INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first Kickstart Physics Newsletter.

Welcome to the first issue of the Kickstart Physics newsletter. I’m Tom Gordon, Science Communicator, School of Physics at the University of Sydney and I manage Kickstart Physics.

From 2012, the Kickstart newsletter will be sent to you at the beginning of each term in order to keep you up-to-date with changes and news, programs not only within Kickstart but also within the School of Physics. I hope to work with you to ensure that after visiting kickstart, your students have a better understanding of HSC Physics and an introduction to the University of Sydney.

I hope that you will be able to book your students into this valuable program for 2012.

ONLINE BOOKING

On the updated Kickstart website you will find a renovated resource page, specific dotpoints identified, outdated information updated, and student and teacher versions of the Kickstart worksheets.

The latest addition to the Kickstart website is Online Booking. 2012 bookings are open now. Visit: www.physics.usyd.edu.au/schools_community/kickstart.shtml

If there are any problems with the booking system, please contact me directly via email: tom.gordon@sydney.edu.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events at the University of Sydney:

• Info Day (Wednesday 4 January 2012)
• Bridging course (Thursday 23 February – Friday 2 March 2012)

WORKSHOPS

The University of Sydney School of Physics HSC Kickstart program is currently receiving an injection of change. Experiments have been changed slightly in some cases, and severely in other cases, all in order to have a bigger impact on learning.

Over the past few years we’ve noticed that students would like more experiments and less notes. This has been acted upon.

The worksheets also reflect the HSC Syllabus with specific dotpoints identified and a strong focus on processes and skills. As well they use the language of the HSC verbs and skills in order to support teachers and enhance student learning. New workshops (Space, Medical Physics and Senior Science) are under development including experiments with, rockets, (it really IS rocket science), lasers and ultrasound.

Watch this space!

TRAINING & EXPERIMENTS

To give teachers peace of mind all Kickstart demonstrators are periodically retrained to ensure they are updated with any changes and developments in the HSC syllabus and workshops. Training occurs in the new year and includes OH&S, new experiments, knowledge of topics, training on science communication amongst other things. So you can be assured that your students are being taught by our professionally trained and enthusiastic physics demonstrators!