Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to my latest Newsletter. I realise it has been a while since the last but there are a few events coming up that I would like to publicise. In addition, I would like to try and refresh my email database. It is easy for me to circulate information by email, especially when things come up at short notice, so I would appreciate you contacting me at stuart.farmer@yahoo.co.uk to add or update your details. Rest assured I will not pass your details on to any third party. However, if you are not already on SPUTNIK, the IOP Scottish email list (and if you are not. I must ask why not, as over two thirds of all Scottish Physics teachers are) I will happily pass on your details if you let me know that you wish to be added to this helpful and vibrant virtual community of Scottish Physics teachers.

IOP has also set up the Talk Physics website at www.talkphysics.org which allows not only communication but also the sharing of resources. By signing up to Talk Physics you can download all the Supporting Physics Teaching 11-14 resources which have been updated and are no longer available on CD. IOP is also currently working on Supporting Physics Teaching 14-16 resources. The first part on Energy and Electricity is already available to download from Talk Physics and further parts covering all the main topics of the physics curriculum will become available in the next few months.

IOP continues to support us with other useful resources such as the Practical Physics website www.practicalphysics.org and Teaching Advanced Physics http://tap.iop.org.

I have also bid to host the IOP Schools and Colleges Lecture in Aberdeen again in the autumn of 2011. There are usually only four venues around Scotland but I hope the 420 or so who turned out to see Melanie Windridge give her lecture on Nuclear Fusion in September will help ensure we can secure the lecture again.

In recent weeks I have been liaising with Marco Thiel and Charles Wang at the University of Aberdeen. They are keen to support Physics teachers in this area, especially with the new Higher and Advanced Higher courses coming in.

To this end I would like to invite you all to the following meeting:

**Support for the new Physics Courses**

Meston Building, University of Aberdeen
19:00-20:30, Thurs, 25 November 2010
with refreshments from 18:30

Roy Pearson from LTS will give a talk updating us on progress with their support materials for the new courses. This will be followed by input from University of Aberdeen staff about support that is or may be made available from them. This is in addition to the CPD events and AH student days which they already organise. There will then be an opportunity to discuss what support you feel will be of most benefit and look at what it may be possible to do, including by bidding for grants to support further developments. You have an opportunity to shape the support available so please come along and have your say. If you plan to attend, email me at stuart.farmer@yahoo.co.uk to make sure we have enough refreshments available on the night.

I also hope to once again hold a meeting end on to the Moray PT Physics meeting on 7 Dec 2010 in Forres Academy. The agenda has not yet been fixed so if there is either anything to would like to hear about, or you think you can contribute, please get in touch.

Now that our October holiday has passed the nights seem to have lengthened rapidly. However, it means that there are more opportunities to do some hands-on astronomy so you will see that ASE Grampian has organised an evening with the Aberdeen Astronomical Society. It will be a good opportunity to share ideas on teaching astronomy and space science and hopefully, cloud cover allowing, do a bit of observation too. See over for details, along with various other events planned for the rest of the year and 2011.

Stuart Farmer
IOP Teacher Network Co-ordinator

Stuart Farmer, 27 Deeside Crescent, Aberdeen, AB15 7PT, 07765 500172, stuart.farmer@yahoo.co.uk
Supporting Science in the North

Fortrose Academy,
10:00-15:15, Saturday, 6 November 2010

Sessions will include:
- Cracking Tracking: Gregor Steele, SSERC
- Deep Space Resources: Tania Johnston, ROE
- Real Graphs from Real Data: Stuart Farmer, IOP
- Investigating Renewable Energy: Brian Redman, IOP
- Illumination and Communication: The Optoelectronics College
- Climate Change through Earth Physics: Peter Craig, ESEU
- Teaching the Physics of Sound: Neil Taylor, IOP
- Dragsters: Nick Forwood, IOP

and a range of exhibitions

email: stuart.famer@yahoo.co.uk

2011 IOP Physics Teachers’ Summer School

Creativity in Physics Teaching

Erskine Bridge Hotel
From the evening of Wednesday, 25 May to lunchtime of Saturday, 28 May 2011

Draft programme includes:
- Practical work to support new Higher and Advanced Higher Physics
- Inputs from Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities
- Visit to Whitelee Windfarm

Places limited. Full details and booking details will be available early in 2011.

Scottish Science Education Conference

Crief Hydro Hotel
4-5 March 2011

There is a strong physics programme, with several sessions provided by IOP, which includes:

- Talking, Smoke and Mirrors: Brian Redman
- Ideas and Experiments for Researching Physics: Gregor Steel and Stuart Farmer
- Why is Quantum Mechanics So Strange: Prof. Miles Padgett
- Bloodhound SSC: Engineering Adventure: Richard Noble
- Teaching the Physics of Sound: Neil Taylor and Tom Clark
- Bloodhound SSC: A Vehicle for STEM: Ian Galloway
- OEC Colour Vision and Displays: Bob Kibble
- New Practical Work for Advanced Higher: Gregor Steele

Full programme details and booking form at
www.asescotland.org.uk

The IOP Stirling Meeting

Wednesday, 8 June 2011

The largest meeting of Physics teachers in the UK.

There will be the usual range of talks, presentations and exhibitions and a chance to meet friends old and new.

http://www.iop.org/events/education/index.html
for further details in the New Year