

Leap Year

Blwyddyn Naid

This year, February has 29 days. An extra day is intercalated into the calendar in order to keep the calendar synchronised with the astronomical calendar. In the Gregorian calendar an extra day is inserted 97 years out of 400 years. This means that if a year is divisible by 4 but not divisible by 100 (but if it is divisible by a 100 it must not be divisible by 400!) it is made a 'leap year'. Therefore this year is a leap year, the year 2000 was a leap year but the year 3000 won't be!

If you have anything that you think you would like covered in the e-bulletin or anything you feel the Institute should be doing in this year then please drop me an e-mail (Angharad.Thomas@iop.org)

Best wishes for 2008

Dymuniadau gorau ar gyfer 2008

Angharad

News in Brief

Newyddion yn Fyr

Research Councils UK (RCUK) has begun a [review of the strength and role of UK physics](#).

The [Programme for International Student Assessment \(PISA\)](#) has released its findings on science attainment. Fifty-seven countries participated in PISA 2006. [The Department for Children, Schools and Families \(DfES\)](#) has released a [Research Brief](#) which gives the key findings and compares different regions of the UK. Unfortunately, the results for Wales should be a concern for us all. The average performance in science was similar in all parts of the UK. However, the mean score of students in Wales was significantly lower than that in England.

[NOISE \(New Outlooks in Science and Engineering\)](#) aims to encourage young students to study science and engineering at school, college or university, with a view to going on to pursue careers in these subjects. The campaign is promoted through a raft of NOISEmakers, early career scientists and engineers that work as ambassadors for NOISE by raising awareness of their jobs and any projects that might appeal to students between the ages of 14-19. They are currently recruiting NOISEmakers, science and engineering ambassadors, and are looking for members of

the IOP to take part in the campaign. If you are interested in applying, click [here](#) to download an application form. The closing date for applications is Friday 8 February 2008.

Institute of Physics in Wales

Sefydliad Ffiseg yng Nghymru

We have a new editor for the Institute of Physics in Wales newsletter. May I take this opportunity to thank Zbig Sobiesierski for his work for the past two years. I'd also like to thank and welcome Roger Brewis into the role. I wish him all the best.

Institute of Physics

Sefydliad Ffiseg

A new IOP mentoring service has been launched which allows members to match themselves with other members who wish to be mentored or act as mentors. Registration is online, and initial contact is made via Institute staff. When you have registered, you will be able to search for an appropriate match, depending on your needs and experience. For more information click [here](#) or e-mail mentoring@iop.org. The Professional Development and Careers team will be touring the UK to offer you the chance to attend a mentoring workshop and to get involved in mentoring. They are visiting Wales on Thursday 19 June 2008, at the [Royal Hotel](#), Cardiff. Places are on a first come, first served basis. Therefore if you would like to book your place, please click [here](#).

The Institute has a range of professional development and training services, designed exclusively for IOP members. These include: [MyCPD](#) – a free online tool which allows you to identify your development needs and plan and record new learning; and [Learning Online](#) – a range of transferable skills courses you can undertake at your own pace and in your own time. There are a number of other new member services – keep an eye on www.iop.org/careers for further developments.

[Forthcoming Institute Conferences](#)

[What's on in Physics](#)

physicsweb events listing which lists [all physics related events](#).

Events in Wales Digwyddiadau yng Nghymru

Innovation into Action 2008 is an event being held at the National Cricket Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff on 10 and 11 March. It is a two-day innovation brokerage event comprising an innovation partnering event of pre-arranged one-to-one meetings to discuss potential deals combined with a showcase exhibition and networking lounge. For more information click [here](#).

For information on what's going on in Wales – have a look at "[What's on Wales](#)" or "[Golwg ar Gymru](#)".

Useful Links

Cysylltiadau Defnyddiol

[EPSRC](#) – Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

[STFC](#) – Science and Technology Facilities Council

[HEFCW](#) – Higher Education Funding Council for Wales / Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru

bbc.co.uk/wales / bbc.co.uk/cymru – BBC Wales / BBC Cymru website

[The National Assembly for Wales](#) / [Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru](#)

[The Welsh Assembly Government](#) / [Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru](#)

[European Commission – Research](#)