



## Science and Engineering Ambassadors Newsletter March 2009

connecting schools to science, technology, engineering and maths

Welcome to the February/March newsletter for Science and Engineering Ambassadors. Again we have had a busy month with lots of SEAS activity so thank you very much for your time and effort. We get many emails from teachers saying "thank you" after Ambassador visits and saying how motivated and excited pupils are afterwards, so it is great to know you are all appreciated!

National Science and Engineering Week will be running from 6-15<sup>th</sup> March and huge thank you to Ambassadors who are hosting their own events, helping with other organisations' events or attending events. This Programme gets bigger every year and SEAS have a major role to play in the planning and running of many elements of it.

Can I remind you all to record your activity on the STEMNET database at [www.stemnet.org.uk](http://www.stemnet.org.uk) please? You can record your activity BEFORE an event takes place and that way you don't need to remember to complete it afterwards. Just put in the date that it will take place in the future and the job is done! It is very important that activity, whether it is a one-off event such as a careers talk, or a regular visit to a school, is recorded so that we can get an accurate picture of STEM activities in schools. Our aim is for every school to have an Ambassador experience so you can help by adding what you do to the database.

### SEAS Celebration Event

For the last few years we have hosted a SEAS Celebration event for Ambassadors to get together and meet each other, meet STEM provider organisations and teachers. We are pleased to inform you that we will be hosting a Celebration event again this year at the Glasgow Science Centre. This will be an early evening session where you are welcome to come along and hear presentations on Ambassador experiences as well as meeting the organisations who deliver programs to schools and who need Ambassadors to help. As a new feature this year, we will be holding workshop sessions where you will be able to spend 10-15 minutes with a provider working with their projects. So if you have never tried your hand at the things a Young Engineers and Science Club does, now will be your chance! The date is to be confirmed, but likely to be the last week in April. More details in the next newsletter.

### Disclosure Scotland



Since the SEAS Programme started in 2002 we have undertaken enhanced disclosure checks through the Criminal Records Bureau in Liverpool. This has been necessary due to STEMNET being the umbrella organisation, based in London. However, due to the large numbers of Ambassadors being recruited in Scotland we are now in the position to undertake Disclosure Scotland checks, instead of the English disclosures.

From now on, all disclosures undertaken by us will be through Disclosure Scotland. If you currently hold an English disclosure and wish to update it to a Scottish Disclosure please contact us to arrange this. It is not mandatory for you to do this, but we understand that some organisations insist on Disclosure Scotland rather than a CRB Disclosure. When your renewal comes up (after 3 years) you will complete a Disclosure Scotland form.

## REQUESTS for HELP

The following requests have been made by schools and organisations. **If you can help please email us at [seas@physics.gla.ac.uk](mailto:seas@physics.gla.ac.uk) or phone on 0141 330 6396** and we can liaise with the appropriate school on your behalf. The ones in RED are requests are the urgent ones!

Please see overleaf for more information on each of the requests listed in the table.

SCHOOL / EVENT	DATE	REQUEST
University of Strathclyde Physics Dept	Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb 4-8pm	Teacher CPD event concerning Advanced Higher Physics topics. Open to all Ambassadors
Bearsden Academy	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb 09	Engineers (female preferably) to be involved at S2 Subject Choice Conference
New Cumnock Primary, East Ayrshire	As soon as possible	Help with Young Engineers Club, Thursdays after school – either ad hoc or regular.
Ravenscraig Primary, Greenock	As soon as possible	Help with Imagineering Kits at Young Engineers Club. Fridays 2-3pm for P6 pupils (10 max)
Eastbank Academy, Glasgow	9th -12th March 2009	Assistance with forensic science workshops/mock murder trial
Cairn Primary, Maybole Ayrshire	Before end of March	Looking for help with design ideas – introduction to engineering in preparation for K'NEX Challenge
St Joseph's Primary, Milngavie	As soon as possible	Offer advice and help with setting up new Young Engineers Club
Jordanhill School, Glasgow	As soon as possible	Talk on current technology for Energy Resources Project for S2
Tinto Primary, Hillpark Drive, Glasgow	As soon as possible	Help with KNEX Challenge
Careers Event - Our Lady' High School, Motherwell	16 <sup>th</sup> March 09	20 Ambassadors from different disciplines to be involved at careers event
Careers Event - James Hamilton Academy, Kilmarnock	17 <sup>th</sup> March 09	20 Ambassadors from different disciplines to be involved at careers event
Careers Event - Smithycroft Secondary, Glasgow	19 <sup>th</sup> March 09	20 Ambassadors from different disciplines to be involved at careers event
Careers Event – Prestwick Academy, Ayrshire	20th March 09	20 Ambassadors from different disciplines to be involved at careers event
Killermont Primary, Bearsden	Various dates	All different kinds of Ambassadors required, see details below.
Dumfries and Galloway Primaries	2 <sup>nd</sup> March (Dumfries) 4 <sup>th</sup> March (Stranraer) 5 <sup>th</sup> March (Castle Douglas)	Training Session for Ambassadors to help with D&G schools

