

“The Centre for Bioscience has had a very significant impact on the development of the subject in many ways , for example; through resources; the value added of work through the initiatives of new projects; the joining together and integration of different projects; and on the motivation of groups and individuals. The Departmental Representatives networks has, enabled the Reps to be very efficiently kept informed of the breadth of the Centre’s work and to receive materials and information for dissemination. In the experience of my own department this has resulted in new developments in individuals’ own teaching or the way in which they are thinking about things, for example student projects and their assessment.

I was privileged this year to be involved in the judging for the Bioscience Teacher of the Year award. The entrants included case studies illustrating work at an extremely high standard. The process for judging was very rigorous and the initiative has resulted not only in recognizing and rewarding excellence, but also in motivating others in the field and has provided examples for the use by others (including myself!). The Departmental Grant Award scheme has provide funding for projects that are going to have an impact much wider than the individual teacher or groups of teachers. We were very lucky to be awarded such a grant to develop our work on virtual laboratories such that they could be used effectively as an Open Educational Resource. This built on our work supported by a National Teaching Fellow project and is a prime illustration of how the Centre has really joined initiatives to provide value added. Another example of adding value to other initiatives comes form the support that the Centre has provided for our CETL. From the beginning the Centre for Bioscience provided support and guidance and undoubtedly this has been important for us to be able to carry on with the GENIE CETL beyond the period of the core HEFCE funding.

This of course is not an exhaustive account of the Centre’s work but finally I would like to mention the important role and impact that the special interest groups and networks have been having. I have been involved with the Ethics Network. They have involved exciting interactions, development of new projects and collaborations. I know that this will continue and is a prime example of how the Centre has got people working !”

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9 September 2011