

Preface

It is assumed that you have picked up this text because you have the motivation to want to 'know about' chemistry. This might be because you want to go on and study chemistry further, or it could be that a knowledge of chemistry is needed to support another subject, *e.g.* biology or environmental studies, health studies, sports science or engineering courses. This text will be suitable for you. The course generally assumes a starting point of a 'pass' in GCSE single science or equivalent. Many of the units start at such a level that even people who have long since forgotten the science they once knew should be comfortable.

It could be that in the past you have found chemistry uninteresting and a little 'difficult' but now see that a knowledge of chemistry is needed to prepare you for university courses or for a balanced education. Alternatively, you might want a basic understanding of chemistry to give you a better insight into areas such as health, home chemicals, business market trends, gardening, *etc.* This text can help you get to grips with an understanding of chemical molecules, their structures and uses. They make up EVERYTHING, including the authors as we write this and you as you read it.

One of the great things about self-motivation, as compared with enforced study, is that you can work at your own pace; BUT, work is still necessary for understanding. There is no such thing as 'instant understanding' of chemistry or any other subject or skill. How many times did you fall from a bike or skateboard before you mastered it? Have you ever forgotten how to ride a bike? You stuck at it because YOU wanted to master the task. The study in this book is very similar: if you want to succeed, it requires 'stick-ability'. In the following sections we will give a few hints to help you study the material most effectively. We must make the best use of study time, and so we have given some hints on approaches that other students have found helpful. Read these before you start intensive study. The principles apply to all subjects, not just chemistry.

The text will also be of value to those studying 'A' level or GNVQ chemistry as it gives opportunities for self-study. It has also been used by technical staff in laboratories as a source of self-study.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SUCCEED . . . THEN GO FOR IT!

