



Welcome to the February edition of the Schools Affiliates newsletter of the Geological Society of London. If you have any feedback about what you'd like to see in this newsletter, or schools events, resources or opportunities we should be spreading the word about, please contact [Judi Lakin](#) or [Amy Ball](#).

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Your feedback!

Please help us to **improve our Schools Affiliates Scheme** by filling in our very short **online survey** by clicking the button below. The questionnaire is 6 questions long and will only take 1-2 minutes to complete.

As a thank you for helping us out, participants in the survey will be in with the chance of winning the Geological Society's **bicentennial edition geological map of the British Isles** for their school. The map is A2 size and would make a perfect edition to any geology, geography or science classroom display!

**Schools Affiliates
Feedback Survey**

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Terrific Scientific Water Investigation: 6 February - 11 March



The Geological Society is thrilled to be involved with the exciting new BBC led initiative '[Terrific Scientific](#)' and will be providing resources for the '**Water**' investigation which will run from **6 February - 11 March**!

The campaign has now kicked off with its first investigation '[Taste](#)' (4 January - 3 February) and throughout the next six months there will be four more mass-participation investigations combined with online videos and teaching resources. The initiative aims to inspire the inner scientist of 9-11 year olds from across the UK.

Read more about Terrific Scientific on our [blog](#) and if you know any primary school teachers that might be interested please encourage them to take part as [registration is still open](#)!

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Fact Sheet Updates



To support **Terrific Scientific** and as part of our **2016 Year of Water** we have recently updated our **Groundwater** and **Water Resources** fact sheets.

Both of these fact sheets now come in two versions: one aimed at **9-11 year olds**, and one aimed at **teachers, secondary school pupils and the general public**.

- [Groundwater - teachers version](#)
- [Groundwater - primary version](#)
- [Water Resources - teachers version](#)
- [Water Resources - primary version](#)

We also have 7 other **titles** in our fact sheet series which can be used as excellent resources for geology, geography and science lessons:

- [Water hardness - teachers version](#)
- [Water hardness - primary version](#)
- [UK Geo Heritage](#)
- [William Smith](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Flooding](#)
- [Volcanoes](#)
- [Earthquakes](#)

The fact sheets can be downloaded from our [website](#), or sent out to you on request (contact [Amy Ball](#)).



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National Schools Geology Challenge



Regional heats for our **2017 Schools Geology Challenge** are due to take place! Some of our Regional Groups have already confirmed their heat dates which are as follows:

- Northern Ireland Regional Group heats - 22 February - Methodist College, Belfast
- South Wales Regional Group heats - 1 March - Coleg Sir Gar, Llanelli
- South Western Regional Group heats - 1 March - Plymouth University
- Western Regional Group heats - 1 March - Hereford Sixth Form College
- Yorkshire Regional Group heats - 1 March - Sheffield High School

The winners of the heats will be put through to the competition final, held at the Geological Society, **Burlington House, London** on **Wednesday 3 May 2017**, where they will give a 5 minute talk, present a conference style poster and battle it out against other schools in a geoscience quiz.

If your school is interested in taking part in the challenge email your [regional group](#) to find out if you still have time to take part! Note that competition entry deadlines will be before the heat date so make sure you check with your regional group!

Find out more about the Schools Geology Challenge, including the **rules and guidelines** for the competition and photos from last years finals, on the [website](#).

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Geoscience Education Academy: 25 - 28 July 2017

The **Geoscience Education Academy** is a fully accredited CPD training course providing free curriculum-led training for UK teachers. It's a great opportunity for non-geologists to gain support and resources to teach the geoscience part of the curriculum, as well as a refresher for existing Earth Science teachers, and a chance to network and share ideas.

This year's GEA will be held from **Tuesday 25 to Friday 28 July 2017** at the **Geological Society, Burlington House, London**. The course is completely **free to attend** with all travel reimbursed and accommodation provided.

We already have a number people hoping to come, so if you wish to be involved please visit the [website](#) for more information and email [Liz Pedley](#) to register your interest. If you have attended and enjoyed one of our previous GEAs please encourage your fellow science and geography teachers to sign up for this years event!



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Nuffield Research Placements: Summer 2017



Let your students know that applications for **Summer 2017 Nuffield Research Placements** have opened! The Nuffield Research placements provide over 1,000 students each year with the opportunity to work alongside professional scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians.

Placements are 4-6 weeks long taking place in the school Summer holiday, and are available across the UK, in universities, commercial companies, voluntary organisations and research institutions.

To be eligible to apply students must be in the first year of sixth-form studying science, technology, engineering and/or maths courses. Deadlines for applications vary between regions so it's important to visit the [Nuffield Foundation website](#) for more information.

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Girls into Geoscience: 4 July 2017



Girls into Geoscience is an exciting one day workshop, with additional optional field trip to Dartmoor, designed to introduce **female A-Level students** to the Earth Sciences and demonstrate the world of careers open to Earth science graduates today.

The workshop is **free** and includes seminars from women working in Geology, and hands on workshops looking at GIS, microfossils and planetary geology.

Girls into Geoscience will take place on **4th July 2017** at **Plymouth University** from 9:30-15:30. Registration is now open, to book places for your students email girlsintogeoscience@plymouth.ac.uk or call 01752 585975.

Visit the [website](#) for more information and read a blog post about last year's Girls into Geoscience event [here](#).

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RGS-IBG Geography Teacher Training Scholarships

The Royal Geographical Society with IBG are working with the Department for Education to launch the new **RGS-IBG scholarship programme** for geographers starting their teacher training in **Autumn 2017**. The scholarships will provide gifted trainees with significant financial and professional support including: **£27,500 tax-free funding**, training events, access to materials and resources, fellowship to the Society, networking opportunities and other support to complement teacher training.

To apply, candidates must have secured a place on an eligible teacher training course in England for Autumn 2017 and must have a geography or related degree with a grade of at least 2:1 (proven or predicted) or a recognised equivalent.

If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in applying for the scholarship programme you can download a flyer [here](#). See the [RGS-IBG website](#) or the [Get into Teaching website](#) for more information.



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GeolSoc on Social Media!

Geological Society of London blog



Have you seen our **Geological Society blog**? Why not have a browse of our most recent posts covering society news, education, events, history and more!

You can catch up on our [Geadvent 24 days of Christmas](#) blog posts, with contributions from Society members and guests on a wide range of topics including: geology in popular music, accounts of exhibitions run by the Society's library, William Smith and the geology of Wales and the evolutionary history of the Christmas tree to name a few!

Find our blog online at <https://blog.geolsoc.org.uk>



For more updates on geological and Society news, you can also follow the Geological Society on **Twitter** at <https://twitter.com/geolsoc> and tweet us using **@geolsoc**.



We have recently started an **Instagram** feed -follow us at <https://www.instagram.com/geolsoc/> to see our photos! We would love to see your geology themed images too, especially any field trips or competitions - so feel free to tag us using **#geolsoc** or **@geolsoc**.

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London Lecture Series: Teaching Resource

The Geological Society hosts monthly London Lectures on a diverse range of geological topics. All lectures are video recorded and uploaded onto the website shortly afterwards. Some recent lectures that could be used as excellent teaching resources in sixth-form geology or geography classes include:



[Risk and Uncertainty in Exploration for Oil and Gas](#)

[Climate change and Antarctica: the great ice sheet in the past, present and future](#)

[Waking the Giant: how a changing climate triggers earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes](#)

[Groundwater and its Global Significance](#)

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