Welcome to the Cheshire & Wirral SLP Newsletter - Secondary Science, Spring 1 2023

Hello!

The New Year, although a welcome chance to re-set for many, is often less so for schools, falling as it does part way through the academic year. What it does herald is the start of a term, which usually has a strong focus on the preparation of students for forthcoming exams. The following blogpost, started as a request on twitter to share intervention ideas – there is some repetition but perhaps that helps to show which ideas are most popular; perhaps because they work best?

Helping pupils to build independence with the 7-step model is the theme of a recent EEF blog considering which teaching habits are best to support independence in students, with useful exemplification included.

With Ofsted inspections also back in full swing, it has been interesting to consider a recent report of the SchoolDash study, which looked at the changing focus of the inspectorate by measuring the prevalence of particular terms (how often topics are mentioned per 1,000 words, over the last 16 years). Unsurprisingly, the term Curriculum has seen an increase, particularly since the new school inspection framework, whilst assessment and attainment have declined. This blogpost, which provides a summary of areas of improvement from Ofsted reports in several areas including the North West, agrees with the curriculum focus, but also picks up other areas such as KS3 assessment and SEND.

This is a challenging time for secondary science education, not least because of the challenges around teacher recruitment and retention. The NFER has recently published a report, the key points of which can be found here. Ben Dunn is head of monitoring and evaluation for STEM Learning and he shares his thoughts here.

The STEM Community is 2 years old! And has a range of different groups from Careers, clubs and cross-curricular; to technicians; early career club and for subject specialism discuss biology, chemistry, or physics. There's an events section and a monthly podcast with discussion around relevant topics, plus the chance to tap into the expertise of the extended STEM Community.

If you are planning an event (or some themed lessons for Science Week (10-19 March) – this year's theme is Connections – have a look at the activity pack, encourage students to enter the poster competition or take part in an 'I'm a Scientist' chat.

The following resources may be helpful:
Ideas for building literacy, searchable by age and also by topic: Science Journal for Kids and Teens or for KS4 and above there's STEM's Catalyst magazine which comes with teacher notes to accompany some articles, detailing suggestions for classroom activities. This article discusses how to get students to improve their literacy skills through embedded and explicit scientific writing – using the context of structure and bonding to exemplify. This website features lots of stories to enhance the hinterland of each of the sciences; meanwhile if you are looking to diversify and expand the curriculum – this story features Darwin's unsung taxidermy tutor.

Anyone with post-16 students interested in chemistry beyond school might find this series of articles shared by the University of Bristol useful. The British Physics Olympiad has a series of different competitions, targeting students in years 10-13 – more here.

Sarah Longshaw
SLP Lead

Upcoming CPD

Secondary Subject Leader network – 7 February 13.30 - 15.30 F2F Birkenhead
A chance to network and share best practice with other subject leaders. Topics for discussion are:
Post- mock analysis and intervention: what analysis have you done and what actions are you taking as a result?
Adaptive teaching: how are we approaching this in our departments?

Stretch & Challenge of pupils in science | STEM 7 February 2023 – remote - twilight
Gain an understanding of what stretch and challenge looks like and ideas to develop your teaching and curriculum design.

Engaging & ensuring progress of 1-3 learners | STEM 9 February – remote
Develop strategies to engage lower attaining students with science and to ensure that pupil's skills are developed to allow them to access examinations and required practicals.

Developing Effective Leadership in Secondary Science – starts 2 March hybrid

Mapped to the NPQLT framework, the course focuses on three key themes: developing essential leadership skills, leading teaching and leading change.

Wirral Technician network meeting 23 March F2F Wallasey

This session recognises the pivotal role that technical support staff play and provides the opportunity to meet, discuss and share good practice.

Dates for thew Cheshire technician network and Cheshire Head of Science network are being finalised and will be uploaded to our website Science Learning Partnership (fallibroometrust.com) as soon as available.

Physics CPD

2023			
Physics Required Practical	22nd Feb 23	15:30 - 17:30	Ashton Community Science College
Calculations Series – Forces	27th Feb 23	15:30 - 17:30	The Deanery CofE High School, Wigan
A-Level Physics	27th Feb 23	09:30 - 16:00	Oldham 6th Form College
Physics Partners CPD Workshop – Waves	13th Mar 23	14:00 - 16:00	Manchester High School for Girls
Physics Partners CPD Workshop – Waves	16th Mar 23	15:30 - 17:00	Ashton Community Science College
Calculations Series – Energy	24th Apr 23	15:30 - 17:30	Elton High School, Bury
KS3 Practical Physics	24th Apr 23	15:30 - 17:30	The Deanery CofE High School, Wigan
Physics Partners CPD Workshop – Forces	25th Apr 23	15:30 - 17:00	Remote Delivery
Physics Partners CPD Workshop - Forces	26th Apr 23	14:00 - 16:00	Manchester High School for Girls
Physics Required Practicals	02nd May 23	09:15 - 15:15	Ashton Community Science College
Physics Required Practical	11th May 23	15:30 - 17:30	Ashton Community Science College
A-Level Physics	25th May 23	09:30 - 16:00	Oldham 6th Form College
Physics Partners CPD Workshop – Space	21st Jun 23	15:30 - 17:00	Remote Delivery
Physics Partners CPD Workshop – Particles	22nd Jun 23	14:00 - 16:00	Manchester High School for Girls

The most up to date info and booking links can be found here: Science Learning Partnership (fallibroometrust.com). To enquire about bespoke support please email slp@fallibroometrust.com