

ASE in action

Improving Practical Work in Science – about to start!

ASE is delighted to announce that our consortium of leading science education organisations will be delivering the *Improving Practical Work in Science* programme over the next two years (commencing this month), funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The co-ordinating partners of the consortium are ASE, CLEAPSS, Science Learning Centres and the Centre for Science Education, Sheffield Hallam University. The contributing partners of the consortium are the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, Institute of Physics, Royal Society of Chemistry, Institute of Biology, Gatsby Science Enhancement Programme and the National STEM Centre. The Institute of Education will be the independent evaluator.

The programme has three main strands:

- a mapping exercise to identify activities that promote good practice in practical science;
- communications; and
- professional development.

These three strands will focus on:

- improving the quality, not just quantity, of practical work;
- ensuring greater clarity of learning outcomes and purpose in particular contexts;
- demonstrating the impact of effective practical work; and
- providing a sustainable approach for ongoing improvements.

And, as a result, will look for:

- observable changes in the emphasis given to practical science in schools and colleges;
- observable improvements in young people's perception of science, their understanding of science concepts and attitudes towards science; and

- observable changes in the confidence and attitudes of science teachers and other staff in using practical science as part of the teaching and learning process.

This work builds on that of SCORE, with DCSF funding, which has produced the *Practical Science Framework (Getting Practical)*, a report with key messages and recommendations, plus two booklets on resources (primary and secondary).

For further information, please contact Marianne Cutler, Director of this programme, at ASE on mariannecutler@ase.org.uk or 01707 283016.

ATSE Summer Conference 2009

ATSE will be holding their summer 3-day conference at the University of Cumbria, Lancaster, from Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th August, 2009. The theme will be 'The Role of Science Teacher Educators'. A programme will be organised to welcome those new to science teacher education. If you have new staff joining you, please do your best to ensure that they are able to attend. The conference fees will be around £300 and there may be funding available for new tutors to attend for free or at a reduced cost. There may also be a reduced fee for retired members. To find out more, register interest either to give a paper or simply to attend, please contact Aftab Gujral on aftab.gujral@cumbria.ac.uk

John Carter – a tribute

John Carter, affectionately known as 'Chemistry Carter' by his students at the now Nottingham Trent University, died aged 75 on 10th January this year.

John was well known to many at ASE for his untiring support of science education, for running the visitors' desk at the ASE Annual Conferences (with his late wife Ruth), for encouraging many science educators, teachers and student teachers to become involved in ASE at regional and national levels and also for his eccentricities.

Anyone who travelled in his minibus, attended his lectures or worked with him will have a tale to tell. On one student field study trip, his van engine was misbehaving and so, when the students were all asleep, he stripped down the engine, used some 'spare parts' he carried with him and rebuilt it before breakfast.

With dirty hands and his usual beaming smile, he sat down at breakfast ready for another field trip and simply smiled when asked 'did you sleep well?'. The students always came first with John and many of us have a great deal for which to be thankful to him.

John was a very creative and hard working teacher and teacher trainer in Nottingham, both at primary and secondary level. He was also a well-qualified lecturer in physical and analytical chemistry. There will never be another John Carter!

New Manager: Accreditation

ASE HQ is pleased to welcome a new Manager: Accreditation in the Professional Curriculum and Innovation team. Ana Pinto, a former secondary science teacher in Portugal, has a PhD in behavioural ecology; is an international expert in animal ethics and welfare; lectures and supervises at Wolfson College, Cambridge; carries out research projects in the UK and overseas; and has set up her own online CPD company for professionals working with animals. She will be managing the accreditation project for the next two years, working closely with the national network of Science Learning Centres and the team at ASE HQ.



AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust Primary Science Teaching Awards 2009

Do you know any excellent teachers of primary science? Why not nominate them for one of the awards? There are five awards each of £1000 for the school and £1000 for the teacher, plus a certificate and ASE membership for one year. There is also a special AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust Trustee Award, to recognise the achievements of a teacher working in challenging circumstances, of £1000 for the school and £1000 for the teacher, plus a certificate and ASE membership for one year. Open to all primary teachers in the UK who are innovative and creative in teaching science, contribute to developing science in their schools and who engage pupils in the excitement and fascination of science.

The application form is available online at:
www.ase.org.uk



Mike Terry – a tribute

Mike Terry, Chair of ASE London region and former executive secretary of the Anti-Apartheid movement, died on 2nd December 2008.

