

7 SEVEN EXTRA REASONS FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

It is coming up to the time of year when you will be thinking of renewing your membership of the ASE. You will already know of the 'obvious' benefits – the journals, the free advice and information service, the discount on resources, the meetings and conferences. What you may not have realised is how many 'fringe' benefits there are to being a member of ASE.

On these pages you will find a summary of those extra services available to ASE members – proving that it is definitely worthwhile financially, as well as professionally, to be a member of the largest subject teaching organisation in the UK!

Free indemnity insurance

The ASE has special arrangements with CGNU Insurance so that you, the member, have the protection of insurance cover up to £1 million in case of awards against you arising from your legal liability in respect of claims of death, injury, illness or loss of, or damage to, property of students and others resulting from events occurring whilst carrying out your professional duties, including extramural activities. The policy operates on a worldwide basis and indemnifies all members normally resident in the UK.

There are also free schemes for personal property loss/damage and free cover for criminal prosecution under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (Part 1). *Terms and conditions apply.*

This arrangement with CGNU has been established over many years and a large number of members have benefited from this FREE scheme in this time.

Huge discounts on New Scientist subscriptions

Again established over many years, ASE and *New Scientist* have secured an arrangement leading to a saving of 46% on a UK subscription to the magazine for ASE members. There are also huge savings on international subscriptions. As well as the weekly issues of *New Scientist*, all personal subscribers get free web access to the past ten years of *New Scientist* back issues and free copies of the *NS Index*.

'The discount on New Scientist alone was worth joining ASE for – that's why I first joined!'

(ASE member overheard at a conference)

3 Tax relief on membership subscriptions

A recent straw poll suggested that many ASE members do not claim Income Tax relief on their ASE subscriptions – which they are entitled to do. If you have not claimed previously, you may be able to make a claim going back for the last six years! In the June 2001 issue of this journal is an article on how to make a claim, together with a sample letter outline and a table of recent subscription rates. The membership department at ASE HQ will be happy to help with further queries.

4 Threshold applications

Membership of a professional organisation such as ASE will help your threshold application.

5 Discount on travel for ASE members – with Wexas International

ASE has negotiated a very special offer with Wexas International, the Independent Traveller's Club. An ASE member can get platinum membership for just £25.00 per year (normally £139.46!). For this, you receive discounts of up to 79% off published scheduled air fares, 80% off some hotel rates worldwide and big discounts off the price of car hire.

You also enjoy special insurance rates, privileged access to over 50 VIP airport lounges both UK and overseas, a 24-hour emergency service, 7 days a week and specially designated staff to see your booking through from first phone call to travel date.

'...I was staggered at the WEXAS quotation for my flights to San Diego from Glasgow, via Toronto – £291, including all taxes. My first journey with WEXAS saved...nearly £250.'

6 Specialised training for ASE members – INSET

ASE INSET SERVICES provides tailor-made INSET to meet schools' needs, a consultancy service for science departments and INSET programmes for LEAs.

Membership of ASE entitles you to discounts for ASE INSET workshops and the Certificate of CPD. Day workshops include: Physics for the non-specialist; Datalogging for science technicians; Dealing with the least able in science; Science through science enquiry and many others. Residential courses offer subjects such as: Developing people and departments and Strategies for improving learning. Special courses for heads of science and technicians are also available all year round.

'Good course in good surroundings – nice to be treated well.'
'Improved my understanding of assessment and use of pupil data.'

7 Continuing professional development

The ASE INSET Services/OU Certificate of Continuing Professional Development is a new qualification aimed at science teachers in the early years of their career and involves more experienced colleagues as mentors. Both the participant and the mentor have their work recognised. It is a two-year process with either the Certificate alone or the Certificate plus 30 CATS points towards a Masters degree, accredited by the Open University.

'It's no good now becoming a qualified teacher and then sitting back.'
'You can put it on job applications and it shows you've taken responsibility for your own professional development.'