

## Return to teaching fact-sheet: Science

### Returning to teach science

If you are a returning science teacher, there has never been a better time to come back to the profession. Secondary science teachers (particularly trained in physics and chemistry) are highly sought-after by schools and there are a number of posts available to returning teachers.

If your teaching experience is in another subject but you are now considering teaching science and hold QTS, please call the return to teaching helpline on 0845 6000 993 to discuss your options, or e-mail a return to teaching education consultant at [info@return2teach.tda.gov.uk](mailto:info@return2teach.tda.gov.uk)

### Teaching science

There are a number of useful sites providing advice and support to help you update and improve your understanding of teaching and learning in science. Some of these are listed below:

The National Curriculum site contains programmes of study and non-statutory guidelines, attainment targets, and notes and links to online teaching resources.  
<http://curriculum.qcda.gov.uk>

The Standards Unit provides a range of downloadable schemes of work (secondary).  
[www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/secondary\\_science](http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/secondary_science)

The Science Museum's website contains online study support, exploring topics such as energy generation, space travel and genetics.  
[www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/educators/classroom\\_and\\_homework\\_resources.aspx](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/educators/classroom_and_homework_resources.aspx)

The New Scientist has regularly updated news articles, which can be incorporated into lessons, and may also be valuable in helping to update your subject knowledge.  
[www.newscientist.com](http://www.newscientist.com)

The BBC has developed an interactive online resource which hosts revision materials for key stage 3 to post-16, such as Bitesize (secondary).  
[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revision](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revision)

A website that links to worldwide science projects where teachers can take part in trials with schools in other countries.  
[www.scienceacross.org](http://www.scienceacross.org)

Through engaging videos, practical resources and an active online community, Teachers TV supports the professional development of anyone working in school, enabling them to widen their skills, develop their practice, and connect with others in the field. It contains a multitude of video extracts from teachers and experts in science  
[www.teachers.tv](http://www.teachers.tv)

Free online teaching resources, including reviews of more than 2,000 lesson plans.  
[www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/resourcematerials/](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/resourcematerials/)

The Teacher Training Resource Bank (TTRB) is a one-stop portal providing access to research and evidence-based resources for the teacher education community. The site holds a number of articles and documents on teaching mathematics which can easily be accessed via the search facility.

[www.ttrb.ac.uk](http://www.ttrb.ac.uk)

Science Learning Centres provide continuing professional development courses for everyone involved in Science education. The website also provides access to a resource bank once you register.

<http://www.sciencelearningcentres.org.uk>

The Teacher Resource Exchange (TRE) is a moderated database of resources and activities created by teachers. All resources on the TRE are checked by subject specialists to ensure they are of the highest possible quality. Resources are **free** to use and you can also add your own resources to share with other teachers.

<http://tre.ngfl.gov.uk>

## The subject associations

The subject associations site – [www.subjectassociation.org.uk](http://www.subjectassociation.org.uk) – is a one-stop shop for teachers to find sources of specialist subject focused support. The site gives access to current and developing specialist subject knowledge and expertise, and regular subject focused updates via high quality professional journals. The site also offers the chance to play an active role in developing and promoting subject focused teaching and learning.

**Science** associations include:

Association for Science Education

[www.ase.org.uk](http://www.ase.org.uk)

### **Physics:**

Institute of Physics

[www.iop.org/activity/education.index.html](http://www.iop.org/activity/education.index.html)

### **Chemistry:**

Royal Society of Chemistry

[www.rsc.org/education](http://www.rsc.org/education)

### **Biology:**

Institute of Biology

[www.iob.org](http://www.iob.org)

## **Return to teaching courses**

To further prepare yourself for a return to teaching, you may decide to apply for a Return to teaching (RTT) course. The courses will provide you with a safe and supportive environment in which to develop your skills. This includes a 10 day placement in a school, which will help to renew your teaching skills and confidence in the classroom

RTT courses are fully funded by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA). For further information and advice on making a return to teaching please call the Return to teaching helpline on 0845 6000 993 or e-mail [info@return2teach.tda.gov.uk](mailto:info@return2teach.tda.gov.uk)