Crosshouse Primary, East Kilbride	Any time	Primary school that has an Autistic Base with 4 classes. Would like a SEA to help these pupils take interest in science
Institute of Physics Lab in a Lorry – see schools below		
Gourock High School, Inverclyde	26 <sup>th</sup> March 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
St Columba's High School, Inverclyde	27 <sup>th</sup> March 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
Our Lady and St Patrick's High School, Dumbarton	28 <sup>th</sup> April 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
Vale of Leven Academy, West Dunbartonshire	29 <sup>th</sup> April 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
Hermitage Academy, Helensburgh	30 <sup>th</sup> April 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
Wellington School, Ayr	29 <sup>th</sup> May 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
Hillpark School, Glasgow	15-17 June 09	Helping with Physics experiments on board lorry. 9:00am – 3:30pm
St Ninian's High School, Bishopbriggs	29 <sup>th</sup> April 09	Judge K'NEX Cluster Final
Smithycroft Secondary and associated primaries, Glasgow	April/May 09	Help with Science Club project – helping out with experiments etc at primaries in the cluster.
K'NEX Area Final – Glasgow	13 <sup>th</sup> May 09	Judges for Area Final
K'NEX Area Final – Loudon Castle, Ayrshire	26 <sup>th</sup> May 09	Judges for Area Final
K'NEX Area Final - Lanarkshire	tbc	Judges for Area Final
Strathclyde University Summer Academy	29 <sup>th</sup> June – 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Help with S4/S5 Summer school for engineer and science related topics

### Bearsden Academy – Subject Choice Conference for 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Bearsden Academy is holding a 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Subject Choice Conference on **Friday 27th February**. They would like to have 1 or 2 Engineering related Ambassadors (girls if possible) to come along and be involved.

Time is obviously tight on this one so if you want to help please contact Gail on 0141 330 6396 or email at seas@physics.gla.ac.uk as soon as possible.

## Teacher CPD Physics event – Strathclyde University

Ambassadors are invited to attend a teachers CPD event being held in conjunction with the **Institute of Physics** at the University of Strathclyde, Department of Physics on February 26th 2008, from 4pm - 8pm.



**NOTE THAT THIS IS THURSDAY of this week!!**

All teachers of Physics, Science and with an interest in Physics careers are very welcome.

The event is a chance to network with academics and students at Strathclyde Physics, and an opportunity to sample the wide range of resources and outreach programmes available to assist with Physics teaching.

Agenda items include "Crash diets - or how sharks, weightlessness and stars are a ticket to travel the world!", Physics Resources for Schools, AH Investigations, your chance to try out lab experiments, AH Taster Talks.

If you are interested in attending please contact [louise.carbry@phys.strath.ac.uk](mailto:louise.carbry@phys.strath.ac.uk) or phone 0141 548 3366

## Eastbank Academy, Glasgow – Forensic Science



The Science Dept at Eastbank Academy in Glasgow is organising a Forensic Science week (9th-12th March) at their school. This will entail forensic science workshops (looking at various techniques: print lifting, fibre analysis, chromatography, blood splatter patterns etc.) for S1 & S2 in their science lessons and a mock murder trial/courtroom simulation with pupils acting as SOCOS presenting their expert evidence and staff as lawyers, witnesses etc.

If you would like to be involved with this event please let Gail know by emailing [seas@physics.gla.ac.uk](mailto:seas@physics.gla.ac.uk) as soon as possible.

## Cairn Primary School, Maybole



The P6 class at Cairn Primary has begun working on their ideas for the K'NEX Challenge and are practising building models out of K'NEX. They will be taking part in their Cluster Challenge at the end of March and the teacher is interested to have an Ambassador to help at the school with **design ideas, and inspiration** as soon as possible.

