Katherine Mathieson appointed as new Chief Executive of the British Science Association

The British Science Association (BSA) today (4 July 2016) announced that its Director of Programmes, Katherine Mathieson, will take up the role of Chief Executive in August 2016.

Katherine joined the BSA from Nesta, the innovation foundation where she headed up Nesta’s portfolio of science education and science communication projects and started the new ‘Future Innovators’ programme.

Her current role as Director of Programmes includes the organisation’s public-facing work with a wide range of audience groups, from young people and families to adults and policy makers. She was instrumental in working with the current CEO, Imran Khan, to devise and implement the organisation’s strategic review in 2014, and in driving forward the new vision: to make science a fundamental part of culture and society.

Katherine will take up her post in August, when Imran will leave to become Head of Public Engagement at the Wellcome Trust.

The Rt Hon. the Lord David Willetts, Chair of the BSA, who led the recruitment panel for Imran’s successor, said: “I am delighted that Katherine will be the next Chief Executive of the BSA. The Council ran an open selection with a strong short-list of external and internal candidates. Katherine stood out from the rest and was unanimously endorsed by Council. She is hugely respected both inside and outside the organisation, has excellent leadership and management skills, and is a real champion of the BSA’s vision and mission.

“On behalf of the Council and staff of the BSA I would like to thank Imran Khan for the tremendous work that he has done transforming the organisation during his tenure and wish him well in his new role at the Wellcome Trust.

“This is an exciting time for the BSA, and I am looking forward to working with Katherine as she leads the team in delivering the rest of our current three-year business plan and developing a new one to take effect in 2018.”

Katherine Mathieson said: “I am delighted to take up the role of Chief Executive at the BSA. I believe there is tremendous scope in our new vision and mission, and I look forward to working with my talented, dedicated colleagues, volunteers and partners to achieve it. I have been a supporter of the BSA since achieving a CREST Award as a teenager and I am honoured to play such a significant role in guiding the BSA through the next few years.”
Imran Khan said: "Katherine has been an indispensable member of our senior team while I've been at the British Science Association. I'm absolutely delighted that she's been selected as our next CEO; having worked closely with her, I know Katherine will be able to take the Association to new heights over the coming years."

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For further information and interview requests, please contact:
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Notes to editors

About the British Science Association
The British Science Association (BSA) believes that science should be part of – rather than set apart from – society and culture, and is owned by the wider community. Our programmes encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with science, become ambassadors for science, and ultimately to be empowered to challenge and influence British science - whether they work in science or not.

Established in 1831, the BSA is a registered charity that organises major initiatives across the UK, including British Science Week, the annual British Science Festival, regional and local events, the CREST Awards and other programmes for young people in schools and colleges.

The BSA also organises specific activities for professional science communicators, including a specialist conference and training. For more information, please visit www.britishscienceassociation.org

About Katherine Mathieson
Katherine is currently Director of Programmes at the BSA, where her remit covers the organisation’s public-facing work with a diverse range of audience groups. The three departments within the BSA’s programmes directorate are education, engagement and cultural development (which includes the BSA’s research and policy work, thought leadership and partnerships with stakeholders and opinion-formers).

Katherine joined the BSA from Nesta, the innovation foundation, where she headed up Nesta’s portfolio of science education and science communication projects and started the new ‘Future Innovators’ programme.

Prior to that Katherine was an Information Scientist for the Forensic Science Service and an Information Officer for Science Line.

Katherine is a volunteer for GirlGuidingUK and a Trustee for the Royal Commonwealth Society. She has postgraduate qualifications in voluntary sector management, information science and science communication.

Katherine will take up the role of Chief Executive of the British Science Association in August 2016.