

The Astra Zeneca Science Teaching Trust project funding

The Astra Zeneca Science Teaching Trust invites applications for Primary Science, Science Transition and Lower Secondary/Key Stage 3 Projects. Grants will be made for the coming academic year (September 2010 – July 2011). All applications must be received by 5th May 2010

Since 1997, the AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust (AZSTT) has commissioned a broad spectrum of large and small scale continuing professional development (CPD) projects designed to develop and enhance the practice of teaching primary science. More recently Trustees have focussed their attention on projects designed to improve Key Stage 2–3 (primary-secondary) transition, and Lower Secondary stage/Key Stage 3.

Applications are now invited, for grants to support professional development, from Higher Education providers, local authorities, clusters of schools, science and discovery centres or commercial organisations. Projects will normally commence on the 1st September 2010 with funding normally available for one year only.

Projects should be devised to include programmes which:

- Actively involve schools through their head teachers, subject leaders and/or governing bodies
- Provide high quality training for professional development in science
- Incorporate local scientific expertise
- Clearly specify anticipated outcomes or success criteria through the given time framework and include an evaluation strategy

Projects proposals may be in one of two broad categories:

Innovative projects which aim to introduce novel approaches and/or content to the construction of programmes of CPD for teachers of science. Innovative projects will be at the leading edge of science CPD and will provide an opportunity to apply research findings in the classroom, e.g.

Thinking Beyond the Urban Classroom – a KS3 project with King’s College London working with local secondary teachers to develop materials to encourage taking science outside the school laboratory and into the local environment

Cluster projects, which are smaller scale, comprise a small group of schools working in collaboration to provide a programme of CPD for improving the teaching of science in those schools. In many cases external advice is sought, e.g. from HEIs. In some cases the theme builds and extends on one of the Trust’s innovative projects, e.g.

Macmillan College Outdoor Classroom project – development of outdoor classroom area for primary schools to use

The Trust website www.azteachscience.co.uk gives full details of the criteria for the grant awards, guidelines, and an application form. Also on the website are details of the Trust’s work, including the resources from existing projects which are available to support the continuing professional development of teachers.