



Royal
Astronomical
Society

Dr Alex Calverley – RAS Secondary Education Award

Dr Alex Calverley is Head of Physics at Surbiton High School. He voluntarily oversees the British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad (BAAO) programme, compiling question papers, organising nationwide training camps and events in which he serves as a teacher and mentor, and arranging travel to the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA). As a result of his efforts and the support of volunteers, the BAAO has flourished under his leadership, during which he has created opportunities for countless students to excel, some of whom did not have any significant prior awareness of these subjects. In 2023 the UK IOAA team won an unprecedented five gold medals, topping the international medal table. It is down to Dr Calverley's dedication that British students can become part of this international community, in which there is potential for future collaborations to emerge.

Diversity in the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics is very important to Dr Calverley, and he proactively supports every opportunity to ensure that students from diverse and under-represented backgrounds can be given the opportunity to compete for a place on the international team.

Dr Calverley's contributions to astronomy education are extraordinary. Known for his selfless, tireless dedication and his humorous rapport with students, his work has transformed the UK's Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad, enriching the lives of countless students, and so leaving an indelible mark on astronomy education across the UK.