A tribute from Professor Jonathan Osborne

I first met Mike when he came to King's to be interviewed for a PGCE place. The demise of the apartheid regime had suddenly liberated him from the project that had occupied his life to date and he wanted to take up physics teaching. Here was a man who had dedicated himself to fighting racism, who had demonstrated extraordinary capabilities of commitment and organisation, who really could have done any number of jobs, yet he wanted to teach physics! The pleasure of working with Mike was witnessing the extraordinary energy, dedication and commitment that he had. Nothing was too much trouble. Mike's greatest quality as a teacher was the respect with which he treated everybody and particularly his students. Mike's dedication to science education meant that he joined the ASE and then became Chair of the London region. Organisations like ASE depend on the commitment that people such as Mike bring with them and what really stood out was his selflessness and passion. Mike never hesitated to give of his time, to rally the committee and to spur us on to do more. It has been an honour and privilege to know and to work with him. Our lives have been enriched by Mike. The best way to remember him is by attempting to carry on, with some of the same passion and commitment, the

work of this Association. Hopefully, then, our work can sustain his memory and contribute to what he valued – good science education.

Annual Conference 2010 by Belinda Blakeney, ASE Director of Conferences

In January 2010, after 22 years, the ASE Annual Conference returns to the University of Nottingham, running from Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th January, with the International Day, open to all delegates, on Wednesday 6th January. It is not too early to plan to be there. No doubt many schools are currently putting together their calendars for the next academic year and, when deciding dates for training days, what could be better than to have one during the Conference? The opportunity to bring all the staff to at least one day of the Conference is unmissable and maybe some could stay for longer. Many members have fond memories of the valuable contribution that the Conference has made to developing their skills and enhancing their careers. If you have never been, you have missed the best science education event of the year.

Next year, there will be hundreds of talks, discussions and workshops, as well as the latest research updates from members of the University staff. There will be the usual exhibition of just about every company involved in producing materials and services for science education in the UK.

One thing is certain: this will be the most cost-effective CPD available during the academic year. Many consider the Annual Conference to be the most important event of the year, offering the chance to find out about the latest developments, contribute to discussions, learn new skills and see new products. So, why not give it a try and, if you can, bring the whole team – I am sure you will not be disappointed.

If you are interested in applying to run a session at the conference, please contact barbaramahmoudi@ase.org.uk for full details and a proposal form. The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday 29th May 2009.

If you are interested in taking a slot at the Open Conference, please contact me at belindablakeney@ase.org.uk

SATIS updated

Many of you will have seen the *SATIS Revisited* materials, (available through the resources menu on the ASE Website or at satisrevisited.co.uk). If you used the original SATIS resources, you will know that there is a wealth of material that we have not yet tapped into. In its time, SATIS represented an innovative approach to teaching and learning and still has something to offer.

Reinforce your enthusiasm for science this summer by attending our summer conferences

- Come and hear nationally acclaimed speakers
- Visit the manufacturers' and publishers' exhibitions at the Area Conferences!
- Meet old friends and make new ones!

For further details visit:
www.ase.org.uk and view 'Conferences' on the home page.

E-mail: conferences@ase.org.uk
Tel: 01707 283000 and ask for Conferences

Make a note in your diary now!

Saturday 20th June 2009:
North West Area Science and CPD Conference at the University of Manchester (Didsbury Campus).

Saturday 27th June 2009:
South East Area Science and CPD Conference at the University of Surrey, Guildford.

**Thursday 2nd
to Saturday 4th July 2009:**
NAIGS Summer Conference at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Friday 3rd July 2009:
National Technicians Conference at the University of Manchester.

**Wednesday 26th
to Friday 28th August 2009:**
ATSE Summer Conference at the University of Cumbria, Lancaster.

**Programmes and booking details
will be sent out in May 2009.**

We do not want to lose this valuable resource but there is limited time and money to convert all the suitable units for *SATIS Revisited*, about 30 of which have been identified. The materials would be posted on the websites, accompanied by update sheets. To achieve this, ASE Publications Committee is asking for your help. We would like you to get in touch, if:

- you were an author of one of the original units and would like to update your unit; or
- you would like to help with the updates.

Please e-mail Susan Burr, member of Publications Committee on:
susanburr952@btinternet.com if you would like to help with the project or receive further information.