

Forthcoming events

By 31 March 2009

Worldwide

Competition: The *Plus* magazine new writers award

Plus magazine is once again looking for the science writers of the future, who can make mathematics lively and interesting for a general audience. There are three categories in this writing competition: school students, university students and the general public. In the first category, secondary-school and sixth-form students are invited to write a piece of up to 900 words about the life and/or work of any mathematician, living or dead. The winning entries will be read by an international audience of over 100 000 in the June 2009 issue of *Plus*. There are also prizes for the best submissions, including signed copies of popular science books and an Apple iPod.

The closing date is 31 March 2009.

More information:

<http://plus.maths.org/competition>

13 November 2008 – May 2009

Competition: The chemical detective (Mit Chemie auf Spurensuche)

The ninth DECHEMAX school competition will start in November 2008. In the first round, teams of three to five students from Years 7-11 answer weekly questions on the Internet about biology, biotechnology and chemistry. Teams that pass the first round can take part in the second – experimental – round. There are certificates for all successful teams, and attractive prizes for the winners.

The competition is run in German. Registration open online on 1 October:

www.dechemax.de/anmeldung

More information: www.dechemax.de

Contact: dechemax@dechema.de, +49 (0)69 7564 164/172

12-14 December 2008

**Engineering Department,
University of Cambridge, UK**

Training course: Cambridge Update

All practising teachers of physics are invited to take part in a course run by the UK's Institute of Physics. Through a series of talks and workshops, participants will learn about recent developments in physics and the applications of physics, try new practical techniques and find out about developments in physics education.

The course costs £130 (residential) or £70 (non-residential). There is a discount for members of the Institute of Physics.

Flyers and application forms will be sent to UK schools early in September. Schools outside the UK who would like to be informed about the course are invited to contact the organisers.

Contact: Leila Solomon
(leila.solomon@iop.org)

Until 15 January 2009

Germany

Competition: Siemens school competition

This year's Siemens school competition in science, engineering and mathematics is all about water. How can we reduce our water consumption? How can we avoid water pollution? What technologies are available for acquiring drinking water and treating sewage? Students in Years 11-13 are invited to compete.

The deadline for registration is 31 October 2008. The submission deadline is 15 January 2009. The competition language is German.

More information:
www.siemens.de/generation21/schuelerwettbewerb

28 January 2009

Jemeppe-sur-Sambre, Belgium

Conference: Playful Sciences 3

Science on Stage Belgium invites secondary-school teachers and trainee teachers to join them in a day of playful sciences: presentations, experiments, games, a competition and a bag of experimental material to take home!

The introduction is in English, with the rest of the events in either French or Dutch (with translations available, if necessary). There are places for 200 participants and the event is free. To register, email info@scienceonstage.be by 1 November 2008.

More information: www.scienceonstage.be

15-17 February 2008

London, UK

Training course: Physics in Perspective

This study course for sixth-form and college students (aged 16-19) offers insights into the many aspects of modern physics, including cutting-edge physics topics, technological applications, as well as some 'fun' physics. The programme of six lectures is designed to counteract the misconception that physics is a dry, narrow subject concerned only with certainties and remote concepts, and to demonstrate how physics is used to

help us understand our environment, our planet and our Universe.

Organised by the UK's Institute of Physics, the course costs £20.

Contact: Leila Solomon
(leila.solomon@iop.org)

Until 30 April 2009

Europe-wide

Competition: Check out the Property

To help teachers make science lessons more fun and interesting, Xperimania has launched a new science competition, Check out the Property, for 10- to 20-year-old students.

Via fun and easy experiments detailed on the Xperimania website, students are encouraged to learn about chemical and physical properties of everyday objects, the materials that display those properties, and their uses in everyday life. Students are also invited to devise their own hypotheses and experiments and upload their laboratory reports, along with photographs, films or other multimedia sources.

There are prizes for the best entries: personal media players for the winning students and a prize fund for the winning schools to spend on scientific classroom resources.

