Athena SWAN
Charter for Women in Science
A Half Day Workshop
Going for Silver
20th January 2012
Garendon Room, Charles Wilson Building

Despite attracting almost equal overall numbers of male and female undergraduates the science, medical, engineering and technology disciplines lose huge numbers of talented females at stages following graduation. This is a massive waste of resource at a time of fierce economic restraint. This is bad for women, bad for science and bad for the University. The Athena SWAN Charter, launched in June 2005, recognises excellence in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) employment in higher education and established a commitment to the advancement and promotion of the careers of women in SET in higher education and research.

The University of Leicester holds an Athena Swan bronze award. Its ambition to achieve silver is brought into sharp focus following the recent announcement that the National Institute for Health Research will no longer shortlist any NHS/University partnership for Biomedical Research Centre and Biomedical Research Unit funding unless the institution holds at least a silver Athena Swan award. Other funding bodies are following suit.

The purpose of this workshop is to remind ourselves why improvements in gender equality are urgently needed in SET and to better understand the challenges this presents.

"Faced with the choice between changing one’s mind and proving that there is no need to do so, almost everyone gets busy on the proof." – John Kenneth Galbraith

Programme

1.30 pm  Registration
2.00 pm  The Vice Chancellor Professor Sir Robert Burgess
  Welcome: An introduction to the University of Leicester and its Athena Swan work
2.20 pm  Dame Professor Athene Donald, Department of Physics, University of Cambridge
  The impact of gender inequality and what can be done at Departmental level
3.15 pm  Refreshments
3.30 pm  A plenary session Chaired by Professor Paul Cullis (Chair Athena Swan Working Group).
  Panel consisting of Dame Professor Athene Donald, Professor Annette Cashmore, (representing
  College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology), Professor Mark Lester, (Head of Physics),
  Alun Reynolds, (Director of HR), Chris Sharp (Equalities Adviser)
  The panel will consider some pre-set questions and questions from the floor
4.30 pm  Head of College Science, Engineering and Technology, Professor Martin Barstow
  Concluding remarks
5.00 pm  Reception