**Engineering Residential School or Home Experiments; creating a practical experience for students.**

**Jan**

This year our engineering students will be studying online instead of at residential school. They'll be using home experiment kits containing tools and materials that will enable them to carry out their work at home. They'll be supported by tutors, both synchronously and asynchronously.

The aim of this project is to discover what the differences are in the experience for the student doing the online equivalent in relation to the face-to-face work. Because of the large number of students involved, and the fact that some of them will have been at the residential school in an earlier year, we hope that the data that we will get will be both significant and rich.

From the data we hope to develop a set of principles, do's and dont's if you like, for how to create

a satisfying and useful online equivalent for practical work that would normally be done face-to-face in a laboratory.

In creating this set of principles, we hope to be able to extend practical work to students who find coming to residential school either very difficult or impossible. In this way, we will extend

our mission to offer higher education in all qualifications to as wide a population as possible.