More information:
www.xperimania.net/ww/en/pub/xperimania/competition2008.htm

Contact: xperimania@eun.org

26 September 2009

Lisbon, Oporto and Matosinhos, Portugal

Science festival: Researchers' Night 2008 'Scientists across Portugal'

As part of the European Researchers' Night initiative by the European Commission, the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, University of Oporto and Inova+ invite you to join the largest science communication event in Portugal.

In Lisbon, events and activities at the Cultural Centre of Belém include:

- A 'walk for science'
- Speed-dating with scientists
- Science-art exhibits
- Hands-on experiments
- A scientists' bands stage
- Interactive science in the Champimovel.

In Oporto, at the ocean-front of Matosinhos and the Planetarium of the University of Oporto, the activities include:

- Exhibitions and workshops
- Starlab – the portable planetarium
- Speed-dating with scientists
- Hands-on experiments
- Cafes scientifiques
- Performances by university music groups
- Interactive science in the Oceanário Shuttle (Oceanário de Lisboa).

More information:
www.igc.gulbenkian.pt/investigadores2008

All year

CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

Training course: CERN high-school teacher programme

CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory, organises one-week courses for secondary-school physics teachers who would like to increase their knowledge of particle physics and cosmology, who want to find out more about the world of frontier research, and who wish to bring modern physics into their classrooms. The course materials are aimed at students aged 13-16.

The courses cover (at an introductory level) particle physics, cosmology, detectors, accelerators and applications. Teachers have the opportunity to visit CERN's experimental installations. Each course is aimed at teachers from a particular European country and is run in the national language.

The courses are free of charge, but the participants are expected to pay for their travel expenses and accommodation.

More information:

<http://education.web.cern.ch/education>

Contact: Mick Storr (mick.storr@cern.ch)

All year

Schullabor Novartis, Basel, Switzerland

Workshop: 'Gentechnik Erleben' (Experience Genetic Engineering)

These workshops focus on practical laboratory work, but background information is given for all experiments. Secondary-school students isolate plasmid DNA from bacterial cultures and digest it with restriction enzymes. The resulting DNA fragments are separated and visualised by gel electrophoresis.

The workshops are for secondary-school students who already have the necessary theoretical background and are over 17 years of age. The workshops are free of charge, are in German or English (on request), and have a maximum of 20 participants. Teachers are invited to get in touch to arrange a workshop for their class.

More information:

www.schullabor.ch

Contact: Gesche Standke (gesche.standke@novartis.com)

All year

Schools and other venues in the UK
Roadshow: Cool Seas

Run by the Marine Conservation Society, the Cool Seas Roadshow visits primary and junior schools throughout the UK. It entertains and educates school children about the importance of conserving the UK's spectacular marine wildlife, using life-size inflatable models of whales, dolphins, sharks, turtles and seals in dynamic presentations given by a marine wildlife education specialist. The roadshow involves a full day of presentations to different classes, and costs either £175 or £350, depending on how much the school can contribute.

Each school that is visited receives printed materials and web-based resources, including an activity booklet for each student, and a poster for every classroom. The curriculum-linked, web-based resources can be viewed here:

www.mcsuk.org/coolseas

The roadshow is also suitable for public events outside school, so if you are planning an environmental event or have a large and suitable audience in mind, please get in touch.

More information: www.mcsuk.org

Contact: info@mcsuk.org

All year

10 locations around the UK

Training courses: science continuing professional development

The national network of Science Learning Centres, set up by the UK Department for Skills and Education and the Wellcome Trust, provides continuing professional education for everyone involved in UK science education, at all levels. With nine regional centres and a national centre in York, access to innovative and inspiring courses is within reach across the UK. The centres not only deliver hundreds of courses, but also act as a focus for all the science learning activities in their region.

