

Notes & NEWS

Teaching science creatively: your science from a new perspective

Look through the window – what science, what processes of biology, chemistry or physics, can you see acting as you watch? What is the evidence for these processes? What science can't you see? How can you use this 'through the window' resource to teach science more effectively in the context where your pupils live?

These questions are triggers for three day-long courses offered through the Science Learning Centre network:

- **Creative biology** – motivate with creative and relevant KS3/4 biology teaching;
- **Creative chemistry** – captivate with creative and relevant KS3/4 chemistry teaching; and
- **Creative physics** – fascinate with creative and relevant KS3/4 physics teaching.

The courses were developed through the 'Creative Science' initiative, funded by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Wellcome Trust, to prepare innovative courses for science teachers.

The courses offer you the opportunity to become more creative and develop your teaching to be more relevant, interesting and dynamic for your pupils. Find the courses being offered by your Science Learning Centre at www.sciencelearningcentres.org.

Hertfordshire Science Teaching Scholarship

Do you have ideas for improving science teaching – for example, practical work, experiments, projects, field studies, visual aids, textbooks or work schemes? If the answer is 'Yes' then you need to find out about the Hertfordshire Science Teaching Scholarship, which offers up to £7,000 (plus £500 expenses) to give a teacher time to develop such resources.

The sum pays for a replacement teacher to cover the timetable of the successful applicant. This can be applied as a block of time or in days per week over a term or year subject to negotiation with the headteacher or principal. The award is offered to teachers in secondary schools, primary schools, colleges of higher or further education, or

special schools. Applicants must have at least three years teaching experience and be based in the UK.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from the Science Adviser, Wheathampstead Development Centre, Butterfield Road, Wheathampstead, St Albans, Herts. AL4 8PY or e-mail sealey.coral@hertscc.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is February 1st 2006.

Rolls-Royce Science Prize finalists

Rolls-Royce plc has now announced the names of the nine schools and colleges that will go forward as finalists to compete for the first awards made under the Rolls-Royce Science Prize programme launched in 2004 (see *EiS* November 2004).

Selected by an independent panel of distinguished educationalists, each of the nine finalist teams have received £5,000 to implement a teaching project submitted to the panel earlier this year. The nine finalists emerged from a field of 622 schools and colleges that registered for the prize. An additional 30 of these received special merit awards worth £1,000 each.

The finalists are as follows: Embley Park Junior School, Hampshire; Firth Primary School, Orkney; Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, South Glamorgan; Bungay High School, Suffolk; Crown Woods School, Greater London; Fleming Fulton School, Belfast; John Leggott

College, Lincolnshire; Loreto College, Cavan; and St Andrew's High School, Fife.

The nine short-listed projects will run for six months, beginning this month. Rolls-Royce will provide the teams with digital video cameras and training to record their progress. Mentors will be assigned to provide guidance and practical support to the teachers. The winner and runner-up will be announced in June 2006.

The winning school or college will be awarded £15,000 to invest in science education and the team members will receive a day out with the Red Arrows aeronautical display team at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire. The runner-up team will receive £10,000.

Teachers' TV Associates

Would you like to be a champion for *Teachers' TV* in your school? Then apply to become a *Teachers' TV* Associate – it is a great way to find out more about the channel and help your colleagues tune in to see the wide range of programmes on offer. *Teachers' TV* Associates is open to all school staff and governors in England.

As a *Teachers' TV* Associate you will have access to a wealth of extra information, previews and other benefits. Sign up online at www.teachers.tv or, for further information about the scheme, send an e-mail to info@teachers.tv with the word 'Associates' in the subject line.

Promoting Excellence in Science Education Exhibition at the 2006 ASE Annual Conference in Reading

At the Reading Annual Conference from 5–7th January 2006 we plan to exhibit examples of good practice in science education, exemplifying the wide range of developments and activities in which ASE and its members are involved. We will have displays of:

- **Good Practice** in science teaching exemplified by pupils' work
- **Your New Ideas** for teaching or equipment
- **Science Education Research**, e.g. that done by ITT students or during DfES Best Practice scholarships
- **Examples of work produced as a result of ASE initiatives** such as Science Across the World.

The Exhibition will take place in the Palmer Building, which will be the hub of all our ASE activities at the Conference.

We would like **you** to contribute to the Exhibiton. For more details, please contact Belinda Blakeney by e-mail at belindablakeney@ase.org.uk or ring 01707 283008.

small Ads

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New Rates for Small Ads

The rate to members for small advertisements is 25 pence per word. There is a minimum charge of £5.00 per insertion.

Advertisements should be sent, with the appropriate remittance, to the Executive Editor at ASE Headquarters.

Introductory Biology and Genetics CD-ROM A teaching resource for aspects of GCSE. The topics include Cells and tissues, Cell division and specialisation, the Chemical constituents of cells, Respiration, Photosynthesis, Diffusion, Osmosis, the Interdependence of living things, DNA, Chromosomes and cell division, Chromosomes and fertilisation, Heredity. Each topic includes a *PowerPoint* presentation, self-assessment tests and, where appropriate, experimental work. The disks are offered at £5 to cover copyright fees and expenses.

For full details contact: d.mackean@ntlworld.com or visit <http://uk.geocities.com/donmackean>

LabAid (in Amersham, Bucks.) sends your donated apparatus to help science education overseas. We need your help nationally and locally. Please do not throw good apparatus into skips. Instead, please donate unwanted science equipment.

With your offers and for further details, please contact Alan Welch MBE by voice or fax on 01494 726861 or e-mail: labaidtrust@yahoo.co.uk

GCSE Applied Science Do you remember MfA? *Decisions* modules in need of repair? To help you repair your own boards, we have a newly revised Service Guide. £6.50 per copy (inc.p+p). Order from SETPOINT Greater Manchester, tel: 0161 295 2602

Pasco Equipment The following items are no longer required and are sold as second-hand items in excellent condition. You can buy the whole lot for £685 or open to offers for individual items.

CI-6400 500 Interface; CI-6450 750 Interface; CI-6558 Acceleration Sensor; CI-6504 Light Sensor; CI-6529 Motion Sensor; CI-6605 Temperature; CI-6503 (x2) Voltage Sensor; CI-6552 Power amplifier. Please contact me on tel: 0131 446 6000 or s.tomasino@gwc.org.uk

Ideas for Education We make and repair Van der Graaf generators and can supply belts, combs, etc. for many models old and new. Our diffusion Cloud Chambers have a built-in illuminant and are easily set up and adapted to accept 'old' sources. £27.50 + VAT + postage.

Details from Dennis Beard, Ideas for Education, Dromard House, Kesh, Co. Fermanagh BT93 1RW. Phone/fax: 028 6863 1209.

CLEAPSS

Director of the CLEAPSS School Science Service

The Director of the CLEAPSS School Science Service, Dr Peter Borrows, has indicated that he expects to retire in March 2007. The Governing Body has agreed to appoint a successor to start in April 2006 to ensure a smooth transition. A full advertisement, including details of the salary and the nature of the job, will appear in *The Times Educational Supplement* on Friday 30th September with a closing date of 14th October. If you are interested in the job, or know somebody who might be, please look out for, or alert others, to that advertisement. The advertisement will also appear on the CLEAPSS web site, www.cleapss.org.uk, at about the same time.

CLEAPSS School Science Service, Brunel University, Uxbridge UB8 3PH; *tel: 01895 251496;* *fax: 01895 814372;* *e-mail: science@cleapss.org.uk;* *web: www.cleapss.org.uk.*