

# Editorial

By the time that you read this I will have retired after five and a half years at ASE. It has been a great privilege to lead this organisation and work with so many talented and committed people, all of whom share ASE's commitment to promote excellence in the teaching and learning of science.

When I arrived in 2014, the Association was facing financial uncertainty. We needed to get things right internally. We set ourselves a simple stepped strategy of 'Survival – Consolidation – Growth'. I am enormously proud of the staff, members and Trustees who have taken the changes we have made over the years in their stride, whilst working often well beyond that expected. I'm delighted to report that our strategy was successful and ASE is once again strong, both educationally and financially. The Association is poised for further growth and development and can look to the future with confidence.

It was therefore the right time for me to pass on the baton to someone who can take ASE to the next stage. I am delighted that Hannah Russell has been appointed as my successor.

Welcome to September EIS and to the new school year!

I'm delighted to have joined ASE as Chief Executive. It's a privilege to be part of such a well-loved organisation, with a mission so close to my heart. Having originally trained as a school science teacher and worked in STEM education for most of my career, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to lead and help to shape the future of the Association.

I'm very grateful for the warm welcome I have received from staff, committee members and Trustees, and have been hugely impressed with the passion and commitment shown by all these groups and across our volunteer community. My very best wishes to Shaun in his retirement. He has led the Association through a period of significant change and left a highly respected, sustainable organisation, with a talented and dedicated team.

I'm also excited about the opportunities ahead. We are all familiar with the challenges facing science teaching; in addition to recruitment, retention and access to high quality subject-specific continuing professional development, school funding remains in crisis, while technical education pathways, practical science and careers guidance for young people present both challenges and opportunities. What is assured is that ASE remains committed to promoting

Shaun Reason  
Outgoing ASE CEO



She has clearly got the energy, skills and commitment to take ASE forward, to influence science education policy and to raise ASE's profile: a great appointment. Hannah will certainly have Trustee Body, staff and member support to help her achieve her goals.

One of the most inspiring things about my time at ASE has been the supportive and 'family' atmosphere of our community. I am immensely grateful to all of you for the help and inspirational ideas you have given me and the organisation. To those members who are teachers and technicians, I particularly thank you for your continued dedication to the profession, whilst dealing with shrinking budgets and limited access to resources. The long hours and energy you put in for the sake of your students is commendable and greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing all the great work that I know ASE will do in the years to come. Thank you again for all your help and support.

**Shaun Reason, Outgoing ASE Chief Executive.**

Hannah Russell  
Incoming ASE CEO



excellence in science education and supporting our community wherever needed to achieve this.

My priorities as Chief Executive will be to continue to support our members, broaden our reach across the community and build on our strengths, raising our profile and demonstrating our value to ensure that we are a powerful voice for science education and the 'go to' place for those working in our sector. We can't do this alone and will continue to explore opportunities for strategic collaboration across and beyond STEM.

I look forward to meeting many of our members over the next few months and hope to see as many of you as possible at our Annual Conference at Reading University in January 2020.

**Hannah Russell,  
Incoming ASE Chief Executive.**

## Contents

Page	
4.	Update from ASE HQ
6.	ASE Futures
8.	News
12.	Feature: Practical science: ASE can help
20.	ASE Green Tick evaluations
21.	Resources
22.	The Prep Room
24.	ASE Bookshelf
26.	Annual Conference 2020