

## **ASE Improving Practical Work in Triple Science LSN Network**

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In July 2010, the ASE won a bid to run a Learning Skills Network (LSN) 'Sharing innovation network' aimed at increasing the uptake of Triple Science in schools. The project is using the Getting Practical course materials as a starting point for developing a training course for secondary level science teachers called 'Improving Practical Work in Triple Science'.

There is a feeling amongst the science education community that Triple Science is rarely given the time of three separate subjects in the timetable and therefore practical work can get squeezed out. In light of this, the key messages of the Getting Practical programme have been adapted to suit this particular teaching situation. Three Getting Practical trainers noted for their excellent feedback from delivering the programme last year and ability to adapt the materials to suit an audience, were brought together with the LA consultants from the proposed network areas to design the new course. Supported by the network leaders, Kirstie Hampson and Georgina Chapman from the ASE and Steve Jones from CLEAPSS, the development team devised a shorter training course for the network to use.

The Improving Practical Work in Triple Science training distinguishes between biology, chemistry and physics and uses practical activities that are not seen regularly in classrooms today. The practical work elements of the course follow two alternative themes to help contextualise the activities; medicine and forensic science. Within these two topics, some of the Triple Science 'Quick Guides' can be used to reinforce the links between practical work in science and the world around us.

This particular project involves two pre-existing LSN networks based in Tower Hamlets and Greenwich and will ultimately look to increasing the numbers of students studying Triple Science in schools in these areas. Two schools are aiming to increase the number of Triple Science classes from one to at least two. One school plans to use the Triple Science Programme as a route to the new Physics A-level that they have started to offer. All the schools in the core network are focusing on bridging the gap between KS3 and KS4 science to help increase the uptake of Triple Science.

Physics is a particular focus for the core network. The schools are looking to significantly increase the amount of good quality practical work in this subject area. Physics is often viewed as a subject containing many 'hard to teach' topics and the network aims to show how practical activities can be used to help combat this.

We will be reporting in more depth later in the Spring 2011.

For more information regarding the Triple Science Support Programme, visit [www.triplescience.org.uk](http://www.triplescience.org.uk) and to find out more about Getting Practical, visit [www.gettingpractical.org.uk](http://www.gettingpractical.org.uk).