

July 2008

Dear Science Teacher

Re: Antibiotic Resistance Challenge (ARC) - Poster Competition

I am writing to invite your school to participate in an exciting poster competition as part of the new annual *European Antibiotic Awareness Day* on 18 November 2008. This is part of an EU-wide initiative to promote the prudent use of antibiotics.

We are inviting Key Stage 3 Science students to design "an eye-catching poster to encourage your friends and family not to go to the GP for antibiotics for coughs and colds". The aim of the poster is to raise public awareness on the prudent use of antibiotics, highlighting that antibiotics do not work on most coughs, cold and sore throats. It is important that people understand when they should use antibiotics and when it is not appropriate.


In the UK, the Department of Health's Advisory Committee for Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection is organising a national conference to mark the *European Antibiotic Awareness Day*. The target audience will be health/science journalists and health professionals and the event will be held at the Science Museum, South Kensington, London. The winning poster will be printed to coincide with the day and displayed at the conference.

Prizes include an iPod Nano for the winner and £1,000 worth of science equipment for the school, which will be presented at the conference on 18 November. The winning school will also be invited to visit a microbiology laboratory. Three runners up will receive £25 entertainment vouchers and £100 worth of science equipment for the school.

Information on how to enter is available at www.nhs.uk/arc and includes teachers' notes, lesson plans, key facts, the competition rules and entry form. Closing date for entries is **10 October 2008**.

We hope that your school will participate and thank you for the good work you do in encouraging our children to take an interest in science.

Yours sincerely



**SIR LIAM DONALDSON
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**