



Science CPD @ SSERC

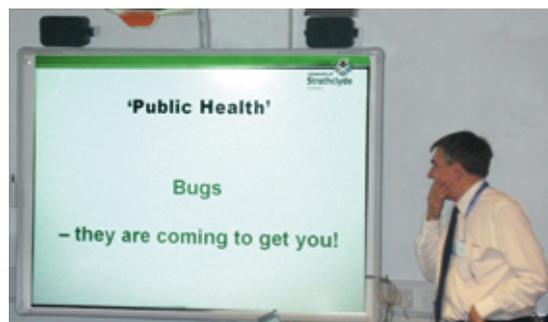
Following the success of the programme offered in 2007 – 2008, SSERC is once again running *Bridging the Gap* - a range of experiential courses to support implementation of *Curriculum for Excellence in the sciences*. At the time of writing, Part 1 of the Biology, Physics and Science courses have run. The course programmes include hands-on workshops, lectures, discussion activities and opportunities for delegates to share ideas and good practice. Physicists had opportunities

to hear *Heather the Weather* (Heather Reid – BBC Weather presenter and meteorologist), carry out activities such as *Pimp my Trolley* and learn about new and innovative *smart materials*. During the Biology course, delegates heard from Professor Iain Hunter on how *Bugs were coming to get them* and had fun investigating hygienic practices through the *Andrex Challenge*. One consequence of SSERC personnel trialling this particular practical work beforehand, was a dramatic increase in their use of soap! We do hope that pupils too will be able to apply the results of their investigations beyond the classroom! The Biology residential included a range of other participative activities suitable for use in the classroom and these will become available through the SSERC website and a new dedicated website which is under construction. A visit to *Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)* demonstrated superbly the relevance and application of science as delegates learned how classification, microbiology and DNA profiling, all topics explored during the residential course, are put into practice to monitor and protect our food supply.



Similar courses are being run for *Chemistry, Integrated Science* (to Level 4) and *Primary Science*. Two key features of all of these courses are that delegates receive a variety of resources for their schools, (value around £200) and that they are asked to undertake a *Gap Task*. This involves delegates carrying out an activity, in line with *CfE*, with their pupils back in their classrooms and sharing their experiences with other delegates in Part 2 of the course. This activity provided a wealth of tried and tested good ideas to take away from the course, in addition to those included in the programme.

Courses for secondary science make full use of the excellent new SSERC laboratories and meeting rooms, whilst Primary courses are taking place in Glasgow Science Centre. The cost for these two-part residentials, including all meals and accommodation, is £100.



This programme of science CPD also offers experiential courses for other groups key in providing good learning experiences in science for pupils. All PGDE students in Scotland have been invited to a two-day residential school, to be held in January 2009, whose aim is to provide the students with experiences not normally available within the constraints of the one-year course. A course is planned for *new and aspiring Heads of Faculty*. Another major aspect of the project is our work with technical support staff. In partnership with the *Scottish Technicians Advisory Group*, we are developing a series of units, pertinent to the work of school technicians which are levelled and credited through the *Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework*. Training support is being made available for technicians across Scotland in association with a number of Local Authority Training Partnerships. Further updates about the programme for *CPD for Technical Support Staff* will appear in a future issue of the Bulletin.



New Personnel - Welcome!

Effecting this major programme of resource and professional development clearly requires personnel and SSERC is delighted to welcome a number of 'weel-kent' and 'nae-sae-weel-kent' faces into the team: Paul Beaumont (Senior Advisor, Science), Catherine Dunn (Development Officer, Physics), Michael Guile (Development Officer, Technological Studies), Stuart MacDonald (Development Officer, Chemistry), Teresa McErlean (Development Officer, Primary Science), Philomena Muggins (Project Officer, Technician CPD), Gerry Paterson (Technical Officer, Physics) and Tina Taylor (Technical Officer, Chemistry). We are all excited at the prospect of developing new, engaging resources for use in the classroom that support learning and understanding of science, and to taking forward effective and enjoyable CPD for teachers and technicians.



The Support for Science Education in Scotland through CPD programme is underpinned and supported by a number of organisations, with major funding being provided from the Scottish Government.



Photographs: lectures, laboratory activities and discussions at the Biology and Physics residentials.