

This report was originally written for the Aimhigher Peninsula Newsletter

### Exploring Contemporary Issues in Science

The conference was organised to raise awareness of current issues in science along with the variety of courses that are available. By sparking interest in the learners we hoped to engender an enthusiasm for science and a better understanding of the world in which we live.

The first day was for local community colleges and the FE college; the evening for the general public and the second day for primary schools. The event, whilst designed for schools, also gave us an opportunity to talk to the staff accompanying the students so we could raise their awareness of recent developments in HE and the work of Aimhigher. This was done by employing a Junk Band to entertain 'the young' at lunchtime (supervised by students) so the staff were free to chat about recent changes in HE and the success of Widening Participation. Although staff contributed to the planning and organising of the event the 'front of house' and introductions were all done by HE students or A2 students intending to follow science degrees.



The lecture covered aspects of Maths, Science and Technology and encouraged students to think about future careers in these areas. The speakers included Johnny Ball, who, as well as being Zoe's dad, has been popularising Science and Maths for 30 years. The lunchtime and early evening sessions were provided by the Junk Band, Weapons of Sound. These sessions focussed on developing creativity, self esteem, team skills and performance skills. A great time was had by all.