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News from Head of School**School Plan**

The school produces a plan every year that informs activities such as the duties allocation process and budget setting. This year's plan is a complete rewrite, in that both the contents and style (which follows a new university template) bear little resemblance to the previous plan. The plan has been produced in significant measure by distilling more detailed plans produced by the different functions within the school. This has given rise to two documents, a [strategic plan](#) that states some top level objectives, and an [operational plan](#) that outlines the actions for the next 12 months with a view to meeting the top level objectives. These documents are both drafts, and feedback is being collected from different groups – the Profs looked at the plans in their last meeting, and the document has been reviewed by senior staff within the Faculty. These consultation processes will lead to some changes, but these are more at the level of refinement than wholesale revision. As such, this seems like a reasonable time to subject the plan to wider review; it will be interesting to hear what people think are errors of omission or commission. I am happy to receive feedback by email at any time, and a meeting will be held from 13.00 to 14.00 on Wednesday 4th February in IT407 to allow more interactive discussion.

Events**New Funding and Award Opportunities**[top](#)**Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Awards****6 Mar 09**

Jointly funded by the Wolfson Foundation and DIUS, this scheme aims to provide universities with additional support to enable them to attract to this country, or retain, respected scientists of outstanding achievement and potential. Awards are made to the university and as such researchers must remain at the university named on the application.

[More information](#)**Royal Society Industry Fellowship Scheme****12 Mar 09**

The scheme aims to enhance knowledge transfer in science and technology between those in industry and those in academia. It provides opportunities for an academic scientist to work on a collaborative project with industry, or someone employed in industry to work on a collaborative project with a university department or a not-for-profit research organisation. It is anticipated that fellows will establish personal and corporate links between the two sectors in the UK as a foundation for their long-term future development.

[More information](#)**Royal Academy of Engineering Industrial Secondment Scheme 30 Sept 09**

The scheme provides an invaluable opportunity for engineering teaching staff in Higher Education institutions to gain state-of-the-art industrial experience.

[More information](#)

SWAT: Semantic Web Authoring Tool

Funding Body: EPSRC

PI: Robert Stevens

Award Amount: £450925

Exchange Spring Magnetic Thin Films: The Future Recording Media

Funding Body: EPSRC

PI: Tom Thomson

Award Amount: £726917