

Editorial

Welcome to the latest edition of *EiS*!

As the exam season gets under way, you will, I'm sure, be looking forward to some well-earned rest and recuperation over the summer. Before you head off on your travels, we invite you take a virtual busman's holiday around some of our international features in this edition of *EiS*. Amy Strachan and Erin Siostrom take a look at what we can learn from the Australian science curriculum and how their approach helps to promote wider engagement with science education (page 12). Learn how and why the Great Science Share for Schools (GSSfS) has become a global phenomenon and how you can get involved (page 18). Ade Magaji and Tolulope Akinnukawe share some of their research findings into the challenges faced by science educators in Sub-Saharan Africa (page 15) and we see how our 2024 Alexander Award winners have used their grant to support women and girls through science education in Bangladesh (page 16).

Collectively, what these features neatly illustrate is that good science education and science educators are in demand the world over and that science education really does transcend borders. There is global recognition that an understanding – both theoretical and practical – of the world around us is vital in fostering healthy lives, global citizenship, STEM careers and much more. Back here in the UK, I have spent much of the last week in various meetings with many and varied organisations, large and small, each with their own interests and priorities, but all united in their goal of advancing science education and supporting science educators like you. We come together to discuss the current challenges in the sector: recruitment and retention, equitable access to resources, funding and practical work, curriculum issues, and how we can elevate science education up the political agenda – there is much work to do but a great deal of appetite to do it and, despite the problems, a part of me can't help but feel that with so many amazing organisations on side and eager to make a difference, there must be significant potential to achieve a great deal.

Above all, what comes through in these meetings and in reading these articles is how much value is placed on you, as science educators, and the work that you do. It is undoubtedly a challenging time for schools and education, but if you do take some time to reflect over the summer, I hope that you reflect with pride on your work and know that it plays an absolutely pivotal role in shaping the future and future generations of young scientists.

Have a wonderful summer – don't forget to take some time to look over our events and save the date for our next Annual Conference (in Nottingham, 9-11th January next year!). I hope to see some of you there.



Lynn Ladbroke
Chief Executive