

Introduction

Many thanks to those of you who returned the questionnaire included in the last mailing. We were very pleased how positive most of you were about the Affiliated Schools Scheme, but have taken note that you would be unwilling to pay any more for the scheme. We will be trying to act on the suggestions that you made in the next few months.

This year, the Institute of Physics Schools' lecture, examines the role of physics in sport. The lectures are being delivered by a team from the University of Sheffield's Sports Engineering Research Group (SERG), in association with the engineering and technology board (etb) as part of its Engineering in the Olympics campaign. For details of dates and venues visit <http://education.iop.org/Schools/supteach/lecture.html>

etb have produced the enclosed CD of the lecture, which we thought you might appreciate. Feedback on how useful this is and how we could improve the materials supporting the schools lecture would be very helpful.

Space continues to hit the headlines. Those of you with an interest in astronomy will be looking forward to the transit of Venus on the 8th June. The Society for Popular Astronomy has produced the enclosed poster, which has lots of information about the transit and how it may be viewed safely.

Einstein Year is the UK's & Ireland's contribution to World Year of Physics. Einstein Year is all about enthusing young people exploding the myth that physicists are white, middle-aged men with mad hair, and highlighting the contribution of contemporary physics to society. All the activities and events during Einstein Year will be aimed at achieving these ambitious objectives as well as raising the profile of physics in the media and among policy makers in science and education. For more information see <http://www.einsteinyear.org/>. In the next newsletter, there will be more information about how you can be involved in Einstein Year.

Daniel Sandford Smith
daniel.sandfordsmith@iop.org

Events & Courses for Teachers & Technicians

Institute of Physics Education Group Annual Conference Brecon Beacons, 28th – 30th May 2004

Topics will range from the beauty and wonder of Chladni's Plate (one that actually works), through how GPS navigation aids work (including a practical: a walk to Pen-y-Fan) to Pub Physics. In addition, there will be keynote talks on current developments in the curriculum: The rest of the weekend will be spent immersed in discussion, debate and networking with your fellow colleagues. Full details of the conference, including the programme and an accommodation list, are available at <http://conferences.iop.org/EDU>

30th Stirling Physics Meeting 2nd June 2004

This popular annual event is regularly attended by more than 200 physics teachers and others with an interest in physics education from all over Scotland to learn about the latest developments in physics and physics education. As such, it provides a valuable forum for discussion that will both influence the formulation and shape of the Institute's strategies and policies relating to the development and improvement of science and

practical and IT activities found in SHAP, and work with experienced SHAP teachers and technicians. The teachers' workshops also have some input from SHAP examiners. All the workshops take place on campus at the University of York. Full details and booking forms are available on the SHAP website:
<http://www.york.ac.uk/org/seg/salters/physics/>.

Introduction to Advancing Physics AS/A2

Both these courses are aimed at teachers new to Advancing Physics AS or A2. Featuring workshops led by experienced AP teachers, they will give a grounding in the content, management, teaching and assessment of the course.

- 30th June & 1st July University of Birmingham

See <http://advancingphysics.iop.org/teacher/index.html>

Advancing Physics - Inset for Technicians

Featuring workshops led by experienced AP technicians, the course covers practical activities, with a focus on construction. It is also a valuable opportunity to meet colleagues from other schools and ask questions of the tutors.

- 29th June University of Birmingham

See <http://advancingphysics.iop.org/technician/index.html>

Materials Master Class

University of Birmingham, 23rd-24th September

The Materials Master class is designed to support curriculum delivery. It draws on the areas of materials science in which Rolls-Royce has experience and can demonstrate examples of applications. It offers teachers an extension to their personal knowledge in the field as well as resources and ideas to take back to the classroom. The course is supported by The Armourers and Brasiers Company, the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and Rolls-Royce.

The course fee is £30.00, which contributes to the cost of meals and one night's accommodation. You will also receive membership of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining Schools' Affiliate Scheme if your school is not already a member.

