

Science – there's a lot of it about

■ Nick Swift

Schoolscience.co.uk is all about partnerships with 'big hitters' in science. It is a gateway to a huge range of websites, documents, events and competitions, run or funded by schoolscience partners. In these occasional articles we highlight just a few of them. Just click on the Partners tab to find them all for yourself.

Research Councils UK

RCUK is our biggest partner. Their resources cover all the sciences through the individual councils. They fund outstanding websites like *SunTrek* from STFC, a superbly produced site with a wealth of useful resources for teachers and students, including classroom projects and documents. So – just how fast is a Coronal Mass Ejection? Your students can work this and many other problems out from data sheets and photographs on the site. This high quality material is invaluable for teachers developing lesson plans in astronomy, but also helps in spicing up equations of motion and mechanics with some awesome answers of unimaginable masses moving *very very* fast. Looking at solar fingerprints makes a good introduction to absorption spectra, Fraunhofer lines and stellar spectroscopy.

There are around one hundred resources on schoolscience from RCUK alone. There are also the other commercial partners who provide an array of materials that can be used to enrich lessons, homework, revision and wider reading.



Bayer

The chemicals giant, Bayer, has produced *Whacky Science* and *Making Science Make Sense*. These cover the complete age range and a wide selection of topics. Bayer also supports the *Daily Telegraph* science writers competition, which we highlight each year in the competitions section of the site.

Nirex

The radioactive waste company has a site that describes the problems of radioactive waste storage, bringing home the problems of long half-life isotope storage.

GlaxoSmithKline

GSK has a long-standing commitment to supporting science education. GSK's Active Science is a huge fun-packed and colourful site, full of ideas for lessons. Check out *The Heart*, which has excellent animations and links.

Johnson Matthey

The international catalysis company (your car has almost certainly got one of their converters underneath) presents a demanding site on catalysis, with useful links to advanced information. There are useful sections on catalysts in fuel cells and carbon monoxide detectors, explaining the reactions that drive these modern devices.

Planete-energies

This is a large site from the oil company, Total. It covers many aspects of energy in a balanced way, with excellent graphics and video clips.

ABPI

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) has a whole range of interactive resources. These are typical of the graphical and colourful sites that teachers can use to prepare lessons, use on whiteboards and recommend to students.

Copper Development Agency

The CDA has provided many original resources for schoolscience, covering Key Stage 2 (age 7-11) to A-level. With copper being the ubiquitous conductor and at the core of magnets and motors, there is plenty of science to explore, from mining and extraction to superconducting magnets, ships' propellers and architecture.

Oil & Gas UK

The Oil and Gas UK website includes an education section, with information on the origins of oil and gas along with details about the industry and careers; all useful for teaching Environment, Earth and Universe at Key Stages 3 & 4 (age 11-16). The geological diagrams are particularly good for whiteboard display and students can access the documents for their own work.

Your views

Your feedback and suggestions are important to us. The new contact form is a quick and easy way to send us suggestions and comments. We act on all of them, so please keep them coming.

These are just some of the resources available from schoolscience, which help teachers to find relevant online material, as well as keeping them up to date with competitions and events.

The site is open to all and has an ASE members' section. If you have any comments on the site or suggestions for new resources or links, please contact: the schoolscience Manager, Rebecca Dixon-Watmough at rebecca@schoolscience.co.uk



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