Opening young minds to plant science

Most school students want to help save the world. We want them to realise that they can do this as plant scientists. These young people need to:

- meet creative and passionate scientists with whom they can identify;
- feel that the world of plant science is open to them whatever their background;
- know that the more we understand about plants the better we can tackle disease, hunger and environmental degradation.

We run workshops and talks for disadvantaged teenagers introducing them to the excitement of plant science in Cambridge. We use social media, film and online news to show teens the relevance of plant science in today’s world. We’d like to do more to engage local school students with research in the Botanic Garden and in science-based, community-building projects.

www.intobiology.org.uk

Nurturing future plant scientists

For too long many of the most talented biology students have turned away from plant science at university. Yet the future of this vital discipline cannot do without them. These undergraduates need to:

- meet internationally renowned researchers who are using plant science to make a difference to life on this planet;
- become more aware of the many different important careers available to them as plant scientists;
- be challenged, motivated and supported at the start of their academic career.

We run an annual summer school for the brightest first year bioscience undergraduates from around the UK, packed with hands-on practicals, lectures and tutorials. We’d like to offer a rich programme of support for the alumni of this unique event.

www.gatsbysummerschool.org.uk

Giving teachers the tools to teach well

Teachers need to be excited and informed about plants themselves, in order to inspire their students. These teachers need:

- great ideas for lesson activities which work well in any classroom;
- teaching resources such as posters, animations and experiments they can use to engage students of all abilities and interests;
- opportunities to re-invigorate their own scientific knowledge about plants.

We produce high-quality, accurate and relevant teaching resources and make them freely available to all. We offer an advisory service to more than 4000 science teachers and technicians signed up as our Associates. We run regular plant science update events for those who train teachers. We’d like to offer more professional development to teachers just starting out in their career, and to link more plant scientists with teachers around the UK.

www.saps.org.uk