Contact Erica Tyson, Rolls-Royce plc
e-mail erica.tyson@rolls-royce.com

Cambridge University Teachers' Conference in Physics

5th-7th July 2004

This is a subject-focused conference for teachers from maintained schools and colleges from across the UK, with preference given to those from schools/colleges with little or no experience of students applying to Cambridge. Further information at
<http://www-outreach.phy.cam.ac.uk/index.htm>.

Physics can be easy!

Liverpool KS3 & 4 science teachers' conference, 15th June 2004

This is a meeting for all who teach physics. NQTs, non-specialists and PGCE students are particularly welcome. The day will feature an SPT 11-14 preview, talks, concept cartoons, data logging workshops, fun demonstrations, presentations on the Science Learning Centre NW and the Liverpool Telescope, discussions, exhibitions, news, a q/a session, hands-on software, and networking. The programme can be downloaded from
<http://www.amarks.co.uk/mptn/>

Contact Ann Marks
e-mail: mtnc@amarks.co.uk

The Liverpool Annual Physics Teachers' Conference

University of Liverpool, 1st July 2004.

This popular day conference will once again provide an excellent mix of talks, activities and networking to support A level and GCSE. John Fry will cover particle physics and there will be a talk on the history of physics, including intriguing stories to slot in your lessons. Best demonstrations from Physics Education, a 'hands-on' session to compare

software available for A level physics specifications, up-date sessions and weather permitting, an opportunity to use the solar telescope will be included. The panel of experts is lined up once again for the popular 'brains trust' style physics question and answer session.

The programme can be downloaded from <http://www.amarks.co.uk/mptn/>

Contact Steve Barrett

e-mail: s.d.barrett@liverpool.ac.uk

For Students

Opportunities for Physics with The Year in Industry

This year, even more physics students are getting a head start in their career with The Year in Industry. The Year in Industry is a national scheme, which matches students with companies for paid, 12-month, degree-relevant work placements in the gap year before or during their degree course. Students earn a real salary (£8K- £13K) while gaining the skills and experiences to maximise their degree and employment prospects. It's also a great opportunity to increase chances of university sponsorship. Last year, 26% of students who took part went on to gain a first class honours degree, over twice the national average.

Around 50% of all student applicants have studied Physics at A level, and there are many placement opportunities available for students going on to study physics or engineering at degree level. It's still not too late to apply for a placement starting this autumn. For more information, visit the website at www.yini.org.uk

Contact Caroline Durbin

e-mail c.durbin@yini.org.uk, Tel 0121 414 7933

University of Birmingham Summer School

July 14th-15th 2004

A summer school for Y12 students interested in applying for a Physics related degree starting in 2005. Includes an overnight stay in a Hall of Residence and an evening social event, and is intended to give students a taste of what it might be like to study Physics at a leading University. There will be lectures, laboratory sessions and problem solving classes, and an introduction to some of the most interesting research areas.

See www.ph.bham.ac.uk/prospective/undergrad/summerschool.htm

Physics at Work:

21st, 22nd and 23rd September 2004

Physics at Work is an annual 3-day exhibition by ~25 companies and research groups for ~2000, 14-16 year olds. Application forms are sent to all schools in the region in late May / early June.

Further information at <http://www-outreach.phy.cam.ac.uk/index.htm>.

CERN Competition

Do you want to win a free trip to CERN for yourself and a group of students? Just persuade your students to enter the competition sponsored by CERN, PPARC, the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and the Institute of Physics High Energy Particle Physics Group. For details see the enclosed poster or

Contact Andrew Morrison

e-mail andrewmorrison@ntlworld.com

Cassini Huygens Mission to Saturn and Titan

After 7 years of traveling, the spacecraft reaches Saturn this year and the Huygens probe descends to the surface of Titan in January 2005. PPARC are producing resources to help you make the most of the interest this will generate. They will include material suitable for use at all ages from 9 to 16+, some of it ideal for use in June and July. For details see www.pparc.ac.uk or contact Andrew Morrison

e-mail andrewmorrison@ntlworld.com