

Guidance on sessions/lectures to schools and colleges

Science Week Workshop Sessions

Thank you for agreeing to deliver one of the above sessions

I have drafted some guidance that you may find useful – gleaned from recent evaluations of events from both pupils and teachers.

Aims

- ❑ To enthuse and excite young people for science
- ❑ To enhance their confidence in the subject through stimulating interaction and encourage them to consider these subjects in H.E.
- ❑ To extend their knowledge AND UNDERSTANDING of the subject matter (note this is not necessarily the prime aim for this group of students at these events; the first two are paramount)

Key points

Science topics/issues that young people are ‘into’ – Forensics/crime, climate change, environmental issues, space exploration, Harry Potter/Narnia, satellite tracking/ mobile phones, films(?), music,.....as well as DNA/cloning etc – some possible handles to link to perhaps.....

- ❑ Pose questions throughout the session – begin by asking from their own experience; do everything to break the ice and get them confident in answering (even in a lecture) – explore whether they have covered topics in their GCSE/A level studies etc
- ❑ Be informal – and introduce yourself and your background/school experience, what excites you about science
- ❑ Use anecdotes (careers your students have gone on to etc) and good visual aids – anything they can handle? Any practical activities at all they can do (even in a lecture).....?
- ❑ Try to put your session into context – their own experience/knowledge, why your topic is important/topical.....don’t assume they will all know (or agree) why we should be researching/studying various issues
- ❑ If appropriate, have handouts (or activities to take away) to give out, even just a copy of your presentation for the teachers – they like to go away with something to consider/share with others (ask me if you need help with this). A good follow-up website is always useful – pose a couple of questions that they might want to follow up.
- ❑ Encourage questions throughout– I will give out question cards they can fill in when they return to school, which will help us keep in touch with them
- ❑ Avoid too much jargon/technical terms – introduce them and check towards the end of session how far they have remembered them
- ❑ If at all possible, please do not include *complicated* graphs with pre-16 students – keep things simple if giving data!
- ❑ Quote from recent 6th form session – ‘talk needed to be slowed down, a touch simplified, more time for asking questions, better introduction to topic if new concepts/ideas to students, would have liked one or two students to have taken part in an experiment (even if the rest could just watch)