

IOP Teacher Award 2020

Dr Catherine Dunn

Anyone who has worked with Catherine knows how sharp, rigorous, humble, creative and talented she is.


What also quickly becomes apparent is that she really is dedicated to helping pupils, students, teachers and colleagues in any way she can – nothing is too much trouble for Catherine. She is always extremely generous with her support. Catherine's physics and maths ability can only be described as "incredible". She rigorously writes up all her experiments and results in her lab journal so that if any enquiries come in about the experiment she can back up her advice with typical results. She is quietly efficient; she knows what needs to be done and works quietly away before presenting her well thought out product or idea. Catherine is a very creative teacher. She is superb at combining ideas and resources and

creating fantastic, novel teaching materials. Catherine is also just as happy making model cardboard houses for an energy topic so that she can share the template with other teachers.

All at SSERC were therefore delighted to learn that Catherine was a winner of the Institute of Physics Teacher of Physics Award 2020.

Catherine's citation for the award reads as follows:

In recent years Catherine has split her teaching between pupils at St Leonard's School in St Andrews and SSERC where she has supported the professional learning of teachers of physics. Catherine is a lovely, humble person but she has an extremely sharp mind. There can be few teachers who surpass her regarding intellectual ability and rigour. However, her creativity and empathy allow her to present difficult concepts in novel, accessible ways. Catherine has supported many



pupils and teachers and her support is often bespoke, but she then shares these solutions with the wider community. As a result Catherine is well-known throughout the Scottish physics teaching community. She attends and presents at national events and is well-respected, and indeed well-loved, by the Scottish physics teaching community.

A very worthy recipient of the 2020 IOP Teacher of Physics award. Congratulations from all at SSERC Catherine. <<

"Catherine pitched the music experience at a perfect level. It was very enjoyable and I can see how the experiences can be used and develop to engage with the children."