

Friday 3rd December 2010

A key date in the SSERC calendar is the Annual Conference and AGM which in 2010 will be held at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline, on Friday 3rd December. A major theme for this year's conference is the important and continuing role which SSERC plays in offering professional development for teachers, technicians and student teachers. Speakers at this year's conference include Heather Reid who, in her capacity as consultant to LT Scotland, will be giving us an overview of the school science professional development landscape. Miranda Stephenson, Programme Director at the National Science Learning Centre in York, will be sharing her perspective on the key role which SSERC plays in delivery of NSLC programmes of activity in Scotland. A review of the impact of professional development delivered by SSERC will be the focus of the final presentation by Kevin Lowden and Stuart Hall from the Scottish Council for Research in Education at the University of Glasgow.

The Conference will provide opportunities for you to meet with the SSERC team and discuss recent developments in the design of materials in support of the science and technology curricula across all phases. Coupled with an update on health and safety legislation, we are once again offering a rich and diverse programme.

So, make a note of the date in your diary and come and join us at this important event in the education calendar!

There is no charge for attending the conference. Refreshments, including lunch, together with conference papers will be provided.

In order to reserve your place, please contact Charlie Stoddart (Tel. 01383 626070 or email sts@sserc.org.uk). Alternatively you can register online at:

http://www.science3-18.org/index.php?option=com_web2crm&view=web2crm&residential=0&Itemid=1992



Free CPD for Local Authorities

For many years, SSERC has helped local authority employers to fulfil their legal obligation to provide adequate health and safety training for staff. To date, this has been done by SSERC delivering courses at the request of the local authority or individual school.

Alternatively we have run open courses to which a school or local authority can send delegates.

At SSERC, there is an awareness that structures have changed within schools. Heads of physics, chemistry and biology have, in many local authority schools, been replaced by a single faculty head who may not be a scientist. Beyond the school, it is becoming increasingly common to have Quality Improvement Officers with cross-curricular duties rather than traditional advisers. The post of senior technician is also disappearing in many areas.

We are responding to these changes by running a rolling programme of free full day courses for local authorities.

Each authority will be entitled to a course once every two to three years. We expect that the authority will wish to use this to ensure that faculty or departmental heads receive appropriate training, or that recently employed staff are trained. Local Authorities and schools are, of course, still welcome to arrange further health and safety training from SSERC in addition to this free entitlement.

All aspects of the courses will be directly applicable to work in a school science or technology department. Feedback from teachers and technicians on previous courses has indicated that this is hugely preferred over general courses designed for a variety of council employees. The programme should ensure that science

and technology staff are kept abreast of their duties and responsibilities.

Local authorities should contact: sts@sserc.org.uk to book training.

