

Transcript of comments from the Astrophysics Summer School follow-up survey conducted in 2012

The questionnaire consisted of a number of questions that the attendees responded to through a web-form. The questions are given below along with a selection of responses

Why did you apply to attend the course?

- I attended the course because I wanted to strengthen and extend my knowledge about current thinking and research in astronomy and astrophysics
- I wanted to improve my knowledge
- I completed my degree in Physics from Glasgow in 1985 and am currently an NQT after a career in industry. I wanted to improve my knowledge since astrophysics was not part of my original degree course
- I thought it would broaden my knowledge base of this aspect of physics
- To refresh my knowledge and scout ideas for teaching space to senior students

Are there other ways in which you have used what you have learned in the course?

- I have bought a telescope and taken a night class in observational astronomy. I have offered to teach GCSE Astronomy to G&T students as an extracurricular activity from Sept. this year. This is being supported by the School
- Within my maths lessons I have used some of the content to enrich the tasks or show how seemingly abstract maths is used in genuine research
- We are doing a joint venture with the local uni called CROCS Cosmic ray detectors in schools. We are hoping that the students will build one and run it. Some of the lectures which we were given copies of, I have used some slides in my lessons
- I am now the proud owner of a 10 inch reflector and I keep abreast of astrophysical developments in the media which can be used in lessons or to generate productive class discussion. At the minute I'm developing a space and technology topic for students in S2.

Would you recommend it to other teachers and why?

- Yes, as a refresher course to reignite enthusiasm for this topic
- Absolutely. I have recommended Astrophysics to a colleague.
- Definitely. Content is good.
- I have recommended the course to teachers in the science department for the same reasons as I attended – to strengthen and extend knowledge about current research
- Yes, definitely. I learned a tremendous amount and feel much more confident about teaching it. I can distinguish what is not known and what I don't know!
- Absolutely – it's the most thorough cpd course I've yet come across

Do you have any further comments?

- I thought the course was fantastic in every respect; the quality of the lectures, the variety of the programme, the support materials. I consider myself to be extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend
- I found the course, the speakers and the 'take away' resources excellent and feel more confident talking about and answering questions on the topics covered. Thank you again for a fantastic week!
- I felt tremendously valued. I was flattered that Goldsmiths were willing to invest money in me and that the speakers likewise invested their time and knowledge on me. That has left a great impression on me.