

Notes & NEWS

The Guild of Educators – and David Moore

Laurels and resting is not something with which we would naturally associate former Chief Executive of the ASE David Moore, and, true to form, he has been active in several fields since retiring as Chief Executive in 2002 – not least with The Guild of Educators, of which he is the Master this year. The recently formed Guild follows the age-old traditions of London Guilds and Livery Companies, helping others and maintaining high standards of practice within their professions. The Guild is the first ever to be solely responsible for teachers and trainers and was formed in 2001.

The Guild is particularly interested in playing its part amongst the older companies and guilds in the City and, as such, has undertaken the administration of the Schools Livery Link scheme. A particular highlight of David's year as Master will be when the sponsoring Alderman of the Guild, John Stuttard – the Lord Mayor of the City of London for 2006/07 – takes office. It is John's declared wish that education will feature highly during his time in office.

David's interest in science continues – he is also Multimedia Director of 3ES, a not-for-profit education company. David would be interested to hear from former colleagues and friends, and can be contacted on 01675 442043 or at david.moore@tachyonassociates.com

Further information about the Guild of Educators is available from George Turnbull: 01252 623561 (home) or 07889 320830 (mobile) or the Guild website: <http://www.guildofeducators.com/>

Field Studies Council sponsored outdoor learning courses for trainee teachers

The Field Studies Council (FSC) is launching its new programme of sponsored courses for trainee teachers (PGCE) and newly qualified teachers (NQTs). The 2006/7 programme sees an increase in the number of courses on offer, as the FSC firmly believes that out-of-classroom learning is an intrinsic part of a

young person's education and is committed to providing these courses to support and train teachers.

The debate on the value of educational visits versus health and safety concerns continues but, increasingly, there is support for out-of-classroom learning because of its educational and personal development benefits. The key to the provision of these important opportunities is teachers having the confidence and skills to provide safe and effective out-of-classroom learning for their pupils. To help PGCE students and newly qualified teachers gain this expertise, the FSC has increased its programme of sponsored courses for geography, science and primary PGCE students and NQTs.

There are 22 courses on offer during 2006/7 with specialist courses for each key stage from primary to A-level. Each weekend course provides a comprehensive introduction to the management of groups outside the classroom, including risk assessment of a range of activities, and practical subject-based activities and ideas using a variety of sites and habitats.

All courses are sponsored by the FSC and science courses have additional sponsorship from the British Ecological Society, so are offered at a reduced rate. The course fee includes full board and accommodation for the weekend and courses are offered at nine FSC centres based in stunning locations throughout the UK.

Full details are available on the FSC website, www.field-studies-council.org/inset. However, last year's courses were over-subscribed and places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Theatre venture spotlights mental health issues with schools

A young man's experience of mental illness and the questions and issues raised by recent developments in human genetics in relation to mental illness, will be explored by schools in Wales.

The Wales Gene Park at Cardiff University, in collaboration with Gwent Theatre, has secured a Society Award from the Wellcome

Trust's Public Engagement Funding Programme to support the development and production of an interactive theatre workshop, *Boy Genius*, for young people from schools and colleges across Wales.

This major new project will explore contemporary developments in human genetics. Interactive participation in the story by the young audiences will encourage them to appreciate different views about mental illness and its related social and ethical issues. Within an exciting 'installation' drama environment, students will carry out a complex set of investigative tasks, which makes demands on their cognitive, emotional and artistic senses.

The workshop will tour venues across Wales in February and March 2007 and will be available to 25-30 students per day.

The initiative will be offered to schools and colleges for students aged 16-18 involved in science, humanities and art subjects, where concepts and skill elements relate to cross-curricular citizenship requirements. Student participation in this project is free of charge.

Royal Society Partnership Grants Scheme

Do you have a great idea for a project in school? Would you like up to £3000 to help make it happen?

The Royal Society's Partnership Grants scheme can offer grants of up to £3000 to enable teachers and scientists or engineers to work together on creative science investigations involving 5-18 year olds.

Over the last 5 years, the scheme has given over 40,000 pupils and their teachers the opportunity to work on stimulating and inspiring projects in partnership with a scientist/engineer. Schools from all over the UK have forged links with industry to create some fantastic projects, giving students a 'real world' taste of science and engineering.

The next closing date is 9th February 2007. If you submit a draft application two weeks or more before the closing date, the Royal Society can offer you feedback on your application.

For more details of the scheme and an application pack, contact the Royal Society or

download this information, together with examples of previous projects from www.royalsoc.ac.uk/partnership

London 2012 launches education toolkit

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games has launched a set of education materials, designed to help excite and engage children across the UK about the London 2012 events. Called *On Your Marks!*, these materials are available online on the London 2012 website: www.london2012.com/onyourmarks

Targeted at 7-14 year olds, the materials include factsheets, news articles and a bank of images to use at home or school. A number of cross-curricular teaching ideas are also provided to help teachers and support staff to integrate these resources into their teaching.

Science Across the World Chemistry Poster competition success

With almost 1000 entries from pupils aged 10-13 and 14-16 years from 32 countries, the international panel of judges had a difficult time in selecting the winners for this competition on the theme of 'Chemistry and Humanity'.