More information:

www.sciencelearningcentres.org.uk

Contact: enquiries@national.slcs.ac.uk

All year

Glasgow Science Centre, Glasgow, UK

Free teacher visits

Teachers, classroom assistants, nursery teachers and technicians are invited to visit the Glasgow Science Centre, free of charge, to explore and investigate what is on offer.

More information:

www.glasgowsciencecentre.org

Contact: +44 (0)871 540 1003

All year

Many Scottish venues, UK

Roadshow: Science Circus

Glasgow Science Centre's outreach team brings all the fun of the science centre directly to schools and community groups throughout Scotland thanks to its lively travelling Science Circus. Science Circus activities consist of amazing live science shows and interactive exhibits delivered at your venue.

More information:

www.glasgowsciencecentre.org

Contact: +44 (0)871 540 1004

All year

Pembrokeshire, Wales, UK

Field trip: Rockpools

The Pembrokeshire Darwin Science Festival invites all primary schools in Pembrokeshire to book a rockpool ramble and identification field trip. The course is aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 8-11), takes half a day and is led by three qualified marine scientists. Cost: £250 with a bus or £170 without a bus. Maximum 30 children.

More information:

www.darwincentre.com

Contact: Marten Lewis

(M.B.Lewis@pembrokeshire.ac.uk)

All year

Pembrokeshire, Wales, UK

Workshops: Primary school

The Pembrokeshire Darwin Science Festival offers a double workshop visit for a maximum of 30 Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 8-11) and costs £200. The group is split into two workshops, which run simultaneously:

- Plankton/microscopy identification workshop
- Energy workshop using dynamos, solar panels and a steam engine as hands-on props.

Also available are three 90-minute workshops, each for a maximum of 20 pupils and costing £120:

- Oil-spill workshop for Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 8-11)
- Climate-change workshop for Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 8-11)
- Marine-litter workshop for Key Stage 1 pupils (ages 4-7).

More information:

www.darwincentre.com

Contact: Marten Lewis

(M.B.Lewis@pembrokeshire.ac.uk)

All year

Paris-Montagne, Paris, France

Science Academy

Throughout the year, Paris-Montagne runs an outreach programme in all Parisian suburbs and in the Lyon area. The science academy is for high-school students who are interested in science but not confident enough to enrol for undergraduate studies, due to social and cultural hindrances. The organisation offers students personal tutoring and the possibility to discover the world of research by meeting researchers in various fields and by carrying out their own research in real laboratories during their holidays (100 labs, from three hospitals and a dozen universities and research institutes, participated in April 2008). The most dedicated participants in the programme are offered the chance to take part in a summer camp during the Paris-Montagne science festival in July, and also to attend other scientific summer camps in Europe (including Petnica, Kut Diak and Visnjan).

Since its creation in 2006, nearly 300 high-school students have participated in the science academy, and each year around 1500 participants visit the Paris-Montagne science festival.

More information:

www.scienceacademie.org

All year

Portugal

School visits: MIT professors go to Portuguese secondary schools

Ciência Viva is organising short talks by MIT professors in Portuguese secondary schools, as part of a co-operation between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Portuguese universities in the areas of bioengineering, sustainable energy and transport systems. The students have direct contact with MIT professors and can discuss their ideas and ask questions about these important engineering areas.

Schools are selected based on their motivation for participating in the programme and on the projects they have developed in the areas of science and engineering.

More information:

www.cienciaviva.pt/divulgacao/mit

Contact: mit@cienciaviva.pt

All year

INTECH Winchester, UK

Free teacher visits

Teachers are invited to visit INTECH, the hands-on interactive science and discovery centre, free of charge or to attend a teacher preview session to discover what is available for school visits and workshops.

More information:

www.intech-uk.com

Contact: Angela Ryde-Weller

(AngelaRydeWeller@intech-uk.com)

If you organise events or competitions that would be of interest to European science teachers and you would like to see them mentioned in *Science in School*, please email details – including date, location, title, abstract, price, language, registration deadline, website and contact email address – to editor@scienceinschool.org.

