

We are looking for enthusiastic teachers and technicians from primary and secondary schools (including FE colleges) to take part in the training offered through the Improving Practical Work in Science (IPWS) programme. Training will be available from January to June 2010.

Additionally, we are looking for schools to take part in the training above and in an evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of the programme with the Institute of Education, University of London, which is acting as independent evaluator for the programme.

Thirdly, we are looking for professionals with a demonstrable enthusiasm for practical science to become trainers for our professional development strand of the programme.

Training for new trainers will take place from September to December 2009 at all the regional Science Learning Centres in England.

The IPWS programme is led by ASE and funded by DCSF. It is focusing on:

- Improving the quality of practical work, not simply quantity
- Ensuring greater clarity of learning outcomes and purpose in particular contexts
- Demonstrating the impact of effective practical work
- Providing a sustainable approach for ongoing improvements

And as a result will look for:

- Observable changes in the emphasis given to practical science in schools and colleges
- Observable improvements in young people's perception of science, their understanding of science concepts and attitudes towards science
- Observable changes in the confidence and attitudes of science teachers and other staff in using practical science as part of the teaching and learning process.

New members of the IPWS team

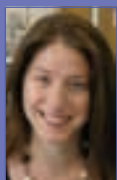


Kirstie Hampson, Programme Manager: Professional Development

I am joining the IPWS programme from the Royal Society of Chemistry, where I worked as Programme Manager of the Chemistry for Non-Specialists programme. I have worked closely with the national network of Science Learning Centres to organise and deliver a highly successful professional development programme for secondary science teachers, and I look forward to continuing to work with them in my new role.

Before joining the RSC Education Department in 2007, I worked for a few years in school and university careers services. I have a BA in Archaeology and Geology from the University of Bristol and an MSc in Forensic Archaeological Science from UCL, so my background is very much in practical hands-on science.

In my new role as Programme Manager: Professional Development, I am particularly looking forward to working within a primary setting, enabling teachers to access professional training and resources to help them incorporate practical science into their teaching at Key Stages 1 and 2 (ages 5-11). I volunteer at the Science Museum in my spare time, and helping with family events there has shown me how rewarding it is to inspire young children with practical science activities, and how important it is to have the right approach and resources.



Georgina Westbrook, Programme Manager: Communications

I am taking up the Communications Manager post for the IPWS programme following a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Nottingham and three years working as the Outreach Co-ordinator at the Centre for Effective Learning in Science (CELS) at Nottingham Trent University. I have always had a keen interest in the way science is perceived by young people and feel strongly that this can be positively influenced by good quality practical science work at school. I hope to bring the experience I have gained working in such a varied region as the East Midlands to this project. I have been responsible for designing and developing a range of practical workshops and events across the sciences at all levels from primary, through secondary to post-16, and achieved this through consultation with teachers, scientists and other science education practitioners. My main aim for this project is to ensure that the combined expertise and advice from the ASE and its consortium partners is available to all teachers wishing to improve the quality of the practical and experimental science in their schools and to support them with new developments and resources. By working closely with the CPD Manager, I hope to help teachers develop their confidence in teaching practical work, in order to benefit the next generation of budding scientists. I am really looking forward to joining the ASE team.

In May 2009, Jane Legate joined the IPWS team as Programme Administrator.

If you would like to know more about taking an active part in the IPWS programme, please contact: **Kirstie Hampson, Programme Manager: Professional Development**, at kirstiehampson@ase.org.uk or on 01707 283000.

For further details on the IPWS programme, visit the ASE Website (www.ase.org.uk).

