

Notes & NEWS

Exhibition of award-winning images at the National Science Learning Centre

An exhibition of award-winning images illustrating biomedical concepts opened in July at the National Science Learning Centre in York. The images, covering a wide spectrum of concepts familiar to any biology teacher, are from the Wellcome Trust Biomedical Image Awards 2006 and are also being displayed online at www.wellcome.ac.uk/bia2006.

Images in this year's awards range from oral bacteria to mumps, and blood vessels in the eye to vascular bundles in plants. Recent advances in biomedicine are also represented, including a human embryonic stem cell and neurons growing along silk fibres. The image of the Mosquito in Flight on the cover of this issue of *EiS* is another of the images in the collection.

Scientist and broadcaster Kathy Sykes, who was one of the judges, described the winning images as '*a stunning collection of images that portray a range of surprises, intrigues, beauties and even horrors of biomedical science*'.

The winning images are selected from those submitted over the past twelve months to the Wellcome Library's Medical Photographic Library. Images from the library are free for use by teachers and are available now at <http://medphoto.wellcome.ac.uk>. The library provides a wide range of images to use and reproduce in the classroom, from human, animal and plant biology through to the history of medicine, for bringing to life difficult concepts in biology and also for inspiring students as they capture the excitement and beauty of the world of science. A new, simplified website is currently under development. In the meantime, to access an image, teachers can either register on the website and download images or, alternatively, click on a link on the site and e-mail the Photo Library who will provide the images.

The exhibition at the National Science Learning Centre will run until mid-October. The Centre is open from 9 am until 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday. The exhibition is also on display at the Wellcome Library, London.

Get creative with science at the National Coal Mining Museum

In May the National Coal Mining Museum for England in Wakefield launched a new interactive CD-ROM resource for primary teachers. The *Science of Mining* CD-ROM features resources for seven science topics (electricity, materials, forces, habitats, energy, rocks and light), as well as a design and technology section. Each section has specially designed curriculum-related worksheets, video clips, photographs, live Internet links to other relevant websites, and lesson ideas, as well as an interactive game. The CD-ROM also features a virtual tour of the Museum's Hope Pit site.

The resource is the first of its kind to be produced by the Museum and will give primary school teachers and pupils alike an innovative insight into the science of coal mining. The project began back in April 2005 and was funded by Creative Minds, a groundbreaking project, which aims to offer children inspirational and creative learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering and maths.

The CD-ROM has been produced in conjunction with three practising primary teachers from schools in the local region – Altofts Junior School, Gilthwaites Junior School, and St Michael's Church of England School in Headingley. The project proved a huge success, with both pupils and teachers.

The CD is now available for primary schools to purchase and is priced at £9.99.

Please ring the National Coal Mining Museum 01924 848806 for further information about availability.

The Kremer Human Powered Flight Competition for Schools

The Royal Aeronautical Society Human Powered Flight Group is pleased to announce an exciting new opportunity for schools and other youth organisations – teams of young people, aged up to 18, will build their own human powered aircraft and, when complete, carry out a test flight!

This will be an excellent opportunity for young people to put their hands-on skills and understanding of engineering to the test and develop their knowledge of flight principles and energy-efficient vehicles.

Support will be available to participants through the Society's Human Powered Flight group who will provide guidance through a prepared booklet, a dedicated website and ongoing technical support, including propeller design and manufacture of specialised components. They will also have simple design schemes available for groups who wish to enter but do not have all the necessary technical skills to design and build an aircraft from scratch.

You don't need to be an aeronautical engineer to enter! A college in Singapore built a successful human powered aircraft using polystyrene and aluminium tube. On Channel Four's recent *Scrapheap Challenge*, two amateur teams both completed working aircraft in two days and tested them.

To receive the competition application form, terms and conditions and technical pack, please contact the Careers Centre, Royal Aeronautical Society, 4 Hamilton Place, London W1J 7BQ, or e-mail careers@raes.org.uk. Website: www.raes.org.uk/raes/careers.

Shape the Future – STEPS at Work

The National Education Business Partnership Network (NEBPN) and The Royal Academy of Engineering have

joined forces as part of the Academy's *Shape the Future* campaign to provide 750 placements for teachers and lecturers as part of their Continuing Professional Development. Designed to raise the knowledge and understanding of engineering careers for young people by providing work-related contexts for teaching and learning, the placements will support the new key stage 4 science requirements. The programme, which was launched June 2006, will work in close co-operation with the National and Regional Science Learning Centres and SETNET.

STEPS at Work (Science, Technology and Engineering Placements) will have four pilot areas in the first phase of the programme, which are West Midlands, Northwest, London and the Southeast.

For further information please contact Jenny Asher project manager from NEBPN by e-mail at: jenny@nebpn.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', do you also have the time to develop these ideas and make them available to other teachers? If the answer is 'No', 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; by e-mail from: sealey.coral@hertsgov.gov.uk; or by visiting www.biology-resources.com.

The closing date for applications is 1st February 2007.



Rolls-Royce Science Prize: Team leader Shona Findlay (centre) and the winning team from Crown Woods School receive their trophy.

2006 Rolls-Royce Prize for Innovation in Science Teaching

Rolls-Royce plc, the world-leading provider of power systems and services, have awarded its first-ever prize for innovation in science teaching to Crown Woods School in Eltham, Greater London.

The school impressed the panel of judges with its creative proposal to introduce 'crime scenes' into its science lessons. The year 9 project got the students examining and analysing evidence including fingerprints and imprints. It used a number of new concepts including immersion techniques to aid the improvement in teaching and learning. Overall, the project increased skills in scientific enquiry, motivation and literacy in presenting information in a clear format. Importantly, the project involved the whole school and inspired lessons in other subjects such as English, maths and drama.

Selected by an independent panel of distinguished educationalists, Crown Woods School beat eight other short listed finalists. All teachers from the finalist schools attended a gala Awards Dinner at the company's headquarters in Derby in June. The guest speaker was Boris Johnson MP, Shadow Minister for Higher Education. The Master of Ceremonies was ex-*Tomorrow's World* presenter, Phillipa Forrester, and the prizes were presented by Chief Executive Sir John Rose. Guests came from all the key science education organisations including ASE and the media. The runner up, Firth Primary School in Orkney, created an outdoor classroom by planting willow trees so as to study the life cycle of plants, variables affecting

plant growth, local wildlife and producing fuel for biomass. They also received a special award from Tim Smit CBE, Chief Executive and co-founder of the Eden Project, for the best environmental project from the first year's finalists.

Rolls-Royce are now inviting new entries to the competition, and are this year working closely with ASE, SETNET and the Institute of Physics to provide a network of local ambassadors, accessible through the website, to give guidance to teachers on their ideas before they submit their final proposals.

How the competition works

- Teachers should submit their idea for any science teaching proposal that meets a need in their school or college in one of three age categories: 3–11, 11–16 and 16–19.
- Entries should be sent in online by the end of February each year.
- All entries go onto an evolving database to share best practice and provide teachers with a key tool for their continuing professional development.
- 30 Special Merit Awards of £1,000 each are given out.
- 9 finalists are chosen to receive £5,000 each to implement their projects, plus a mentor and a digital video camera to record their diaries.
- The overall winner then receives a further £15,000 plus a day out with the Red Arrows, and the runner-up a further £10,000.

Teachers can register their interest and put forward their entry at: www.rolls-royce.com/scienceprize or by calling the teachers' helpline on: 0800 028 0759.