If you would like to visit the school and talk to the class about engineering and design either in general, or in relation to K'NEX models, please let Gail know by emailing [seas@physics.gla.ac.uk](mailto:seas@physics.gla.ac.uk)

## Careers Events

During week of 16th March, we are hosting Careers Events in 4 secondary schools in our area. This is part of the new Scottish Government Careers Campaign - Do something creative. Do science, which is officially launched on 26<sup>th</sup> February. You may have already seen the posters on billboards at the side of the road. Our events will run throughout the school day and aimed at the whole school, S1 to S6. For S1 & S2 pupils there will be a form of "speed dating" type event where groups of pupils will have the chance to quiz Ambassadors about their careers to see how much information they can glean in a short space of time. Schools involved are:

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> March -Our Lady's High, Motherwell  
Tues 17th March - James Hamilton Academy, Kilmarnock  
Thur 19th March - Smithycroft Secondary, Glasgow  
Friday 20th March - Prestwick Academy, Prestwick

We are looking for up to 20 Ambassadors at each event so if you are able to help out at any of the schools below please let me know as soon as possible. There will be a briefing session for Ambassadors before the day starts in each school.

Do something creative.  
Do science.

Find out more: [www.infoscotland.com/science](http://www.infoscotland.com/science)



## Killermont Primary School , Bearsden

Killermont Primary in East Dunbartonshire is very interested in the Ambassador Programme and the teachers are very keen to experience different topics that Ambassadors can cover. During this term and next term they would like Ambassadors to be involved in the following:

Topic	Nature of Support	Class	When
Flight	Air resistance experiments	P5/6	By 3rd April 09
Sorting living things	Talk about vertebrates or invertebrates	P4	By 3rd April 09
Forces and their effects	Discuss, demonstrate, experiment	P5	By 26th June 09
Sound and electricity	Discuss, demonstrate, experiment	P6	By March 09
Senses	Discuss, experiment	P2	As soon as poss
The weather	How we measure, predict	P1/2	By 26th June 09
Solubility	Experiments	P5/6	By 26th June 09
Sound and electricity	Practical tests and experiments	P6/7	By 26th June 09
Science Lab	Advice on what goes on in Science Lab	Infants	By 3rd April 09
Friction	Talk, practical session	P3	By 3rd April 09
Magnets	Explain forces, experiments	P3/4	By 26th June 09
Forces	Effects, pushing, pulling, floating etc	P1	By 3rd April 09

If you can help with any of the above requests please contact me and I will put you in touch with the relevant teacher. Since the school are very enthusiastic it would be great if we can fulfil at least some of their requests!

## Dumfries and Galloway Ambassadors

In addition to the training sessions we are holding for Ambassadors at Dumfries and Galloway College, in Dumfries, on 2<sup>nd</sup> February we now have additional sessions at other venues in the area.

We will be in **Stranraer** on 4<sup>th</sup> March and **Castle Douglas & Kirkcudbright** on 5<sup>th</sup> March. These sessions are for existing (and new) Ambassadors and Teachers to familiarise themselves with the K'NEX Challenge, how it is run, how to run a workshop, how to use K'Nex etc. This will then enable Ambassadors to visit local primary schools and help deliver the K'Nex Challenge with the teacher. It is a great opportunity to meet other ambassadors and teachers in a relaxed environment.

If you are interested in attending any of the sessions please let Gail know and she can give you more details.

## Special Education Needs Schools

We have had a number of enquiries from SEN schools as to whether we can provide Ambassadors to help children with additional support needs. These may be pupils with disabilities or developmental disorders. In discussions with the teachers, they have suggested that their pupils would respond well to help with science related activities or talks.

**Crosshouse Primary in East Kilbride is a mainstream school with 4 classes in its Autistic Base** and the children in these classes are very interested in science. Teacher is interested in starting a science club during school hours (not after school). If you would like to help out with this school the teacher would be delighted to discuss with you ways in which you can be of help.

If you are interested in helping at Crosshouse or any SEN school, please let me know and we can discuss this further.

## Science Club Project – Smithycroft Secondary, Glasgow

As mentioned previously, the Glasgow University Science Festival is working on a new project to develop 2 new Science Cluster Clubs in the West of Scotland. Smithycroft Secondary in the east end of Glasgow has now registered as part of this pilot. Their 6 local primary schools,

**Avenue End; Carntyne; Cranhill; Royston; Sunnyside; Wallacewell**

are all taking part and we would like Ambassadors to support each of these primaries in this new Science Cluster Club.

Ambassadors can be involved by

- Attending the "start up" CPD Session for Teachers and Ambassadors to find out "What is a Science Club", Activities to do in the club etc. This will last between 1-2 hours and will probably be hosted at the Secondary school.
- Help schools during the 10 weeks with the experiments and projects they undertake as part of the pilot
- Attend a Science Fair at the Secondary school to showcase what the clubs have done.

