people. Then everyone will get a muffin and a Bible verse that suits their mood!

50 Approach your Head Teacher and ask if there is anything you or your Group could help out with at school.

38 When it's cold outside, hand out hot drinks when everybody arrives in the morning. It'll warm everybody's hearts!

39 Organise a big festival with other NG groups in your city. This way you can impact your whole city together!

46 Make sure you advertise the school group on the school notice board or TV-screens.

51 Concrete Prayer: ask your head teacher for school photos of all the years, or a roll with everyone's name. Then you can pray for all the students personally, and hopefully put a face to the names of those you are praying for.

40 Make a Prayer Hit List! Basically a list of people in your school that you want to see get to know Jesus. Start praying for number 1 until they become a Christian, and then move on. Trust us, we've seen several groups grow and impact others to make a decision to follow Jesus thanks to the Prayer Hit List idea.

41 Try getting in contact with other New Generation groups in your area. If there aren't any NG groups near you then you could call some local youth leaders and ask them if there are any other Christian school groups or CUs nearby. It's a great way of networking and pulling together resources to really impact your town or city.

43 Make prayer concrete: make a prayer journal. Write down what you have been praying about, and which prayers have been answered!

42 If your group is going well then why not run a Youth Alpha course? It's a great way to both disciple new Christians and to get other people interested in the faith.

48 Sit next to a lonely person in the canteen you normally don't hang out with.

47 Give out love hearts and sweets on Valentine's Day. It's a great day to share the love...of Christ!

52 Put up a weekly Bible verses on the notice board. As always...don't forget to ask for permission.

53 Give free guitar lessons. All Christians can play guitar, right?!

54

Pick a lesson nobody really likes, for example maths on Friday. Then announce you'll give away a chocolate bar every week, always to someone new. People will be excited every week!

55

God has blessed us here in the UK with lots of rain. Maybe he did it so that New Generation groups could bless their fellow pupils by handing out umbrellas in the lunch breaks?!

56

Make sure there's Christian literature in your school about abortion, sex and other issues that young people struggle with. You could speak to the school nurse or counselors to see if you can give them any leaflets or books.

57

Teenagers are notorious for their often expensive, yet scruffy school shoes. Why not start a shoe-shining stall at your school. After getting permission from your teachers, set it up in the play ground, and get polishing

58

Call the New Generation Teamers and tell them what's happening at your school. That way they can pass on your stories and encourage other groups and members around the country.

59

If you hear people gossiping, confront them about what they are doing. Ask them if they'd like other people talking about them the way they talk about others.

60

Invite a New Generation Team to come and speak at your church. If there are several Groups in your town or city then you can all meet up and try to see if there is anything you can do together in your area.

61

Why not show The Passion of Christ? You could show it every lunch for a week before Easter, with a time for questions afterward. Just make sure that everyone attending is old enough to see the movie, and get permission from your head teacher.

62

Embrace the rejected! Adopt the mentality as a group that no-one in your school will have to feel rejected or isolated. As a group you can commit to embracing those who've been shut out by others.

63

Soul Action! Bring the slum to your school for a day by doing Slum Survivor, and let people know how 1 billion people live their lives. For more details check out <http://www.soulaction.org/slum-survivor>

64

If you're sporty then you could start training one of the school teams. It's a great way to build relationships and be a positive role model for younger pupils.

65

Get visible by adding your group on Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter or whatever is popular in your school.

66

Put chocolate powder next to the milk in the canteen. Write "From the Christian Union"

67

Hand out New Generation Bibles to every student when they first arrive at school and let them know about the Christian Group.

68

If you're any good at drama, why not ask permission to do an outreach and use your finest drama skills to share the gospel message.



Others First

69

Don't forget to get in contact with the NG Teamers if you need some encouragement. They're here to help and we can assure that they're very friendly.

70

Make sure that you and your group spend time together. Get to know one another, especially if you're from different classes and/or churches.

71

Let the R.E. staff know that you're Christian and volunteer yourself to help in lessons. You could suggest that you talk in class about your faith and what Christianity means for you. Take it easy though, save your "turn or burn" message for another day...

72

You can even make a point of going to one another's churches. Get to know the whole body of Christ, and don't be alarmed at the way other denominations do things!

