



**We are delighted that the Scottish Government has granted further support for SSERC and its partners to continue and build on 'Support for Scottish Science Education through CPD' until March 2011.**

From early October 2007 until the end of March 2008, the new SSERC premises in Dunfermline proved their worth and buzzed with even more life than normal. As part of the Scottish Government supported project 'Support for Scottish Science Education through CPD', new (albeit temporary) staff were busy helping develop resources and associated CPD, while science teachers and technicians took part in the CPD experience. Many of the courses offered took place in two parts (4½ days in all), with Part 2 taking place several weeks after Part 1.

Typical programmes included hands-on practical work, exciting speakers and discussion activities – all contributing to the 'delegate buzz'. Most sessions were held in the SSERC labs and meeting rooms, with residential accommodation and some course activities in local Dunfermline hotels. During Part 1, all course delegates were provided with a digital still or video camera, and

equipment such as alternative energy kits (chemistry and science courses), electrophoresis kits (biology course) or smart materials kits (physics), plus a host of ideas for engaging, participative activities to use with their pupils back in the classroom. Delegates were encouraged to try out or adapt activities from Part 1 of the course (the so-called 'gap task') and to 'show and tell' at Part 2. As a result, all delegates left the course with a host of new ideas to take forward in the classroom.

A typical delegate comment is: *'My classroom practice has changed as a result of this excellent, inspiring course'* This national initiative remains a collaborative Project whose partners include the Association for Science Education in Scotland, the Institute of Physics in Scotland, the Royal Society for Chemistry, Science and Plants for Schools, the Scottish Initiative for Biotechnology Education and the University of Edinburgh School of Chemistry. Planning is well underway for the 2008/9 programme of CPD that will support the needs of a variety of groups who are key to providing high quality learning and teaching experiences in the classroom:

## Teachers and technicians (see back page of this Bulletin)

- A series of five-day courses in two parts for teachers, incorporating a 'gap task' to be completed by delegates. Attendees will be provided with equipment and resources to use back in school. Courses will be offered in biology, chemistry, physics, primary science and science for early secondary
- A two-day course for probationer teachers
- Practical workshops (twilight, half-day, day) for teachers and technicians

## Technical support staff

- Continued development of nationally recognised qualifications and associated training courses
- Establishment of Local Authority Training Partnerships
- National two-day CPD Conference

## PGDE science students

- A two-day residential course open to all PGDE science students in Scotland

## New and aspiring Heads of Faculty

- Residential 2-part Leadership course for new and aspiring Heads of Faculty in association with the National Science Learning Centre, York
- 2-day residential 'expert' course offered to those who have attended previous Leadership courses

In addition, the funding has allowed a more formal partnership to be forged between the Association for Science Education in Scotland, the 'Project' and SSERC to provide the Scottish Science Education Conference, to be held in March 2009.

Further information on all of these courses is available from the SSERC website:

<http://www.sserc.org.uk/public/CPD/2008-9/menu.htm>

or from Sheila Maclellan: [sheila.maclellan@sserc.org.uk](mailto:sheila.maclellan@sserc.org.uk)

