

Editorial

Welcome to the May *Education in Science* (EiS).

A teacher wears a variety of hats – there's a lot more to teaching than just showing up and giving the day's lessons! Much of what young people learn from their teachers is not detailed on a syllabus. As a primary teacher, you probably see the same group of pupils five days a week; as an 11-19 teacher it may be as much as 5 hours per week.

You are therefore one of the most influential people in a young person's life. You might influence them to discover a new sport, hobby, talent, or possibly, through you they may be nudged down a particular career pathway. Do you try to communicate the wealth of careers that are STEM related? If not, is this partly ignorance, or is it a belief that learning about science is its own reward?

I believe that the best teachers are happy to extend their role beyond the science syllabus because they know that it makes their students' educational experience so much more beneficial. Our main feature in this edition is about careers. We open with an article by our President, Sir John Holman, and his involvement with the introduction of the government's Careers Strategy in England. This is followed by articles on careers in primary schools and in secondary/college settings, as well as how one teacher spent two weeks of her summer vacation gaining an insight into STEM careers. Providing an awareness of careers opportunities helps young people to appreciate the wide range of avenues available in an ever-changing world, as well as raise their aspirations, address gender bias and hopefully improve social mobility for those students living in disadvantaged circumstances.

Also in this edition is an article by Janice Griffiths, our Chair-Elect, on the numerous benefits of ASE membership and how to make the most of your membership; she provides an interesting 'iceberg' analogy. Rob Butler, ASE Field Officer, explains how his role initially as a volunteer improved his teaching and led to further career and social opportunities.

It doesn't seem long since we were packing up after a very successful 2019 Annual Conference in Birmingham. We are now well on the way with preparations for 2020 to be held at the University of Reading so, if you are interested in attending or presenting, then please look at page 8 for further details. Before then we have a range of events and other exciting conferences, including what is always a very high quality event, our ASE Futures Conference. This year it will be at Sheffield Hallam University on the 4th and 5th July.

Finally, as this is the last issue of this academic year, I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer.



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