

NOTES & NEWS

Salters' Chemistry Teaching Awards 2004

Each year the Salters' Institute offers four Awards each worth £3,000 – £1,500 for the candidate and £1,500 for the school science department – to teachers who have been in the profession for more than two years and not more than seven. The Salters' Institute's aim is to celebrate good new entrants to the profession and also encourage the retention of those teachers.

This year an excellent set of nominations was received, a shortlist produced and finally four teachers were called for interview in November. Not only did these teachers have excellent references from their headteachers, colleagues and often their pupils, but also their lessons were observed and found to be of exceptional standard.

All four teachers were successful in the interview process and have won an Award, they are:

- Angela Brown, Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge – Highly Commended;
- Sharon Marsden, Durham High School, Highly – Commended;
- Ian Bellamy, Birchgrove Comprehensive School, Swansea; and
- Natasha Jovanovic-Callaghan, The Ravensbourne School, Bromley.

The Awards were presented at the Salters' Institute's Annual Awards Ceremony at Salters' Hall in December, by the Master of the Salters' Company, Mr Anthony Goodeve.

The Education Show 2005

Fresh and invigorating ideas for the classroom offered by the UK's leading educational suppliers await visitors to The Education Show 2005

– the UK's largest national education event of the year. Taking place from 17–19th March at the NEC, Birmingham, the Show features eye-catching live demonstrations that will inspire teachers to integrate new resources and ideas into their lesson plans. Some new and exciting features at the Show this year will include The Relaxation Zone, where visitors can have a free massage and a revamped Sports and Recreation Zone, with trampolines and judo lessons. Alongside these will be a celebrity opening by the Great Britain Men's Wheelchair Team, bronze medallists at the Athen's Summer Paralympic Games 2004 and the popular children's TV presenter Ade Adepitan.

The Education Show 2005 also offers a host of professional development and topical seminars with the seminar strands grouped into educational themes this year,

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including: The Special Needs Conference, The Curriculum Theatre, The Leadership and School Management Stream and The Keynote Theatre – General Education, making it easier for visitors to find seminars of relevance to them. ASE will be contributing to the programme (see ASE in Action). Other seminars of interest to science teachers will include Inspiring Science, a fun and lively seminar demonstration by Mark Biddis and Variation and Genes made Fun with Mr Potatohead presented by Dr Liz Sockett.

Education professionals can register for free tickets, book seminar seats and benefit from Fast Track entry to the Show by logging on to www.education-show.co.uk or by calling the ticket hotline: 0870-429 4580.

Experience Showcase Science

In a unique partnership between state and independent schools, a one-day national conference entitled Showcase Science is being held at Warwick School on 17th March. A gathering of around 600 pre-university students, their teachers and the general public will be addressed by world renowned keynote speakers who will bring to life the recent discoveries and their implications in biological sciences, biomedical sciences, planetary sciences and environmental studies. This interactive symposium will enable students and teachers to discuss science with eminent scientists, including Prof. Sir George Radda FRS (Medicine); Prof. Anne McLaren FRS (Cloning); and Prof. Sir Richard Friend FRS (Applied Electronics).

The aim of the programme is to enthuse and inspire students and to encourage them to explore their interests in science at university and beyond. In addition to interactive exhibits from academia and industry, students themselves will give verbal and poster presentations in contemporary science. Also, there will be a strong representation from scientific learned bodies in the UK.

For further information contact Dr Mo Afzal, e-mail: ma@warwickschool.org.

Antarctica CD-ROM

Where do you need to eat the equivalent of 24 burgers a day just to have the energy to survive? What makes Antarctica the land of the giants? How does Antarctica hold the key to understanding our past...and to predicting our future?

In December, the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures took you on journey to Earth's last wilderness, Antarctica! For the first time and through the generous support of the Leverhulme Trust, the Ri and Channel 4 have produced an interactive CD-ROM to complement the Lectures. This CD-ROM will take students and teachers on a journey to this vast continent – to explore the challenges Antarctica presents to people who visit, the organisms that manage to survive in its wilderness, and the many secrets it holds about the Earth.

The main subject areas on the Antarctica CD-ROM are:

- Ice people – how do visitors to Antarctica cope in the toughest environment on Earth?
- Ice life – what adaptations have animals made in this harsh climate?
- Ice world – how is Antarctica the key to understanding the rest of the planet?
- Meet the team – what is it like to be a scientist?

Developed with direct feedback from both scientists and teachers, this scientifically rigorous CD-ROM



is both entertaining and engaging throughout. For anyone who is interested in finding out more about the mysteries of Antarctica, this is the ideal resource:

- to complement teaching with the whole class in conjunction with an interactive whiteboard and projector; and
- for study by individuals or groups using networked or standalone computers.

The CD-ROM was designed to be fully flexible and, as well as many other useful links, UK National Curriculum links are provided throughout.

In addition, this new disk provides students with an opportunity to acquire ICT skills, such as: identifying and using desktop icons; undertaking multiple-choice tasks; and using hyperlinks to access information in a non-linear way exploring relevant websites.

The CD-ROMs were distributed to all secondary schools and colleges in the UK last month (addressed to the head of science). Visit the Royal Institution website at www.rigb.org for more information and details about how to order further copies.

Young Satellite Meteorologist Competition

A pan-European schools competition is being organised by EUMETSAT to herald the launch of Europe's latest weather satellite, in June 2005, and to raise awareness of the many beneficial uses of weather satellites and the data they generate. It is Internet-based and open to 15 and 16 year-old students in 22 participating countries across Europe, via a specially developed, multi-language website: www.eumetsatcomp.org,

with questions linking in to a range of subjects in the curriculum, including geography and science (offering teachers of those subjects a useful – and free – educational tool). The closing date is 31st March 2005, and winners will be offered a chance to attend the satellite launch celebrations at EUMETSAT's 'mission HQ' in Darmstadt, Germany. There will also be prizes for national winners and runners up including:

- a trip to the BBC Weather Centre;
- a trip to the National Space Centre, Leicester; and
- a box weather station (for school).

Visit the website for more information.