

Rt Honourable Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT

18 May 2010

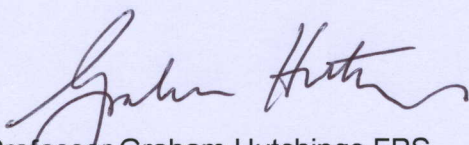
I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Education. SCORE provides independent advice on science education policy and the partners in SCORE looks forward to providing you with advice in your new role.

The SCORE partnership comprises the Association for Science Education, Institute of Physics, Royal Society, Royal Society of Chemistry, Science Council and the Society of Biology. During the past two years, the SCORE partners have worked together to:

- review the quality of practical work in science in schools and secured bespoke training for specialist science teachers
- review the GCSE science examination papers in 2008 and expressed concerns about the quality of these examinations
- provide advice on a range of issues including the qualifications that are currently included in the science indicator and Key Stage 2 assessment
- provide advice on the Science Diploma, particularly the hurried development without a clear vision or purpose for the qualification
- undertake research in the information available to prospective applicants to HE STEM Degree Courses and highlight the lack of transparency and complexity of the information available to applicants.

The SCORE partners are committed to providing a coherent voice for the science community on issues in science education. We would welcome a regular, six-monthly meeting, with you and other members of your ministerial team to provide you with advice about science education. Meanwhile, we hope you will feel able to request advice from the SCORE partnership at any time.

Congratulations again on your appointment and I look forward to meeting with you soon,



Professor Graham Hutchings FRS  
Chair of SCORE

Cc Nick Gibb MP Schools Minister; David Bell, Permanent Secretary