

# LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY

## ASPE Student Conferences

Two ASPE supported student conferences were held in Liverpool recently. Both took place at Liverpool John Moores University's Faculty of Education in Aigburth and came under the theme of 'Primary education: listening to Student Voices'.

The first event took place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May and focused on undergraduate teacher training (ITT) students. The day commenced with a keynote address by Professor Mark Brundrett who spoke about recent developments in the Primary national curriculum and the role of ASPE in supporting research and development in primary education. Around seventy delegates attended the conference including students, staff and other colleagues. The main part of the day was taken up with 25 presentations by final year students who outlined their own research in schools which had already formed the basis for their final undergraduate dissertations. Topics covered a wide range of research interests including issues such as:

- primary modern foreign language teaching
- the teaching of English
- Maths education
- working with learning support assistants etc.

The second conference took place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June and provided an opportunity for postgraduate students studying for Masters' degrees to lead seminars on their research work. The sessions focused on a variety of topics including key contemporary issues such as:

- the importance of coaching and mentoring in professional development activities in school
- key issues in leadership and management
- the teaching of English.

All of the student-led sessions were extremely impressive and the students revealed a wide range of research skills as well as great confidence in presentation to an audience of their peers and other colleagues. The students have been offered the opportunity to work with their tutors to submit short articles based on their work for consideration for inclusion in Education 3-13, the ASPE journal. The aim of such an edition of the journal will be to provide an avenue for the publication of high-quality research reports by students and so disseminate the authentic voice of young people coming into the teaching profession.

The support from ASPE was welcomed greatly by lecturing staff who gained the opportunity to work with students to develop their presentation skills and to work towards journal publication.