## Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Registration and refreshments in the Phillips Meeting Room</td>
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| 11.00 | Welcome, introductions and outline of the day  
*Prof Peter Main, Director of Education & Science, IOP* |
| 11.05 | Using the Stimulating Physics Network to add value to outreach  
*David Cameron, Stimulating Physics Manager, IOP* |
| 11.30 | Supporting the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)  
*Dr Elizabeth Swinbank, University of York* |
| 12.15 | The outreach officers’ database: *Engaging Physicists*  
*Caitlin Watson, Head of Public Engagement, IOP* |
| 12.30 | Lunch and networking |
| 13.15 | Coordinating outreach  
*Prof Peter Main, Director of Education & Science, IOP*  
1. Outreach vs. widening participation  
2. REF impact statements |
| 14.15 | CERN@school: bringing CERN technology into the classroom and into space  
*Dr Tom Whyntie, STFC Researcher in Residence, Langton Star Centre | Queen Mary, University of London* |
| 14.30 | Refreshments |
| 14.45 | IOP’s Schools and Colleges Lecturer  
*Clare Thomson, Curriculum & Diversity Manager, IOP  
Natasha Plaister, Project Coordinator, IOP* |
| 15.30 | Opportunity to share ideas / projects / final thoughts  
1. IOM3 Materials Discovery Boxes  
2. Primary School Physics and Astronomy Outreach  
3. Physics Communicators Group  
4. School Laboratory Workshop  
5. Working with Primary Schools |
| 16.00 | End of day |
Schools Outreach Support Network

**Aim of the Network**

To foster a group of physics outreach / school liaison officers who have (or wish to have) strong outreach links with their local schools and are interested in sharing their experiences with colleagues working in similar roles. Meetings will provide an opportunity for the physics community to explore issues within schools outreach and contribute ideas on how the Institute could support their work.

**Session Details**

**Using the Stimulating Physics Network to add value to outreach**  
*David Cameron, Stimulating Physics Manager, IOP*

The Stimulating Physics Network is a project funded by the DfE and managed by the Institute of Physics which aims to improve physics teaching in schools and increase the uptake of A-level physics. A team of 35 Teaching and Learning Coaches supports teachers in over 400 schools across England. The Stimulating Physics Network has recently established a strategic link with SEPnet to combine the benefits and impact of teacher CPD and university outreach for pupils’ experience of and engagement with physics.

**Supporting the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**  
*Dr Elizabeth Swinbank, University of York*

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) was introduced in 2008, and is rapidly becoming a popular option for post-16 students. Following a brief outline of the EPQ, this talk will focus on the types of physics-related projects that students are undertaking. There will be opportunities for delegates to discuss how the EPQ is regarded in the context of university applications, and to consider how they might support physics-based EPQ work as part of their outreach activity.

**The outreach officers’ database: Engaging Physicists**  
*Caitlin Watson, Head of Public Engagement, IOP*

*Engaging Physicists* is a new online contacts database which aims to make it easy for teachers to find quality physics outreach activities provided by local HEIs and research organisations. The database has been designed and developed in consultation with a small working group made up of members of the Schools Outreach Support Network. This is an opportunity to see how the database works, create a profile record for your organisation and start promoting it to your networks.

**CERN@school: bringing CERN technology into the classroom and into space**  
*Dr Tom Whyntie, STFC Researcher in Residence, Langton Star Centre | Queen Mary, University of London*

CERN@school allows school students and teachers the opportunity to work with CERN technology and data to enhance the teaching of particle physics and offers authentic schools-based research opportunities. By providing detectors, developed by the Medipix Collaboration, and access to data from the Langton Ultimate Cosmic ray Intensity Detector (LUCID) to schools around the country, pupils are given the chance to experience the excitement of science by actually being scientists.
Coordinating outreach  
Prof Peter Main, Director of Education & Science, IOP

1. Outreach vs. widening participation (WP)
The head of a large physics department has recently highlighted that physics departments are well placed and increasingly well organised to deliver high-quality WP outreach to local schools. Unfortunately the national WP agenda lacks the structure to account such broad impact actions to OFFA. Typically universities have therefore offered actions to change their own specific minority participation figures. These are then frustratingly narrow and inefficient to address through physics outreach because the proportion of target kids in an area who would choose a particular university is inevitably small.

He proposes a concerted national subject-based WP programme, which has national WP deliverables, to which universities can subscribe their physics outreach efforts. The IOP delineates a national programme, physics departments deliver it, and the IOP monitors contributions and measures the collective impact. Is this a programme that the Institute should instigate and how should we support it?

2. REF impact statements
In a recent meeting of the Standing Conference of Physics Professors (where heads of departments meet to discuss policy issues) concerns were raised over submitted REF statements based on outreach being invalidated due to lack of demonstrable impact. It was suggested that perhaps the IOP - with input from the community - would develop a set of guidelines / framework to support departments wishing to submit REF statements in this area. Would physics departments welcome this?

IOP’s Schools and Colleges Lecturer
Clare Thomson, Curriculum & Diversity Manager, IOP
Natasha Plaister, Project Coordinator, IOP

We are considering making some changes to the structure of our popular lecture tour. We would like to attract more university-based researchers to apply to take on the role of IOP Schools and Colleges Lecturer, and we’re looking for your input on how best to do that.

Opportunity to share ideas / projects / final thoughts

1. IOM3 Materials Discovery Boxes  
Dr Diane Aston, Training and Education Executive, Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining

These boxes can be used to bring the materials topics in the curriculum to life. IOM3 are happy to train outreach staff / STEM ambassadors so that they are confident delivering curriculum-related materials sessions in schools.

2. Primary School Physics and Astronomy Outreach  
Professor David Mowbray, University of Sheffield

Undergraduate and PhD students are trained to give one or more presentations covering physics and astronomy which they then give in local primary schools, with emphasis on schools in areas having low progression rates to higher education.

3. Physics Communicators Group  
Professor John Dore, University of Kent

4. School Laboratory Workshop  
Dr David Keeble, University of Dundee

Supporting Advanced Higher physics students at local schools.
Dr Baruch is particularly concerned about the 60% fall in interest in science within primary schools; he has had considerable success working in this area.