Increased space at SSERC!

Teachers and technicians who have been to SSERC on courses or just to pop in for advice have probably been in either our meeting room or laboratory, the latter being slightly larger than most school labs in order to accommodate 20 adults.

On September 17th, Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages opened a new building that greatly enhances our training space. Unit 1, Pitreavie Court had been empty for some time. With considerable support from our local authority partners, in particular Fife and

South Lanarkshire Councils, and through funding from the Wellcome Trust, Myscience and the Scottish Government, SSERC was able to lease and refurbish this building.

Just as the SSERC lab in Unit 2 can be thought of as a slightly scaled up school laboratory, the ground floor of the new building has been turned into a scaled up school technology area with the space and machinery to run training for technical education teachers and technicians. The ever-popular Safe Use of Workshop Machinery can now be run in-house, complemented by new courses in Hot Metal Working and Digital Design.

The upper floor has an area that can accommodate large meetings and support primary science and technology professional development, making it possible to accommodate the sorts of numbers of course participants that would previously have required the hire of a hotel function room. Also on the upper floor is

a permanent Glow studio with video facilities. SSERC's interactive "Cookalong" Glow CPD has proved to be very popular but until now has necessitated the speedy construction and subsequent packing away of a temporary studio in Unit 2. The opening event allowed representatives of many of SSERC's partner organisations to not only visit the new facility but to see elements of our experiential CPD courses for themselves. In a short speech, Dr Allan praised the work of SSERC and emphasised the importance of STEM to the Scottish economy. ◀