



Masterclass Network discussions

Aims, resources, and evaluation

Masterclass Network Workshop
IoP, London, 6 September 2024

Discussion: what's the overall aim?

❖ Who to target?

- Selecting schools/areas: what are your networks? Any gaps?
- GCSE/Standard, A-level/Higher, Advanced Higher, ...?
 - What skills can be assumed: maths, computing, physics base
- For best students, all students, those needing extra support?
 - Strongly frames the content
 - Different events for different levels / needs?
- Why stop at schools? Adult education, teacher CPD
 - Realistically, a few chances of empty buildings per year

❖ What do we want to convey?

- Specific physics concepts \Rightarrow underpinning curriculum?
- Understanding of general ideas / existence of field?
- Encourage into university physics / jobs?
- Focus on the physics, or “side-effects”:
 - Computing, data-science, electronics, 3D printing?
 - Other?

Discussion: available resources

❖ Do you always do the same activities?

- Talks? Same people? Up to date?
- Labs: based on undergrad equipment?
- Hardware-lab tours? Computing farms e.g. Grid Tier1,2,3? Other exposure to research facilities?
- Maths/physics calculations & support?
 - What would theorists like to showcase?
- Computing tools
 - Open-data? Visualisations? Games/exercises?

❖ Can we *share* best-practice and concrete resources?

- Lab scripts and experiment designs
- (Simulated) data analysis
- Interactive exercises, discussion points
- Talks repo
- **Can Masterclass Network help to coordinate? And fund...**

Discussion: how to know if we succeeded?

❖ Feedback

- Poll by sheet or electronic feedback: any best practice?
- Useful/useless questions to ask?
- What does a satisfied/successful group look like?
 - Actually learned a specific thing?
 - Inspired to e.g. apply to (your) uni?
 - Just had a nice day out (which is fine)?

❖ What do students/teachers want?

- Do we talk with them?!
- Co-design or curriculum alignment
- Connect to longer-term school support cf. [Oxford/RAL?](#)

❖ Impact on student recruitment?

- Often would like to inspire local students to apply: does it work?
- Any evidence?