



***Plymouth Marine Sciences Partnership***

## **Information for teachers**

The Plymouth Marine Sciences Partnership (PMSP) consists of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, the University of Plymouth, the Marine Biological Association of the UK, the National Marine Aquarium and the Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science. These five leading marine science and technology organisations work closely together to optimise their knowledge and strengths for the benefit of the region, the UK and international communities. All partners have a strong commitment to education and promoting public understanding of science. Links with schools, colleges and their local communities are an important part of showing how science works, what scientists do, and how scientific research fits into society.

**The Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)** is an independent and impartial collaborative centre of the Natural Environment Research Council. We take an active role in organising activities which are geared towards promoting the 'public understanding of science'. We currently have five Science & Engineering Ambassadors and they have been involved in a variety of activities together with other staff which include National Science Week school visits, talks to pupils of a range of ages from 5 through to 16, exhibitions, beach visits, and combining marine science with art. As well as these there have been a number of TV appearances and articles in both the local and national news. Interest generated from our activities leads to a high volume of work experience requests. Over the past few years we have provided work experience placements for year 10 pupils (10-12 per year), 'A' Level students (2-3 per year), undergraduates and have provided Nuffield Science projects. For more information please visit [www.pml.ac.uk](http://www.pml.ac.uk) or contact Elaine Fileman the Schools Liaison Officer, email: [ese@pml.ac.uk](mailto:ese@pml.ac.uk).

**The University of Plymouth** offers hundreds of school children the chance to visit and take part in various events and educational talks every year. This year, during National Science Week the University ran a series of fascinating interactive talks and presentations on subjects ranging from volcanic eruptions and science with bubbles to the links between the brain, biology and behaviour. The University of Plymouth take part in this event every year and always try to appeal to both primary and secondary school students. The University was also involved in the very successful Weird World Exhibition and Events. The topics covered included, 'Robots on the Move', 'Earth, Air and Water', 'Marine Worlds', 'Awesome Earth' and 'Bugs Alive'. Students can also visit our Electron Microscopy Unit. The microscopes are used extensively in investigations of cell structure and tissue organisation, and we are currently involved in a number of collaborative studies with Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust in areas of biomedical research including respiratory and renal biology. The students can see firsthand, aspects of these biomedical research programmes as well as applications in other aspects of biology. The University of Plymouth has been selected to be part of an initiative by the Department for Education and Skills and The Wellcome Trust to create a national network of Science Learning Centres. From

January 2005, the Science Learning Centre South West will offer innovative continuing professional development for science teachers, technicians and learning support assistants from primary, secondary and post-16 schools and colleges. For more information on such visits please contact Ciara Caleshu on 01752 232932 or email [Ciara.caleshu@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:Ciara.caleshu@plymouth.ac.uk)

**The National Marine Aquarium** is the first aquarium in the United Kingdom to be set up solely for the purpose of education, conservation and research. It remains Britain's foremost aquarium and in the four years it has been open it has attracted over one and half million visitors through its door. We have recently reviewed and revised our education programme. Our Primary, Secondary, and Post 16 programmes are linked to the National Curriculum and other national qualifications. Our stimulating in-depth three-hour sessions consist of a two-hour themed tour of the Aquarium combined with an hour of associated art, drama or science activities. Our specialist team of education staff has produced a range of exciting interactive hands-on sessions, and it is also possible to tailor activities to meet individual group requirements. Choose from either an Independent Visit or a 2 or 3 hour In-Depth Visit for both Primary and Secondary Schools. These cover key areas from Science and Geography to Literacy and Numeracy. For more information see [www.national-aquarium.co.uk/education](http://www.national-aquarium.co.uk/education).

**The Marine Biological Association (MBA)** is a professional body for marine biologists that has been established for over 100 years. We have an international reputation for excellence and innovation in research, by the resident scientific staff at our Laboratory at Plymouth and visiting research workers. The MBA operates a programme called the Marine Life Information Network (*MarLIN*). This is an electronic resource that is designed to make marine life information freely and rapidly available through the internet. The *MarLIN* website includes 'the Learning Zone' (<http://www.marlin.ac.uk/learningzone>), providing information on key marine species, topics such as climate change, non-native species and marine biodiversity. It also encourages on-line marine life recording as well as the promotion of other recording schemes and events. The *MarLIN* team also produces complementary products such as identification guides, posters, flyers and marine life stickers. Events such as *Seashore Safaris* are organised for schoolchildren and the interested public. Other activities designed to promote public understanding of science include National Science Week (for more information see [www.mba.ac.uk](http://www.mba.ac.uk)).

**The Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science (SAHFOS)** runs the Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey which monitors plankton distribution and abundance in the North Atlantic and North Sea. The survey has been running for 73 years this year. We run quite an extensive education programme which includes web based information and arranged school visits/ workshops. The education website is split into Key stage groups, 'A' level, Undergraduate and Teachers pages. Here students and teachers can download information on plankton communities, food chains, how plankton help us determine changes in the marine environment and climate change. We use up to date research to illustrate topics that are covered in the National Curriculum, for example photosynthesis. Our overall aim is to promote awareness of the marine environment and enable teachers to use the information in schools. For more information see [www.sahfos.org/education](http://www.sahfos.org/education).

***For further information about the PMSP please visit [www.pmsp.org.uk](http://www.pmsp.org.uk)***