

Editorial

John Eggleston

Once again we present an issue of *Design & Technology Teaching* that offers information, stimulation and amusement to all our readers.

We begin with Bob Welch's Maurice Brown Memorial Lecture given at the Design and Technology Exhibition this year. Taking a long-term perspective he reminds us that, despite all the upheavals and U-turns in our subject, in design and technology 'our aim is to ensure quality teaching and learning' — an aim which can lead to 'elegant' solutions to practical problems. An important part of Welch's mission is also to ensure that the current range of National Curriculum prospects is not only coordinated but 'becomes embedded in the curriculum fabric of schools'. Perhaps most welcome is his up-beat conclusion:

Let us continue to celebrate the best and convince all that D&T is not in a mess, it is not a problem, but it is an area of the curriculum which is dynamic, unique and above all forward-looking and a joy to teach. We do need a national campaign to take us forward.

Eggleston's article also seeks to enhance quality and optimism by suggesting how we may make technology and design education more attractive and interesting to our pupils and students. Based on his keynote lecture at the World Conference of Technology Associations a few weeks before Welch's lecture the message is similar — how to take our subject forward to higher standards of teaching and learning.

Rob Johnsey, in an important article, takes the issue further asking how we can recognise and evaluate our achievements — particularly in the primary schools — reminding us that

Design and technology is not just about pupils designing and making products, it is about their wider understanding of the designed world.

The interview with Jensen also continues the search for standards as do the illuminating articles by Durrell, Forman and Etchison and Egan. There is also a series of articles on systems and electronics by Jones, Steeg, Bostock and Howard. Hawkey's fun guide to electronics terminology which will be displayed on very many D&T noticeboards for a long time to come.

Meanwhile DATA is not only participating actively in the national scene: it is recognising that its strengths must always spring from the individual member's interests. Accordingly, in addition to its national activities DATA is embarking on a major programme to meet members and potential members in regional meetings up and down Britain. From March to May over 20 meetings are scheduled — each with a personal contribution from the new Chief Executive Andy Breckon.

The message is clear — read *Design and Technology Teaching*, join DATA and make your views known!