

England's Science Learning Centres

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<http://www.sciencelearningcentres.org.uk/>

Thanks to Bryan Berry, Director SLCSw



What has brought about the National Network of Science Learning Centres?

"Our ambition is for the UK to become the science capital of the world. We are well on the way. I believe we can be the best."

The Prime Minister, 17 November 2004



We are all scientists now

(Sara Parkin, a founding Director of Forum for the Future, the UK's leading sustainable development charity)

It is essential to have young people prepared to become the engineers, research scientists and doctors of the future.

It is essential, but not enough. Developed countries also need a population who understand science, and are critically aware of its implications.



UK needs to double new science graduates over seven years or see skilled jobs disappear.

Confederation of British Industries
Press Release,



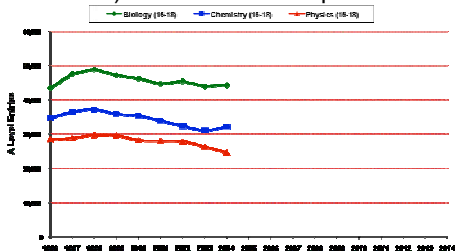
History

Created in response to calls for action, the UK Government and the [Wellcome Trust](#) invested £51 million in the creation of the **national network of Science Learning Centres**.

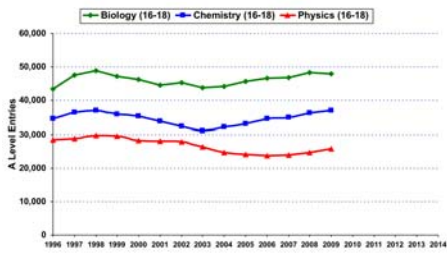
After a competitive tendering process the first Science Learning Centre opened its doors in October 2004



Pre University Examination ('A-Levels') Science entries up to 2004



A Level Science entries



Aims

Increase participation in science at post-16

Develop scientific literacy for all pupils

by

Enthusiasing and inspiring teachers to engage pupils in science

Developing and extending teaching skills

Having an impact in schools



Continuing Professional Development for science teachers

- Of a quality to match the CPD available in business and the professions
- Reconnecting science teachers with their subject
- Updating and extending teaching skills
- Relevant to the needs of individual schools



Progressive transformation of classroom culture

To be more up-to-date, relevant and exciting

To cover the processes, people and products of science as well as the concepts and facts

To develop skills to engage in discussion using reasoned arguments, understanding how the media works.

Make citizens and people taking science decisions communicate their views and take actions.



The Science Learning Centre Network



....venues across the south-west region



- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| 1 Penwith Centre | 7 St Cuthberts Conference Centre | 14 Ralgh Allen School |
| 2 Truro School | 8 University of Plymouth, Exmouth Campus | 15 The Ridgeway School |
| 3 Eden Project | 9 University of Plymouth, Plymouth College | 16 Haselec Centre |
| 4 University of Plymouth | 10 Thomas Hardy School | 17 Wincoboe School |
| 5 Plymouth College | 11 Heath Epinger School | 18 University of Bristol |
| 6 Senior Science Park | | 19 Science Learning Centre South West (SLCSW) |

Primary – Units/themes

- Leadership
- Enquiry
- Assessment
- Science across the curriculum
- Enrichment
- Supporting science teaching
- Early years and foundation stage science
- Creative and Innovative Approaches
- Teaching and Learning



Secondary – Units/themes

- Contemporary science
- How Science Works
- New initiatives in the science curriculum
- Science for non-specialists
- Practical work
- Developing ICT
- Teaching, learning and assessment
- Supporting science teaching
- Enrichment and engagement
- Leadership and management



How is the Training Done?

Delivered through..
*courses (face to face/on line), conferences,
events and bespoke CPD*



Impact awards

Regional Science Learning Centres can provide bursaries for teachers to attend most of the courses on the Secondary Core Programme.

Schools can claim £200 for each day attended course.

This can be used for supply cover and/or the cost of course fees.



Science Learning Centres:

The achievements in 2008/09

Over 19,600 training days – exceeding throughput targets

Over 53,000 registered users on the portal

Reached 73% of secondary schools/ colleges and

17% of primary schools in England

98% of participants would recommend programmes to others

73% said pupils' motivation had improved



What remains to be done - nationally?

Wide gaps in science achievement between different schools and colleges

Decline in interest in science is worrying

Still too much uninspired teaching going on



Opportunities for the Science Learning Centres

- To help teachers take advantage of their new freedom
- To reach a wider range of schools and colleges by going out to them
- To provide subject leadership at national and school level
- To provide a wider range of services to schools and colleges
- To expand the remit from science to STEM – particularly mathematics and design & technology



What will not change?

Our starting point will always be teachers: we believe in giving teachers tools to strengthen their subject knowledge and teaching skills, so they can teach in a more inspired way.

For further information please contact:

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