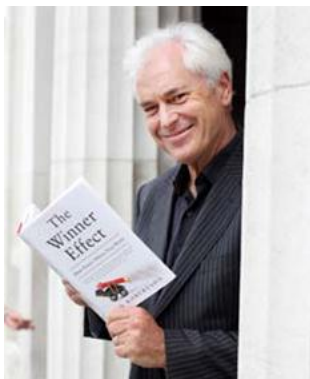


# Irish Science Teachers' Association National Conference

The Irish Science Teachers' Association is delighted to be holding its **51st Annual Conference** in Wexford with **Gorey Community School**, Ireland's largest secondary school, acting as generous host.



There is an excellent programme of events organised for the weekend with some world renowned speakers. **Prof Ian Robertson**, author, Chair of Psychology and Director of Institute of Neuroscience at Trinity College will open the Conference on **Friday 12th April** in the Ashdown Park Hotel with a plenary talk entitled *'The Winner Effect: the neuroscience of success and failure'*.

On Saturday 13th **Alom Shaha**, author of The Young Atheist Handbook, science teacher and producer and director of television programmes, will discuss *'Science vs Religion in the Classroom'* at 9.30 am.



We are delighted to welcome back the wonderful **Dr Aoife McLysaght**, Geneticist at Trinity College, whose talk is entitled *'The Adaptive Ape'* will take place at 11 am.

**Dr Brendan Doggett** and **Joe Clowry** will give a slit talk on Tanzania Young Scientist and Worldwide Global Schools. **Dr Tony Scott**, cofounder of **BY Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition** and People of the Year Award winner 2012, will be our guest of honour at the gala opening on Friday.



Running concurrently with these talks there will be an extensive range of workshops in **Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Junior Science** delivered by the **PDST teams**, as well as **Computational Science, iPad Applications, KidWind** and several drop in sessions on Enquiry based learning. Workshops should be booked in advance, but you can check availability at the Registration Desks.



A **virtual tour of CERN** is planned with a live link at 11am on Saturday and some of the local **Coderdojo kids** will be doing a Skype link at 12noon with the National Coderdojo Conference at Slane Castle. The **STEM bus** will be on site to showcase cutting edge technologies and well worth a visit.

In the afternoon directly after the Annual Business Meeting, to which you are all welcome, **Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell**, world renowned astrophysicist and discover of pulsars, who was recently inaugurated as Pro-Chancellor of Trinity College and voted in the top 5 of Great British Innovators will give a plenary talk *"We are made of star stuff"*. This will be followed by a spectacular **plenary demonstration show** with **Dr Paul McCrory**.



The **30 Exhibitors** will be set up in the gym all day and that will also be the location of the tea & coffee and lunches.

On **Sunday 14th April, Bill Lynch**, Director at **NCCA**, will give a presentation looking at the implications for **Junior Certificate Science** and outline the developments that are planned in advance of the introduction of the new specifications in 2015.

**Annual Awards** will be announced at the **Conference Dinner in Ashdown Park Hotel** on the Saturday night. Tickets for the Dinner cost **€30** and must be bought at least a week in advance. Contact **Sean Fogarty** regarding Registration. [snjnfogarty@gmail.com](mailto:snjnfogarty@gmail.com) or [agm@sfphoto.ie](mailto:agm@sfphoto.ie)

More details of how you can attend the conference are available on the ISTA website [www.ista.ie](http://www.ista.ie) and a special conference website.

<http://ista2013annualconference.weebly.com/registration.html>

**Céad Míle Fáilte.**

**Mary Mullaghy.**

*(ISTA National Chairperson)*