Improving Practical Work in Science

Getting Practical – Improving Practical Work in Science is a programme of professional development for teachers of science and their colleagues which supports their teaching of practical science with a view to improving their students’ learning experience. The course examines the pedagogy behind teaching practical science and looks at how making small changes to teaching practice can increase the effectiveness of practical classes. In support of the programme, a website has been launched www.gettingpractical.org.uk where teachers can find good-quality resources based on practical work.

The Getting Practical programme has stemmed from recommendations made by the Science Community Representing Education (SCORE) in a report released earlier this year. As a partner organisation in both SCORE and Getting Practical, the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) has been at the forefront of examining how practical work is viewed in education. Emma Woodley, who has been involved from the start during her role at the RSC, comments here for our Getting Practical series on the reasons for carrying out practical work in science and describes methods of support that can increase the quality and relevance of practical work for students. Emma’s article was initially submitted to support the chemistry theme in this issue, and we thank guest editor Colin Osborne for passing it to us for this slot.

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Getting Practical – Improving Practical Work in Science Programme is funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, with coordinating partners the Association for Science Education, CLEAPSS, the National Network of Science Learning Centres and the Centre for Science Education at Sheffield Hallam University. Contributing partners include the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, the Institute of Physics, the Society of Biology, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Gatsby Science Enhancement Programme, the National STEM Centre and the University of York, with support from Science Community Representing Education (SCORE), the Royal Society, Gatsby Science and Plants for Schools, the National Strategies, the Wellcome Trust and the Young Scientists’ Centre at the Royal Institution of Great Britain. The independent evaluators are the University of London Institute of Education.