

# From fireflies to poetry.....

One of the activities which SSERC offers to schools and colleges is a demonstration lecture entitled 'From Sellotape® to Fireflies: things that glow in the dark!'. Suitable for all ages the lecture, as its title might suggest, covers a range of topics from across the sciences in which light is in some way involved in chemical, physical or biological effects.



The theme for the 2015 National Poetry Day on October 8th was 'Light' and so, at the invitation of Inverkeithing High School in Fife, the lecture was presented to S2 pupils as part of their build-up to the Day. After the lecture, pupils were encouraged to submit a poem based on their thoughts. One of the poems was written by Connall Wallace and we are delighted that he has allowed us to publish his contribution here.

The lecture is offered on a limited number of occasions each year and schools/colleges interested in booking the lecture should contact SSERC (sts@sserc.org.uk) in the first instance. ◀

## Light

Light surrounds us every day.  
Giving heat with its photonic waves.

Light gives us food to be eaten.  
That burning ball of plasma can't be beaten.

Light allows for us to exist.  
Plants making oxygen, using photosynthesis.

Light gives us fireflies' effulgence.  
This reflects on their bioluminescence.

Light gives us fluorescent material,  
Short to long wave lengths,  
Just seems ethereal.

Light gives us vibrant rainbows.  
White light being refracted,  
What a show.

Light gives us the universal speed limit.  
Anything without mass or infinite energy,  
Exceeds at it.

Light gives us fireworks using copper, sodium, lithium.  
Brighten them up with a splash of magnesium.

Black holes are lights only remiss.  
Pulled back in with its gravitational supremis.

Light is a beautiful thing.  
So little covered  
But so much to bring.

Conall Moyes Wallace (2015), S2, Inverkeithing High School