New Directions is a topical journal published by the Physical Sciences Centre in association with πCETL, The Physics Innovations Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

The journal is issued in paper and electronic formats once per year. It is intended for teachers, researchers, policy makers and other practitioners in physical sciences education.

An editorial board reviews all submissions.

The journal is free of charge to academics in UK higher education institutions. Subscriptions are available for those outside the UKHE sector who wish to receive the paper version. Contact the Centre for details.

The Physical Sciences
Centre is funded by the
Higher Education Academy
(www.heacademy.ac.uk)
and is part of the Academy's
Subject Network. The Centre
is supported by the
Universities of Hull,
Liverpool and Surrey.

πCETL, The Physics Innovations Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

## **Editorial**

*New Directions* is the Physical Sciences Centre's publication focusing on new developments by practitioners in the field of learning and teaching.

In this issue we feature articles from a range of contributors covering a wide range of interests, from the inclusion of forensics skills teaching in law degrees, through concept mapping and context based learning to the Undergraduate Ambassador Scheme.

The popular topic of outreach continues from the previous three issues of *New Directions* with an article on a large scale outreach activity across the schools of Jersey and another looking at the use of technology to increase engagement in outreach.

There are also contributions on another popular area, that of the use of technology in learning and teaching. Articles include those on the use of assistive technology, electronic marking of assignments, online assessment and the use of electronic voting systems.

We hope you will enjoy this look at some of the current activities of physical sciences practitioners and will find something to inspire you in your own practice.

## **Editor**

Tracey Madden
Physical Sciences Centre
Department of Chemistry
University of Hull
Hull HU6 7RX
Tel: 01482 465418
Fax: 01482 465418

Email: t.madden@hull.ac.uk