Dear Colleagues,

As I write, there is news of yet more changes to the primary science curriculum and secondary teachers are busy making sure that they have met the requirements of the new examination syllabi. It is already hard enough to plan and teach without the additional burden of curriculum changes.

At Life, we seek to help teachers with areas they find difficult. This may be areas where the school lacks equipment or topics which teachers find daunting or dull. Our hands-on, minds-on, hearts-on approach leads to deep learning which benefits both student confidence and exam performance. We can even help you organise a stress-free end of term trip or a leaver’s prom.

As always, if you are looking for something not featured on our website, please get in touch. We would be delighted to help.

Noel Jackson

New to Life?

Life Science Centre, part of the International Centre for Life, is a unique educational resource based in Newcastle upon Tyne. We offer curriculum enrichment and enhancement through our exhibitions, workshops, planetarium and theatre shows, STEM expertise and top-notch equipment. You can easily spend a full day here or just have a half-day visit – the choice is yours.

A typical school visit includes time in the science centre plus a workshop in our labs – or you can opt for a workshop or a science centre visit only. Science centre visits usually include a visit to the planetarium, where we can also offer live, presenter-led shows.

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Noel Jackson
Where is the science? Everywhere!

Why teach science in isolation when you can incorporate science at an age-appropriate level into wider topics?

Engineering workshops

The key to engineering is not to simply ‘make’, but to ‘make-observe-evaluate-modify!’ Life’s workshops enable students to use existing knowledge to solve more complex problems by building:

• Rubbish Rockets (forces, friction and air resistance, KS1-4)
• Marble Runs (friction and gravity, KS2+)
• Burglar Alarms (electrical circuits, UKS2+)
• Hexayurt: Emergency Relief Engineering (geometry, nets, KS2-3)

Maths workshops

Rich Tasks (KS1-4)

How do you go to the toilet in space?

Young people often complain that they find maths irrelevant to the real world. However, they are happy to develop maths skills to answer questions to which they want to know the answer. Many of Life’s workshops include opportunities for students to use age-appropriate maths to answer those all important questions!

Dinomaths (KS2+)

Investigate fossil remains mathematically to find out more about the lives of dinosaurs.

Students work out the size of an Apatosaurus by applying formula to measurements taken from a full-sized replica dinosaur femur. They then measure dinosaur tracks to work out not only the size of the dinosaur but whether it was walking or running.

History workshops (KS2)

Life’s workshops are more than lessons about the history of science. In these interactive workshops students can:

• Investigate which batch of natron is best for dehydrating bodies in Egyptian Mummification
• Evaluate Vitruvius’ protocol for making effective roads and the effectiveness of Roman bridges in Roman Builders
• Find out how Archimedes discovered that King Hiero’s crown was not made of pure gold and replicate his famous ‘Eureka’ experiment in Ancient Greek Science
• Discover the cause of bubonic plague and design protective clothing for modem-day plague doctors in Plague Medicine.

Geography workshops (KS2-3)

Where is the science? Everywhere!

Why teach science in isolation when you can incorporate science at an age-appropriate level into wider topics?

Natural disasters is a very popular topic in primary schools and, by popular demand, we offer the following workshops:

Volcanoes

We explore the benefits and issues arising from living close to active volcanoes, and students combine geological and topographical information to work out where a new village should be sited to keep the inhabitants safe. They use our mini-volcanoes to model lava flows, and the session ends on a high with a huge eruption!

Earthquakes

Why do earthquakes happen and how can we make an earthquake-proof building? Students learn about the causes of earthquake movements and carry out hands-on investigations using our set of earthquake tables.

Other workshops are available!

Life offers a wide range of workshops covering the whole of the science National Curriculum up to KS2, with a more specialist selection for secondary students. Visit our website (education.life.org.uk) for details.

Codings workshops

Our coding workshops, developed in partnership with Cognesence, complement our summer exhibition Game On 2.0 and help students of all ages to learn code.

Coding Bees (KS1)

Students work in small groups to program Beesbots to follow set routes and use the NetLogo arena to make their virtual bees behave in the same way as their friends’ Beebots.

Coding Ants (LKS2)

Students use a simple virtual ant program to observe the way very simple instructions in simple systems can lead to emergent behaviours.

Coding Foxes and Rabbits (Food Chains) (UKS2)

Students learn how to use NetLogo to construct a basic predator/prey relationship and manipulate parameters to create different outcomes.

End of term treats

Wizard Science (Primary)

Magic is always exciting but it becomes even more exciting when students can explore the magic for themselves and understand the underlying science. Students can expect to create gravity-defying water and colour-changing wands, sit on a chair of nails without harm, learn how to balance a broomstick and end with a great WHOOSH for the finale.

Pick ‘n’ Mix (Secondary)

Secondary teachers are invited to pick two from a selection of exciting hands-on 30-minute activities.

The range includes:
• DIY Cosmetics
• DIY rockets
• DNA bracelets
• Genes in a bottle
• Marble run
• Show-off science
• Stars tonight

Further details of all workshops are available online education.life.org.uk

Why not combine your trip with a visit to the science centre?

Bookings: (0191) 243 8223  Information: (0191) 243 8211  education.life.org.uk  education@life.org.uk
For new sign-ups, please email education@life.org.uk with your full name, position and school and specify whether you would rather receive it by email or post.

Sign up

Go paperless?

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please let us know by emailing education@life.org.uk.

For full details of what’s on at Life for schools, along with risk assessments, visit education.life.org.uk

To make a booking, or for details of workshops and prices, call (0191) 243 8223. Can’t find what you’re looking for or want to discuss the best options for your school? Speak to Noel Jackson, Life’s Head of Education, or any member of his team, on (0191) 243 8211 or email education@life.org.uk.

How to book

Prices

Science centre visit only: £6.00 per pupil
Science centre visit and workshop: £9.00 per pupil
Workshop only: £4.00 per pupil

Additional prices

Playful Science (Early Years Workshop): £6.00 per pupil
Masterclass: £150 (full class) or £75 (half class)
Outreach: £360 per day
Teachers and adult helpers: FREE*
Adult workshops: Price on request

*We recommend a ratio of 1 adult to every 5 children for most groups. Additional adults over this ratio will be charged.

In the case of SEN and reception/nursery groups, we may offer further free adult support on request – contact us to discuss your requirements. Education prices are only available during term time. You must pre-book to be entitled to the above rates.

Animal Adaptation roadshow

If you are looking for something exciting to be delivered to your whole school, why not consider Animal Adaptation? If David Attenborough did pantomime, this would be the result!

In this show, members of the audience help deliver exciting demonstrations that illustrate how animals are adapted to their habitats.

The show can be differentiated to be suitable for EYFS-KS3.

Details of other outreach opportunities can be found on the website education.life.org.uk/outreach.

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Sign up

For new sign-ups, please email education@life.org.uk with your full name, position and school and specify whether you would rather receive it by email or post.

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FSC Logo

As this newsletter lands on your desk, Life will be preparing for the launch of Game On 2.0, our exciting summer exhibition. Whilst work is underway to transform the centre for the arrival of the exhibition, and also our new permanent exhibition Creative Zone, we’ll be closing on weekdays.

Life Science Centre will be closed Monday to Friday from 7 May – 24 May 2019, remaining open as usual on weekends and re-opening fully on 25 May 2019.

Apologies for the disruption – but we promise it will be worth the wait!