The colourful and creative winning posters were displayed at the International Conference on Chemical Education in Seoul, Korea in August. ASE members will have a chance to see these at the Annual Conference in Birmingham in January 2007.

- Jerika C. Shi, aged 10, from the Philippines, won the 10-13 years category;
- Hsin-Wei Wang, aged 14, from Taiwan and Rosalyn T. Yu, aged 14, from the Philippines and Prasilova aged 16, from the Slovak Republic were the winners in the 14-16 years category;
- Students from Bulgaria (96 SOU 'Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy' in Sofia) and China (Zhanjiang Chinese-English School in Zhanjiang) won the 'international collaborations' poster category; and
- Mariam El Agamy, a teacher, and her students from El Nasr Girls College in Alexandria, Egypt, won the prize for the highest number of quality entries.

This Science Across the World competition was developed and managed in partnership with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, the Korean Chemical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry. To view the winning entries, visit www.scienceacross.org

VACANCIES - ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Honorary Treasurer of the Association

Nominations are invited for the position of Honorary Treasurer of the Association. This post is a five-year commitment commencing from 1st August 2007 upon the retirement of the current Treasurer. The role of Treasurer and the Finance Committee is to oversee the financial affairs of the Association in the light of the decisions of Council and the Association's Trust Deed.

For further details and a nomination form please contact your Region Secretary or Suzanne Dickinson at ASE Headquarters.

Honorary Secretary for the ASE Annual Conference

This post is open to any member of the Association. It will particularly suit someone who has attended several ASE Annual Meetings/Conferences and has, perhaps, been involved in their organisation at Region level. The main purpose of the post is to monitor and find ways of enhancing the quality of members' experience and to guide and support the Conference office at ASE Headquarters as new initiatives are introduced. The post involves travelling to future venues of the Annual Conference, liaising with Region Committees and working alongside Annual Conference staff at Headquarters. It is an unpaid position, but all expenses are reimbursed.

The post is available from 8th January 2008, for a five-year period. The appointee will be encouraged to work alongside the existing Hon. Sec., Mr Phil Ramsden, during 2007.

For further details and a nomination form, please contact your Region Secretary or Suzanne Dickinson at ASE Headquarters.

VACANCIES - ON NATIONAL COMMITTEES IN SEPT 2007

International Committee - Vacancies for 3 Members and Chair

This Committee co-ordinates the international links of the Association in a variety of ways, including organising the International Programme at the Annual Conference. Nominations from international members currently in Britain will be particularly welcomed.

Primary Science Committee - Vacancies for 2 Members

This Committee seeks out and promotes best practice in the teaching of science in primary schools. It provides advice and support to teachers, science co-ordinators, curriculum developers and Officers of the Association. Nominations are welcome from anyone interested in primary science, especially classroom teachers.

Publications Committee - Vacancies for 2 Members and Chair

This Committee is responsible for all material published by the Association, and its members make the publishing decisions required to fulfill this role. It considers proposals from potential authors, and an individual committee member acts as a link with the author during the preparation of a book to ensure it comes up to the high standards of ASE. The Committee also keeps a general overview of ASE journals, and the editors regularly attend meetings and discuss their plans and problems. To maintain the balance of expertise on the Committee, nominations from primary members are particularly welcome.

11-19 Committee - Vacancies for 2 Members

The Committee advises and supports teachers of science in secondary schools. The Committee is interested in all aspects of the curriculum including assessment and examinations and seeks nominations from NQTs and classroom teachers as well as heads of department/faculty, advisers and inspectors.

Laboratory Technicians' Committee - Vacancies for 2 Members and Chair

This Committee co-ordinates the Association's activities in supporting technician members. The Committee is seeking nominations from all interested technician members.

Research Committee - Vacancy for 2 Members

This Committee provides expertise in science education research to inform ASE policy and action, particularly in encouraging a research-based approach to teaching, and is seeking nominations from researchers and classroom teachers with an interest in research.

Safeguards Committee - Vacancies for 1 Member and Secretary

This is an 'expert group' Committee that gives advice to members on all matters relating to health and safety in science education, achieved principally through publications produced by the Committee and published by ASE. The Committee is an authority in the field of best safe practice in practical school science and is respected nationally and internationally. The nominees should have worked in school or college science for at least 3 years and have taught, or directly supported the teaching of school science. Ideally, nominees should have a good knowledge of either biological science or chemistry to maintain the balance of expertise. Nominees should have good up to date knowledge of health and safety as it affects practical science in schools. Nominees should understand and share the Committee's ideals and vision for promoting high quality safe practical science.

For all ASE vacancies, experience of working on behalf of ASE at local level would be an advantage.

NOMINATIONS

Nomination forms and further details are available either from your Region Secretary or directly from Suzanne Dickinson at ASE HQ. Tel: 01707 283000. E-mail: suzannedickinson@ase.org.uk

Forms are also available on the Admin pages of the ASE website. Work with committees will commence in September 2007.

DEADLINES

All nominations must reach ASE HQ by Council IV (24th March 2007) for election at Council V (12th May 2007).