

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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