

Transcript of comments received in post-course questionnaires from participants in Astrophysics Summer Schools 2009-2013

At the end of each summer school a questionnaire was completed by each of the participants. Selected responses to questions are given below.

What were your personal objectives in attending this course and to what extent were they met?

- To obtain an overview of the latest research in this field. This objective was wholly met
- To know more about what I read about in popular scientific books. To pass information to school astronomy club. To develop and stimulate my knowledge.
- I was particularly impressed by the star formation lectures and the information about research today and the search for other solar systems
- Gain confidence in the teaching of Astrophysics. Further my understanding and interest in the topics of astrophysics. YES very much so!
- To learn about Astrophysics – be more confident and find out what is known/being done at present
- To increase my background knowledge and to find some new materials/techniques to improve my A level teaching. First was very well met. Second was well met
- Wanted to be intellectually stretched, and look at new material. I suggest this has been fulfilled
- To improve my knowledge of astrophysics to improve my confidence when teaching the topic at A level. In all respects my objectives were fully met
- I wanted to extend my own personal knowledge of astrophysics, with a view to designing a series of master classes for the students. 1st target met, 2nd target to be completed over the holiday
- In order to gain a deeper understanding of astronomy..., primarily to assist my teaching of GCSE Physics. I also wanted to have enhanced knowledge of Astrophysics to assist my colleagues who teach A level Physics. I have without doubt obtained an insight on concepts I previously had little or no understanding of. I also feel that I am a better person and teacher for having availed of this wonderful course at QMUL
- To be rejuvenated and inspired. YES – MET!
- Enhance my subject knowledge in astrophysics to give me confidence to teach this at KS5/6
- Rejuvenate and improve astrophysics knowledge to allow better teaching of A level and IB content. Build confidence in astrophysics to allow astronomy club to be established at school
- Update/increase knowledge of the topic – met, expectations exceeded. Ideas for when we teach Astrophysics A2 or GCSE Astronomy – gained confidence to teach this topic
- Increase my confidence as I teach Physics A2. Learn new stuff. Both met and met well
- To gain a more detailed perspective of the extent of new research and to stretch my own knowledge further. Both these objectives have been exceeded
- To extend my limited knowledge of astrophysics. My aim is to set up an astronomy club as part of our current Science and Engineering club
- To gain current knowledge of astrophysics topic. This objective has been met
- To extend my personal knowledge and this was thoroughly met, and has enthused me further to go on and learn more

- I wanted to gain more confidence in understanding concepts in astrophysics and cosmology, and to have that extra layer of knowledge that will enable me to tackle the specification better. I have been very happy with the course and it has fulfilled my expectations
- I have extended my knowledge and will be able to use the ideas to extend and embellish my teaching
- I teach A-level physics but I don't have a physics degree. The course is absolutely invaluable for people like me
- My personal objectives were to develop my knowledge and understanding of astrophysics. This course has been superb and has more than exceeded my expectations. Indeed, the course has been inspirational
- To improve my knowledge and understanding of astrophysics and cosmology. The course content was more wide-ranging and in-depth than I expected and has therefore been of significant benefit to me
- To improve my knowledge of astrophysics and to develop my confidence when teaching the subject. 100% success
- To extend my knowledge about astrophysics and cosmology and to take ideas back into school to enrich and enthuse students about physics in general. This course has helped to fill several gaps in my knowledge and stoke interest for me.
- Get an update on recent research. Remind myself of key concepts required for teaching A level. Also for interest and to get re-enthused
- Refresh my astrophysics knowledge – excellently met. Get idea for classroom/astronomy club – well met. Be inspired and be able to inspire student – very well met

Do you think that your colleagues or students will benefit from the knowledge/materials/skills you obtained from the course?

- Yes. Students are very enthusiastic about this subject and often ask questions about cosmology and star formation. I feel more confident about my answers
- Yes, provides up to date applications and research which can be used to support syllabus material
- Yes, I'm now better equipped to discuss this topic with students and so motivate them
- YES. The breadth of resources available and the resources gained can be imparted through the department to the students
- The students will certainly benefit as I have significantly extended my knowledge and confidence. I'm also now planning on starting an astrophysics club at the college
- I got some good ideas and a lot of useful images. But more importantly, it has revitalized my astronomy interest and it will help me tie it into wider physics