This is a fantastic opportunity for a secondary to develop a science club and its associated primaries to have a science club also (but with the "big brother" help of the secondary) as well as having input from local Ambassadors.

If you would like to help please contact me. The Science Club project will commence in April/May at the start of the new summer term.

### K'NEX Challenge - Area Finals

The K'NEX Challenge is now well under way with schools all over the UK holding classroom challenges to find the best teams to go forward to the next stages. We are in the process of organising the Area Finals in May and are looking for Ambassadors to volunteer as judges for these Finals (see dates in "Requests" list). The Area Finals are a great way to become involved as a SEA. You are paired with another SEA and given one category to judge so you can compare notes with each other as you work through the teams.



**We need 10 judges for each event** so please let Gail know by emailing [seas@physics.gla.ac.uk](mailto:seas@physics.gla.ac.uk) if you would like to volunteer.

If you are interested in helping schools **before they get to the Area Final stage**, either by judging Cluster Challenges or holding K'NEX workshops please get in touch and we can tell you which schools in your area are taking part.

### Festival of Social Science -14<sup>th</sup> March

The Department of Psychology at Glasgow University and Glasgow Science Centre are hosting a festival of Social Science called "The Science of Social Interaction" on Friday 13th March 2009 from 10am to 4 pm. This event, at the Glasgow Science Centre, will have a number of interactive demos, presentations, for school children and the general public to get them interested in science.

Please visit [www.socialinteraction.gla.ac.uk](http://www.socialinteraction.gla.ac.uk) for more information and to register for this event.



## Social Interaction

Communication • Health • Technology • Security

Join us for a brain's-eye view of first impressions and their consequences. From classic findings to cutting edge research, this one-day event brings the science to life with vivid examples drawn from current affairs.

- Should this person be trusted?
- What happens when people 'click'?
- How do we cooperate?



**The Science of Social Interaction**  
Friday 13th March 2009 at Glasgow Science Centre

Find out more: [www.socialinteraction.gla.ac.uk](http://www.socialinteraction.gla.ac.uk) [www.esrcfestival.ac.uk](http://www.esrcfestival.ac.uk)  
Bookings: Heather Robertson 0141 330 6173 [h.robertson@psy.gla.ac.uk](mailto:h.robertson@psy.gla.ac.uk)



## British Science Association – looking for new members

The British Science Association which was formerly known as The BA (British Association for the Advancement of Science) has undergone a new look, which incorporates a new name and a new logo. The British Science Association envisages a society in which people from all walks of life are able to access science, engage with it and feel a sense of ownership about its direction.



The British Science Association has always involved volunteers. It was founded in 1831 by a group of amateur scientists that voluntarily organised the original British Science Association meeting - now the annual British Science Festival.

Whether you wish to gain experience in science communication, contribute academic expertise to Association events, or work with other like-minded volunteers to engage your local community, there will be a role to suit you - your local branch (West Scotland) needs you!

Please email Sandy Smith if you're interested in joining the British Science Association: [Sandy.Smith@britishscienceassociation.org](mailto:Sandy.Smith@britishscienceassociation.org)

## Global Marathon – Women's Engineering Society

The Vice President of the Women's Engineering Society is arranging a major global free webcast/teleconference for; by and about women in engineering in March called the Global Marathon. It has many leading companies involved and they would like to have some SEAs involved in pre-recorded or live chat sessions.



If you are interested in becoming involved let me know and I will put you in touch with the organiser.

## British Science Association - Media Fellowships available

The 2009 British Science Association **Media Fellowships** application process is now open online. It's a wonderful opportunity for scientists and engineers to see how science becomes news.

The Media Fellowships are intended to create a greater awareness and understanding of the workings of the media among practising scientists, social scientists, clinicians and engineers.

The Fellowships provide placements working with a national press, broadcast or internet journalist. During placements of between 3 and 8 weeks Fellows learn to work within the conditions and constraints of the media to produce accurate and well informed pieces about developments in science. For details about the scheme, including an online application form, **visit [www.britishscienceassociation.org/mediafellows](http://www.britishscienceassociation.org/mediafellows)**

Application deadline: 10 March 2009


## Induction Training

If you have not already undertaken your induction training, the next session will be run on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 3:00pm** in the University of Glasgow. If you would like to register for this induction please email or call us and we will reserve a place for you. The training will last around 1.5 hours and will enable you to complete your disclosure form also. The next training after this will be Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 3pm.

Thank you once again for all your efforts and please take a good look at the requests on offer and see where you can help out. If you need assistance or help to get started please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks

Regards



Science Connects Operations Manager