

SCORE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013

Tuesday 26 February 2013 · 10.00am – 4.30pm · Royal Society, London

Assessing the sciences: exploring ways assessment can help to promote an authentic experience of the sciences in 11-19 education



Your Invitation to Attend

2013 will be my last conference as SCORE Chair, and I am very pleased to invite you to attend. This year's conference will consider ways in which assessment can be used to encourage an authentic experience of the sciences, and act as a driver for improving teaching and learning.

The reforms to A-levels and Key Stage 4 qualifications make this a timely subject for discussion, and we hope to debate ways in which innovative methods of assessment can help to inspire students in their study of the sciences.

As well as a series of talks, the conference will offer delegates the opportunity to discuss in depth the assessment of different aspects of the sciences, including practical work and mathematics, and contribute directly to SCORE's early thinking on projects they are running in this area.

We hope you are able to join us in the debate and look forward to welcoming you on 26 February.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Graham Hutchings'.

SCORE Chair

Graham Hutchings FRS, Professor of Physical Chemistry
and Director of the Cardiff Catalysis Institute, School of Chemistry

The SCORE Annual Conference is FREE to attend.

To reserve your free place, please use our guest booking system

www.score-education.org/conference-booking

WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM ATTENDING?

The SCORE conference is open to all who have an interest in science education. This year's conference will focus on assessment, so will have particular relevance to the following:

- Teachers and practitioners
- Awarding organisations
- Training providers
- Education researchers
- Government and agencies involved in education and assessment
- Learned societies and professional bodies

There is a restriction of 120 guests and places will be allocated to ensure there is a wide representation of teachers and organisations. We anticipate that the event will be oversubscribed, so please register as quickly as possible. Your place will be confirmed on 9 January 2013.

There is funding available for teachers and practitioners employed by a school or college to help towards their travel expenses and supply cover to a maximum of £200 + VAT. You can request funding on the guest booking system.



AGENDA

The agenda for the day is designed to be informative, interactive and thought-provoking. Delegates will have the opportunity to listen to a variety of views on assessment and then contribute to the discussions through a series of workshops.

WORKSHOPS

Assessment of mathematics in the sciences

Mathematics is an integral part of the sciences, allowing students to understand and describe many scientific phenomena. However, there is concern that these skills are not effectively assessed at GCSE and A-level; SCORE has carried out research that revealed that some mathematical requirements are assessed in a limited way or not at all. SCORE has recently commenced a further research project investigating how mathematical skills could be better assessed in the A-level sciences, and would like to use the workshop at the conference to explore what is meant by the mathematical skills for each of the three sciences, and how those skills can be assessed effectively.

Assessment of practical work

The sciences are practical subjects, and the opportunity to do high quality practical work in science lessons promotes the engagement and interest of students, as well as developing a range of skills, science knowledge and conceptual understanding. However, they are not easy skills to assess. SCORE would like to explore different ways in which practical skills can be assessed, and would like to use the workshops to get the views of teachers and others on how they currently assess practical work in the classroom and what they would like to see in the future, given the proposed changes to Key Stage 4 assessment.

Registration will open at 9.15am and cloakroom facilities will be available. The conference starts at 10.00am and will finish at 4.30pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.



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