



## Developing successful science teams

# Science Learning Centres Roundup

The Science Learning Centres network runs an engaging programme of courses focusing on non-classroom teaching support, enabling schools and colleges across the UK to develop successful science teams.

### Science Learning Centre North East

The focus for non-classroom teaching support is to be found in our programme of professional development for science technicians. Following a questionnaire sent to all science technicians in the region, our 2007/8 programme will focus on the practical skills that technicians need to support science teaching. The Regional ASE Technicians' Conference was once again held at the North East Centre and proved to be an invaluable opportunity for science technicians in the region to update their skills.

### Science Learning Centre North West

Our programme of professional development for primary teaching assistants has received excellent evaluations from participants. Held over three separate days, the suite of courses starts with *Supporting primary science: starting out*, followed by *Supporting primary science: moving on* and *Supporting primary science: taking the lead*. Sessions include plenty of practical ideas and activities. The courses are available in Ambleside in 2007/8, but can also be arranged for clusters of schools, local authorities and others.

### Science Learning Centre Yorkshire & the Humber

In recognition that the crucial role of the science technician is constantly changing, our *Technician's Development Programme* has been designed in conjunction with LAs and the ASE to address this need. This flexible programme of subject, teaching and learning and management units has been well received by schools in the region. Aligned to NVQ assessment through *techcen*, the programme offers meaningful professional development and is running across 2007 and 2008.

### Science Learning Centre East Midlands

To date, our courses have focused on the support given by technicians to science in schools. Our research into the impact that the courses are making indicates that teachers and technicians attending courses together is a powerful mix – making real change happen when back in school. To build upon this, we offer many courses for technicians and have introduced a new, 'hands on' course for the summer term: *Science for Teaching Assistants*, on June 28th 2007.

### Science Learning Centre West Midlands

Strong leadership traits are recognised as key across the whole school workforce. Our CPD options have always valued the importance of all staff as science subject leaders, and our course programme explicitly identifies a whole section for 'developing the successful team'. Look out for *How to be Brilliant at Leading Scientific Enquiry* and a wide range of other courses supporting technicians, ASTs and lead teachers in 2007/8.

### Science Learning Centre East of England

We have worked with specialist science colleges in Peterborough, Suffolk and Essex, to train groups of teaching assistants to support science enquiry teaching in primary schools. Outcomes from this ongoing project have been positive. Schools involved have recognised that their TAs now engage more with pupils, are more pro-active and take the initiative more in lessons. The Centre is running further courses for primary TAs during the summer term.

### Science Learning Centre London

We aim to support Secondary National Strategy consultants with training that expands their capacity to deliver CPD to teachers in local authorities across the region. We see 'training the trainers' as an important part of our activities and have, to date, enabled many consultants and advisers to benefit from the *Learning*

*Skills for Science Programme*. We intend to plan a new 'trainers' course for each term of the 2007/8 academic year.

### Science Learning Centre South East

We offer a range of support for non-teachers, including a full programme of CLEAPSS courses for technicians to take place around the region in 2007/8, with new courses such as *Making Simple Science Equipment*. *Basic Science for Classroom Learning Assistants* on 7th December 2007 will cover the key ideas in all three sciences, enabling participants to provide pupils with effective support on core scientific concepts within the Key Stage 3 Strategy.

### Science Learning Centre South West

We are dedicated to providing support to enhance the skills of teaching support staff. To this end, a new course, *Supporting TAs to Support Science* has been specifically designed for primary teaching assistants, to increase their confidence in supporting scientific enquiry within primary science. This has proved extremely popular, with bespoke enquiries forthcoming. A full range of technicians' courses is also on offer.

### National Science Learning Centre

'I returned to school with new ideas, vigour and enthusiasm' is just one of the many positive comments received from recent attendees on technicians' courses at the National Centre. Our 2007/8 programme includes *Skills for New Technicians*, *Technicians: Co-leaders in Science Education* and *Supporting Science: the Role of Higher Level Teaching Assistants*, as part of an extensive suite of courses recognising the vital role that non-classroom teaching support plays in maintaining an effective school science team.

To view a complete list of all forthcoming Science Learning Centres' courses, take a look at [www.slcs.ac.uk/network/courses](http://www.slcs.ac.uk/network/courses).