



## AMGEN® Biotech Experience

Scientific Discovery for the Classroom

United Kingdom

## Welcome

As the end of term approaches, good wishes from the UK ABE team for a restful summer break.

It's difficult to predict how the new school term will start, and we understand the challenges that everyone in school communities will face as new routines and schooling patterns develop. In this newsletter we outline how we envisage the ABE programme will operate, based on the current situation and advice. We hope that by monitoring developments and taking a flexible approach next school year we can respond to your needs as well as changes in the situation.

Thank you to those of you who joined our two online meetings in early July. We were delighted that 56 teachers and technicians did so. It was helpful to learn about the situation in schools, and your suggestions were useful. Look out for invites to future network meetings, and please do let us know if there are particular topics that you suggest they might focus on.

Our next newsletter will be early next term – which we hope starts smoothly.

## 2020-21 arrangements for kit loan – based on the current situation

We hope that the kit loan programme will resume at the start of autumn term

- Attached to this email is the form to complete to request kit loans during 2020-21. [The form](#) can also be found in the password protected area of the UH Centre for STEM Education website. We understand that you might not yet be clear about school plans for the year ahead and that plans might change, but please let us know your preferred dates as soon as possible;
- We will provide generic guidance about safe kit use, which will be regularly updated depending on current government and CLEAPSS advice: but schools must carry out a full risk assessment for each practical activity undertaken;
- During autumn term, only schools where staff have attended training in the last two years and used the kit before for which feedback has been provided, can borrow kit;
- Schools that borrow kit will be asked to provide feedback, which we will use to provide advice to help other schools make best use of the kit;
- Based on the experience of schools borrowing kit early in autumn, and the prevailing situation, we will by mid-term schedule bookings for spring term and provide updated guidance. We hope this will include schools that have attended training but not yet borrowed kit;

- No manuals will be lent to schools with kit. These will be online in the password protected area on the [UH Centre for STEM Education website](#), as separate chapters, so that schools can download what is needed;
- Kit will be thoroughly cleaned by the hub between loans and quarantined;
- Back-to-back loans will not be possible, reducing the number of slots available. It is vital that schools stick rigorously to return dates as knock on effects to later users will be significant;
- Each hub will provide guidance about protocols for collection and return of kit;
- We recognise that each school is different – and hubs are the first port of call for discussion about how to use kit.

## Health and Safety

- CLEAPSS guidance must be followed. [Guidance on doing practical work in a partially reopened school](#) CLEAPSS guidance on practical work in the current situation is regularly updated. It is important to refer regularly to the advice and ensure that it is followed, including for ABE activities;
- Risk assessment must also follow schools' protocols and address ways to minimise risk from touching equipment and movement around lab by students and staff. As some items are shared, particular thought needs to be given to how labs can be set up. Some ABE practical techniques are not possible in the current situation;
- Procedures using cheek cells (including PCR) must not be undertaken (CLEAPSS advice);  
All schools will be issued with a health and safety form for signature before kit loan.

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## Resources and opportunities

### DNA to diagnostic test - free online workshops for A level students from Wellcome Genome campus

When: **16th July, 16:00 - 17:30**

Where: **Zoom webinar**

An interactive online lecture and hands-on practical session exploring the use of DNA genome sequences to design diagnostic tests.

The 90-minute lecture is developed and presented by scientists at the Wellcome Sanger Institute and it is aimed primarily at A-level students (teachers can join in too!) who have a basic understanding of DNA - the "instruction manual of life".

Participants will learn how DNA sequence data is used by biologists to devise tests that can detect an organism in a lab sample. Using a popular web-based DNA editor tool that is used by researchers for real-life projects, participants will be able to follow the instructions and design their own diagnostic test. Attendees will require internet access but there is no need to install any software other than have an up-to-date web browser. This is a free live-streamed session.

After booking your tickets, please register for the webinar using the link provided in the online page.

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