

Editorial

Welcome to May *EiS*.

With so much going on in the news at the moment, it's easy to get the impression that COVID-19 has all but disappeared from the UK. Unfortunately, those of us working in science education know that not only is the virus very much still with us, but the impact of the last two years is still being felt keenly in schools. Practical science is an area that has been particularly badly affected. Reports such as ASE's June 2020 practical science survey (www.ase.org.uk/news/new-ase-report-highlights-concerns-over-practical-science-post-lockdown) have highlighted the challenges facing schools in this regard and we know that many of these challenges have continued. At ASE we have been concerned that the reduction in practical science seen in many schools risks becoming a long-term trend and, so, in this issue we take a look at some positive ways to build back practical work, with articles on microscale chemistry, outdoor learning in primary science, the Science Ninjas project from CLEAPSS, a celebration of practical science from this year's Science on Stage festival in Prague, and an update on ASE's practical support programme for schools in disadvantaged areas of the UK, generously funded by the Wolfson Foundation.

You can also find details on the new format for *School Science Review* being launched in June. We've listened to feedback from our community and, thanks to the support of our committees and editorial boards – and, in particular, of Helen Harden (ASE Chair Elect and Interim Editor for the new *SSR in Practice*) – we are really excited about the opportunity to increase our practitioner support through this flagship journal. We would love to hear your feedback on the new format. And, if you would like to get more involved in supporting the future direction for our journals, why not consider applying to join one of our editorial boards, or even applying to be the new Chair of Publications Committee (more detail on page 7)?

I hope that you've been able to join some of our current webinar series, tackling topics as diverse as teacher retention, environmental sustainability, working with and supporting technicians, and palaeontology in the primary classroom. As ASE members, you can access session recordings through our website. As we look towards Summer 2022, we're delighted to be back face-to-face for our Scotland, Guildford and Futures Conferences, and online for the Northern Ireland Conference. Find out more on page 7 and do sign up if you can. We can't wait to see you!

As always, I would like to pass on my thanks to the staff team, our committees and volunteers who make all this possible. 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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