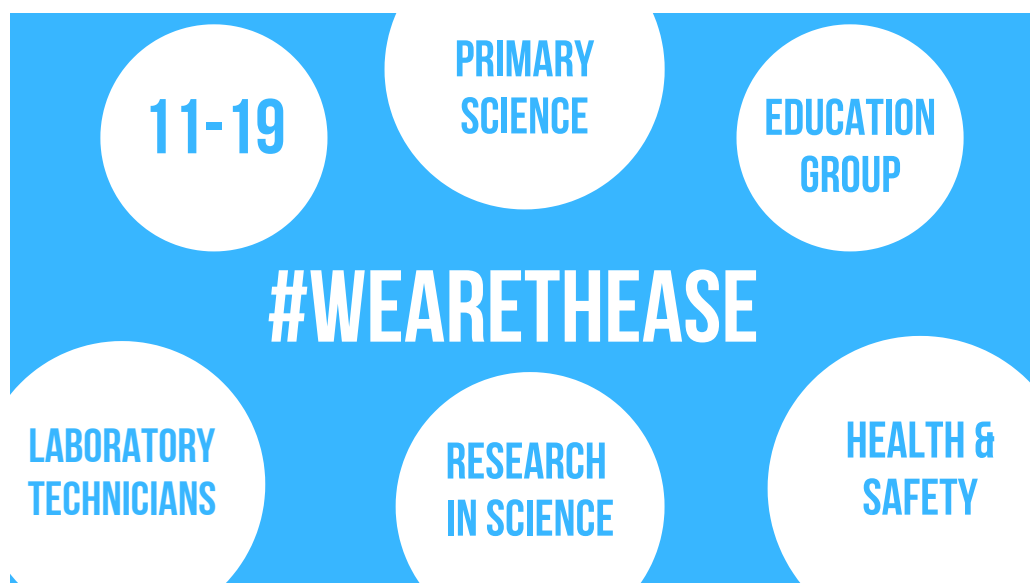


Working with our members: #WearetheASE

You will see on pages 20 and 21 a call for volunteers to join our national committees and groups. Here, I'd like to tell you a little about the activity of some of the committees during the autumn term. I hope that you will consider applying to join one of the committees or perhaps, if joining a national committee seems too big a step, consider getting in touch with your local committee; contact details can be found here: www.ase.org.uk/committee-directory

The Primary Science Education Committee had two main focuses last term – primary events at the Annual Conference continue to develop and include several opportunities for primary teachers to get their first taste of presenting at a conference. The Primary Committee has also been developing CPD resources to support teachers to use the PLAN resources, which provide annotated collections of children's work to provide examples of what working at the expected standard for primary science might look like. Whilst developed to match the English National Curriculum, there is much that is useful for anyone who teaches science to this age group.

The Science Education 11-19 Committee also had a focus last term on preparing for the Annual Conference, (see page 19). The Committee has also discussed the EEF



report, *Improving Secondary Science*, and how ASE might support science departments in implementing the ideas in their schools – look out for a regional event near you! The London Region already have their London Conference planned, with the focus on the report – please put 11th May in your diary. Visit bit.ly/2019Lon.

The Laboratory Technicians Committee continues to work hard to support technicians in schools by responding to individual appeals for help, often through the School Science Technicians' Facebook group. Perhaps the biggest issues facing technicians have been 'Gauzagate' and cuts in technician staffing in schools, with senior management not always having a good understanding of the role of science technicians. On a more positive note, the first ASE Technicians Leadership programme led by Simon Quinnell got off to a great start last year and there are several technician conferences planned for the summer term – take a look at the conferences pages of the ASE website at www.ase.org.uk/conferences

The Research in Science Specialist Group was also active last term, overseeing the new edition of the *ASE Guide to Research in Science*

Education (due out by the end of 2019) and also planning sessions at the Annual Conference, including a poster session and a keynote by Ann Childs and Judith Hillier (University of Oxford) – *Teachers Using and Doing Research*.

And, last but not least, the Education Group had a full meeting in September, where we considered many 'hot topics' in science education, including the Ofsted plans to make the school curriculum a focus of the new inspection framework, teaching time for the new GCSEs, and the issues facing technicians mentioned above. On a positive note, we heard about the wide variety of projects on which ASE is currently working, and approved the latest additions to the Best Practice Guidance portfolio, *Assessment*, *Outdoor learning*, and *Senior leaders*; all the documents can be found on the website (www.ase.org.uk/bestpractice) Please do look at the extensive list of titles now available – all written by ASE members to provide short, accessible guides with links to further support.

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