

# ASE International

No 8 ■ December 2019

*Primary*  
Science behind the wow

*Early Years*  
Challenging stereotypical  
images of science

*Secondary/Research*  
How do you develop  
research-informed practice?

*Professional development*  
Supporting the wellbeing  
of science teachers

*Sustainability*  
Learning for sustainability – Scotland  
The 'Naturehood' of schools



The Association  
for Science Education  
Promoting Excellence in Science Teaching and Learning

An ASE publication for international members of the Association

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# Editorial

■ Marc Neesam

Welcome to issue 8 of *ASE International*. This issue arrives just before many of you are going on holiday, whether it is for summer or for Christmas (or both!), and ahead of the 2020 ASE Annual Conference, which will be held in Reading, UK, and starts on 8th January with the International Day.

I am excited to be attending the Annual Conference this year in my role as Chair of International Group, and as a presenter. I am also impressed with the exciting programme that the International Group has planned. I am pleased to confirm that Tim Oates CBE, Group Director of Assessment Research and Development at Cambridge Assessment, will provide the morning keynote on what we can learn (or not) from international comparisons of science curricula. Delegates then have a wide range of sessions to choose from before we end the day with a panel debate on what a science curriculum should look like for global learners.

After a short break, the day then culminates with the option of attending the International Dinner, which provides another venue for people to talk to like-minded science educators from around the world. If you are preparing to attend, I look forward to welcoming you and, if you have not yet decided, there is still time to register by visiting <https://www.ase.org.uk/annual-conference>

Of note for this year is that delegates to the International Day also have the pleasure of welcoming Hannah Russell to her first ASE Annual Conference in her role as CEO of ASE. I am sure we will all make her feel welcome and give her a great start to her first conference.

To coincide with the conference, this issue touches on several themes that will be present over the length of the conference.

We open with an article on research-informed practice and how it can be developed by classroom teachers. On the International Day, there are several sessions on taking research into the classroom and the curriculum.

The main conference also culminates on Saturday 11th with a new ResearchMeet Day, offering networking and dedicated sessions to those interested in research-informed practice.

There are two articles on sustainability, an issue that is becoming more and more prominent both in the wider world and within science education. This can be seen throughout the conference programme, including International Day, with a collection of 19 sessions on Education for Sustainable Development.

For our early years and primary readers, we have articles about supporting understanding in the classroom and challenging stereotypical images of science. At the conference, the primary programme, curated by the ASE Primary Committee, offers a wide range of sessions with highlights including the Brenda Keogh lecture and popular Primary Pop-Up (both on Friday).

As always, we welcome an article from our partner, Grattells, featuring more about their *What's in My Tray* project.

The issue is then rounded off by an article on the important issue of teacher wellbeing. In the UK, there is a lot of discussion about the stresses of teaching and the importance of wellbeing. For many, the conference itself can support wellbeing by offering science teachers opportunities to network with a wide range of people from many countries and providing high quality professional development.

As always, the International Group welcomes contributions to this journal. If you are interested in writing for us, please e-mail us at [international@ase.org.uk](mailto:international@ase.org.uk)

I hope you all have a restful December and a good start to 2020.

Best wishes.

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