

Editorial

Welcome to the latest edition of *EiS*!

Despite the chill on this February morning, it feels like activity within ASE and the education sector in general is heating up! I am delighted that the return to our 'in person' ASE Annual Conference was a great success: despite train strikes, over 1500 of you came to Sheffield Hallam University to hear our fantastic speakers, attend workshops, meet exhibitors and network with one another. For many, it was the first chance to meet up with friends and colleagues for several years. There was a real buzz about the Conference; a sense of community, learning and support was evident throughout. On my rounds, I was introduced to one of our new members – a technician, new to Conference and new to ASE, popping in from a local school to see what the Conference was about. She told me that, up until now, she had felt quite isolated, 'winging it', new to the role, but now she'd found her tribe – she'd met other technicians who were encountering similar challenges and issues and with whom she could share problems and seek advice. For me, her story summed up what ASE is all about: community, support, expertise. So, I'd like to thank everyone that came to Conference, delegates, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, our wonderful hosts, Sheffield Hallam, and partners – thank you for helping to create that buzz and for sharing your expertise. See a quick round-up on pages 14–17.

We are now busy planning our Futures Conference, coming up in June, a Technicians Conference in July and the next Science on Stage Festival in August 2024 in Turku, Finland – read about how you can apply on page 4.

Recently, the Prime Minister announced that all young people in England should study some form of mathematics to the age of 18, and the new science-specific report from Ofsted has been published. ASE welcomes this much-needed focus on advancing effective science learning and has long advocated for more prominence to be given to maths in the National Curriculum – read more on pages 13 and 18.

These are exciting times for ASE – there is much activity in the pipeline and many changes on the horizon. Our members are at the heart of these and our committees are the driving force behind our priorities and outcomes. Why not get involved in helping us to shape those plans and that future – and make sure that the issues that matter to you are those that ASE tackles head on? Applications for our committees are open now – read more on page 5.

I'd like to offer special thanks on behalf of everyone to one of our longest-standing members and Editor of *School Science Review*, Geoff Auty. Geoff was Editor for over 17 years and, as you will see from the many tributes on page 10, he was an inspiration, expert guide and supportive mentor for many authors. Thank you, Geoff!



Lynn Ladbrook
Chief Executive

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Education in Science (EiS) is the ASE house magazine and is published four times a year. It is sent to all members as one of the many benefits of membership. The contents of this magazine do not necessarily represent the views or policies of ASE except where explicitly identified as such.

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Printer: The Manson Group, St Albans

Publisher: The Association for Science Education (ASE), College Lane, Hatfield, Herts. AL10 9AA. Registered charity no. 313123

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ISSN 0013-1377