

# Editorial

Welcome to November *EiS*!

The theme of this issue is 'Online Learning'. When COVID-19 emerged in the news early in 2020, we could never have anticipated the impact it would have on schools and colleges, and on our young people and the education community in general. From ASE's perspective, it quickly became clear that we would need to move our activities online. Thanks to the energy and commitment of the staff team, our committees and volunteers, we've been delighted with how well these events have been received. While we have, of course, missed meeting up in person with friends and colleagues, our webinars, online TeachMeets, TechMeets, conferences and workshops have allowed us to continue to provide high quality CPD and networking opportunities across the science education community. They've also enabled us to support a broader audience than ever before, reducing barriers such as time, cost and caring commitments. Of course, professional online learning is only part of the story, as teachers have had to adapt their lessons to being delivered remotely and/or in a COVID-secure way in the classroom. This has presented a number of challenges, especially around practical science, but among the difficulties there have also been many stories of success.

As we come towards the end of the strangest of years, we take the opportunity to look at what we've all learned over the past months and to share ideas and best practice from across the community. It makes for an inspirational read! You'll find articles on blended learning, and user perspectives and updates on different online learning applications for teachers in the classroom, including our forthcoming Explorify workshops for ASE primary school members and physics for non-specialists workshops with Physics Partners. You'll find a fascinating professional conversation on evidence-based versus research-informed practice from Christine Harrison and Alastair Gittner, as well as the second in our new series of perspectives from NQTs, providing reflections on their first half term in school and valuable advice for peers.

Also on the theme of online learning, our first ever online Annual Conference is fast approaching and promises to provide a fantastic four days of science education expertise, support and inspiration. Take a look at page 7, and also on our website, to find out more. Tickets are selling fast!

Elsewhere in this issue you will find details of how to register for our online AGM as well as our 'temperature check' survey – closing on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (see page 5).

I look forward to seeing many of you online in January. In the meantime, it remains for me to wish you a very happy festive season and a safe 2021.



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Chief Executive

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