73

If you've got a knack for music, then you could play some songs in the common room. It might be a bit scary, but if you play requests people will probably enjoy a bit of music. If nothing else, it's a conversation-starter.

74

If for some strange and unexplicable reason you've missed this, then we'll say it once more. Don't miss the New Generation website! It's full of resources just for you, so be inspired, and get surfing!

75

You can use special days in the calendar to your advantage. Make it an excuse to let people know about your group and about Jesus. "Where do we find these special days?" I hear you say...NG+ of course!

76

Not everything you do has to be BIG or extravagant. A lot of small things can mean a lot over time. For example, you

77

It would be great if you kept a Testimony Journal of everything God is doing in your school. Send some excerpts through to us once in a while, just to remind yourselves and us how good God is.

78

Help the dinner ladies (or men!) tidy the lunch hall after break.

79

Be brave and courageous! Have a week of evangelism at your school where you decide to talk to 5 new people about Jesus in one week. Just remember to back it up in prayer.

80

A group in a university in Finland knitted 150 pairs of gloves to hand out. That's quite a lot of work...but maybe you can make at least a handful (opps, that's a bad joke!) and give them away for the cold winter.

81

Pray for your local authorities and the school leadership. These people make all the decisions that will directly impact your school; they can be a real blessing, or a real hindrance. So pray that God would use them in your favour.

84

Try mud-wrestling like one NG group did in Iceland. We're not entirely sure it'll go down well with your head teacher or what it's got to do with spreading the gospel?! But hey...it worked in Iceland!

87

Get your dance shoes on, bring out your parents' clothes from the 70s and organise a Rock Band or dance mat competition.

82

Take a look at the NOOMA videos over on www.nooma.com. They're short films that you can use to present the Christian message or address Christian topics.

85

World Aids Day is a really important day. Try raising awareness and even raising money for charities. Check out:

www.worldaidscampaign.org

83

Offer to decorate the school at Christmas. You might be able to throw in some New Generation posters, and help make sure people get to grips with the real meaning of Christmas.

86

Set up a massage salon at lunch, to help ease the stress of the school day. But remember stick to shoulder massages with clothes ON! No full body massages, ok?!

88

Ditch the holy huddle mentality. Try having your group meeting in the busiest places in your school, such as the lunch hall or in the 6th form common room.

89 Carry on one of our New Generation traditions by making a poster with a picture of yourself or your group on it with the text "I'm a Christian ...ask me why". Then put them up around the school. There's poster templates you can download on NG+.

92 Make a big banner saying "Thank God it's Monday" and hang it at the school entrance. Don't forget to actually do it on Monday, though.

96 Arrange an Anti-Bullying Day. Set up a room where pupils can come confidentially and report that they are being bullied or ask for support.

99 If you take the bus to school, then ask God every morning if he wants to speak to someone through you, and when you feel He's giving you something to pass on, we dare you to be bold and do it.

90 Toilets are a good place to put up encouraging messages, especially the girls toilets. You could put up hearts with messages like "You are beautiful!" If you're really brave you can put up encouraging messages in the boys toilets like "Try using the urinal, not the floor and walls!"

93 Do a theme week on racism. Invite people from various ethnic backgrounds to come and speak in your school, or even better, get some pupils from your school to do it. You can also bring foods from different countries, play foreign music or get people to dress in national costume. All these things can help show people how interesting different cultures are and that every nation and ethnic group has something to offer.

97 If you've got the contacts then organise a debate about Christianity and science with someone who's an expert in the area. Put it on during lunch break and make sure to advertise.

100 Christian role-play! Two brave lads decided to have a loud discussion about their faith, only one of them pretended to not understand Christianity. After a while, it attracted a lot of attention and people gathered to join in the discussion.

101 If you haven't found anything you can use in all the previous points then we'd just like to say one thing: stop finding excuses and get on with it!

91 Write encouraging messages to all the people in your class, and post them on the notice board. Make sure you don't miss anyone out though!

94 Write a newsletter to the local churches and let them know what you are doing as a group. If you want to do the Bible Project then you could ask if you can collect money towards it in one of their services.

95 Give a personal handwritten card to a friend, teacher, or member of the cleaning staff.

98 Create a New Generation email address. Set it up as a way for pupils to both ask questions about Christianity but also as a place where students can seek advice on different issues.

