



Editorial

■ Marc Neesam

Welcome to issue 9 of *ASE International*.

Usually, this issue would act as a reflection of the ASE Annual Conference, in particular the International Day, held earlier this year at the University of Reading. For those who came to the Conference, I hope you enjoyed the event and the varied programme on offer. It was my first conference as Chair of the International Group and it was wonderful to see so many attendees present and engaged. I also had the privilege to introduce Hannah Russell to her first conference as Chief Executive of ASE.



I found the keynote from Tim Oates CBE stimulating, as I know others did based on the questions he was later asked. It did everything a good keynote should do: challenge the room. As science educators, we must always be open to being challenged and adapt our own thinking to new evidence or arguments – something that has become more and more important in recent weeks, for all of us.

Thank you to all the presenters, University of Reading student workers, ASE members who manned desks, ASE staff and attendees who made the International Day 2020 one of our best yet. A special thank you goes to Susie Burr, who has worked diligently behind the scenes for many years

ensuring that the ASE Conference runs smoothly – this was her last conference in the key role of Annual Conference Honorary Secretary.

However, this issue has been put together with one task in mind: providing articles to support you, the reader, in reflecting on online and home learning in science education. As the entire world continues to pivot and adapt to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, science educators have worked hard to provide learners, who have moved to home environments, with opportunities to continue to learn science.

This issue features a range of articles, from considering coral reef conservation using *Minecraft* to applying science in kitchens (for the more hands-on approach), to help anyone teaching science – parents as well as teachers.

Additionally, to help support teachers, parents and children of all ages through the coronavirus pandemic, ASE has created a hub on the website, which offers a range of resources and links to external resources. It can be found at: <https://www.ase.org.uk/ase-coronavirus-hub>

The restrictions on travelling during the coronavirus outbreak, between and within countries, have prompted a change to how ASE holds events. ASE is now hosting more virtual events, which present an excellent opportunity for members outside the UK to participate. More events continue to be added and all are listed on the ASE events page: <https://www.ase.org.uk/events>

ASE also started thinking ahead to the next Annual Conference in 2021. The form for submitting sessions is now open, and we are looking for sessions on a range of themes. Particularly for International Day, we are looking for sessions on: real world science, models and modelling in science, and research, including neuroscience and cognitive science for science education.





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We cannot predict the future, but ASE remains committed to International Day 2021 and, if required, will run the event as an online conference alongside or instead of the usual manner, so please do propose sessions as normal.

The session submission form can be found at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ASEAnnConf2021Bham>

The closing date for submissions is:
29th May 2020.

I hope to see many of you, virtually or in person, at future ASE events.

A final thought to finish. First and foremost, ASE is a community and, in times of crisis, a community that pulls together. My thoughts go to anyone, within the ASE community and outside of it, affected by the coronavirus pandemic. I sincerely believe that ASE, from members to the organisation itself, can offer support to you at this time and I hope that you find the support available helpful and of use.

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