

# A Day of Learning: SSERC STEM Technician Training Day, 2024

The SSERC STEM Technician Training Day was held on May 17, 2024. This event, tailored specifically for the often-unsung heroes of our educational infrastructure, school technicians, provided an invaluable platform for professional development, knowledge sharing, and collaborative networking.

Technicians from across Scotland converged at the SSERC headquarters in Dunfermline, bringing with them a wealth of experience and a keen desire to enhance their knowledge and skills. The atmosphere was buzzing with anticipation from the moment the participants arrived, and the agenda promised a day rich with learning opportunities, practical sessions, and meaningful professional learning workshops.

The day commenced with a keynote address by Jane Oldham, Chair of the ASE Technician Committee. She emphasised the pivotal role technicians play in the success of STEM education, highlighting their contribution to fostering an environment where curiosity and innovation can thrive. She championed technicians' ability to gain professional recognition through the RSciTech Program. Her speech set a tone of appreciation and motivation, reminding the attendees of the significant impact they have on students' educational journeys.

## Technician Professional Learning

JUN 5 Wed	Safe Use of Fixed Workshop Machinery Refresher Jun 5 <small>all-day</small>
SEP 3 Tue	Chemical Handling September 2024 Sep 3 – Sep 4 <small>all-day</small>
SEP 5 Thu	Electrical Safety and PAT September 2024 Sep 5 – Sep 6 <small>all-day</small>
SEP 11 Wed	Safe Use of Fixed Workshop Machinery Sep 11 – Sep 12 <small>all-day</small>
NOV 20 Wed	Intermediate Physics Nov 20 – Nov 21 <small>all-day</small>
DEC 11 Wed	Safe Use of Fixed Workshop Machinery Refresher Dec 11 <small>all-day</small>
MAR 5 Wed	Maintenance of Fixed Workshop Machinery Mar 5 @ 12:00 am – Mar 7 @ 12:00 am

Look out for our new glass work and soldering courses. They will be running after the summer holidays.

[Click here](#) for more information.





Following the keynote, the participants were dispersed into their various workshops, each tailored to address different aspects of STEM technical support: microscale biology and microscale chemistry, seaweed and photosynthesis, and wood turning, to mention a few. For instance, the Experiments in Radioactivity workshop, led by Evelyn Lee, delved into different experiments using radioactive sources, ensuring precision and safety. Participants practiced these experiments, gaining confidence and knowledge that will go a long way to aid running these experiments in schools under the right conditions.

During the lunch break, the event transformed into a hub of Networking and idea exchange. The sense of community was palpable, with technicians sharing their challenges and solutions, fostering a supportive environment. Many participants expressed how valuable it was to connect with peers facing similar issues, and this camaraderie was evident in the collaborative spirit witnessed throughout the day.

Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. Many praised the event's organisation, the relevance of the workshops, and the quality of the instruction. One technician commented, *"I thoroughly enjoyed every session I attended. Each one was delivered in an engaging way, and I have something from each that I can take back with me to my school"*.

The success of the SSERC STEM Technician Training Day 2024 underscores the vital role that continuous professional development plays in the education sector. By equipping technicians with the latest knowledge and skills, SSERC is not only enhancing their professional growth but also significantly contributing to the advancement of STEM education in Scotland. The event stands as a testament to the dedication and excellence that SSERC embodies, paving the way for future successes in STEM education.

