

The re-introduction of practical assignments and projects

The re-introduction of Practical Assignments and Projects at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Sciences reinforces the critical role that practical work plays in helping learners develop practical skills related to the generalisation, interpretation, and application of certain scientific ideas and materials.

In the academic session 2023/2024 SSERC supported this re-introduction by providing a range of professional learning opportunities focusing on assignment and project activities that could be used to support SQA assessment specifications.

In the academic session 2024/2025, we will provide proactive support for Practical Assignments and Projects which will have a focus on **new** practical activities that can be used to support SQA assessment specifications, but which takes into account the current resource (equipment and consumables) and financial restrictions that many science departments are facing. Significantly, a large amount of

SSERC professional learning is either free or heavily subsidised.

Our professional learning is rightly focussed on supporting education practitioners across the 3-18 curriculum and we will ensure that our professional learning is scheduled early in the new academic session to ensure that teachers (and learners) have sufficient time to plan and prepare for assignment and project submissions – the dates of which are notified well in advance by SQA.

We will continue to support teachers with ongoing advice and support throughout the academic year, however, as the submission date for assignments and projects nears, we may be unable to support late requests e.g. equipment loans, and access to SSERC facilities to support



learner activity. Any questions relating to assessment should be directed to SQA. Increasingly we are being contacted by individual learners seeking support relating to assignments and projects. In all cases, we will refer the learner back to their centre.

If you have any suggestions as to how we may be able to further support you, and your learners relating to any aspect of practical science, please contact the relevant Education Manager at SSERC. <<

Alastair MacGregor

Alastair MacGregor - Chief Executive Officer

