

Editorial

Welcome to May *EiS*!

As I write, I've been thinking back over the past 12 months and to some of the challenges that we've faced in science education. Back in May 2020 we were in the grip of the first UK lockdown, having had to adapt at incredible speed to new ways of teaching, supporting both vulnerable and key worker children in school and other young people learning at home. Twelve months on, and with a second lockdown now under our belts, things are thankfully starting to look much brighter (at least at the time of writing!). However, there is no doubt that it has been a difficult time for science education, bringing into sharp focus issues around access to practical science, fair assessment, diversity and inclusion and the widening gulf between advantaged and disadvantaged students.

At ASE we continue to support and represent our community in all these areas. As part of this work, we've been delighted to launch a new Inclusive Science Group, organised by Rob Butler and Jane Essex. In this issue, you can read about the group's discussions on differentiation and remote learning as part of our new regular section on SEND, together with guidance on what research can tell us about working with SEND students.

Similarly, as part of our ongoing support for practical science, on pages 16-19 you can find a special feature for technicians, including guidance from the ASE Technicians Committee, the Health and Safety Group and lab equipment organisations, as well as the announcement of the winners of the 2020 Gratnells Science Technician of the Year Awards.

As we look towards summer 2021 and beyond, we're encouraging all of our community to join us at one of our online conferences in June and July. With targeted programmes for new and experienced primary and secondary teachers, technicians, ITE educators, consultants, advisers and CPD leaders, there's something for everyone. What better way to end the school year on a high! You can find out more on pages 10 and 11. And, on pages 22-23, you can find more about our exciting plans for January's Annual Conference in Sheffield – we can't wait to see you!

And finally, please do take a look at our tribute to His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh on page 26. Our patron for over 50 years, His Royal Highness was an ardent supporter of ASE and our thoughts continue to be with Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family.

As always, I would like to pass on my thanks to the staff team and to our committees and volunteers who make all this possible. There will no doubt be further challenges for us to face as we continue to come through the pandemic, but we stand ready to face them together. Please do continue to get in touch if you would like our help or to offer your support.



Hannah Russell
Chief Executive

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