

ChemNet News. *Issue 1*

Your ChemNet Representative.

Hi. My name is Robert Bowles. I'm here to help you get the most out of ChemNet. I'll be organising your events and hosting your ChemNet discussion board. I did a degree at the University of Portsmouth and then stayed on to do a PhD with an industrial partner. Since then, I have worked in Universities and industry so can probably answer a lot of your questions about life after A levels, and if you want to know something really obscure I can't answer, I can probably find someone at the RSC who can. Want to test me?

Email me at: **info@rsc.org**

Hopefully, we'll be able to get the ChemNet discussion board up and running soon and you'll be able to contact us through that too.

Welcome to ChemNet

ChemNet is your organisation. It will be at its best if you get involved, whether it's attending local events, or discussing Chemistry (or anything else really) on the ChemNet discussion board. I need ChemNet membership to hit 1000 for this, so get all your mates signed up too. (Better make sure they're studying chemistry first though....)

In this first mailing I wanted to introduce you to the RSC and ChemNet and tell you what's coming up. I also hope you enjoy your first edition of Chemistry World; there'll be plenty more where that came from.

The RSC.

Welcome to the RSC. The RSC is the largest organisation in Europe for advancing the chemical sciences. It is both a scientific society and a professional body for chemists and those working in the chemical sciences. Most RSC members in work in industry, but there are also members in schools, colleges, universities and the public sector and ChemNet will allow you to benefit from their knowledge and experience.

Chemistry in the news:

Thinking of studying Chemistry at University? – You're not alone; it's a growing trend. The latest figures from UCAS reveal that chemistry acceptances across UK universities have risen 18% since 2003. As ChemNet News was going to press, 3,511 students had signed up to chemistry at the UK's 55 universities which offer the subject. This figure is the highest since 1999 and is nearly 4% up compared to this time last year. The news comes as all subjects combined face an average four per cent decrease in acceptances since 2005.

Read the full story at: **<http://www.rsc.org/AboutUs/News/>**

This communication (including any attachments) is intended for the use of the addressee only and may contain confidential, privileged or copyright material. It may not be relied upon or disclosed to any other person without the consent of the RSC. If you have received it in error, please contact us immediately. Any advice given by the RSC has been carefully formulated but is necessarily based on the information available, and the RSC cannot be held responsible for accuracy or completeness. In this respect, the RSC owes no duty of care and shall not be liable for any resulting damage or loss. The RSC acknowledges that a disclaimer cannot restrict liability at law for personal injury or death arising through a finding of negligence.

ChemSocs.

If you plan to study Chemistry at university you'll be able to transfer from ChemNet membership to undergraduate Affiliate Membership of the RSC. This can be the next step on your path to a career in the chemical industries, and brings its own benefits. Once at University, you will be able to join your local ChemSoc. These are run by students (both undergraduates and postgraduates) and offer a chance to meet other students at social events and also make contacts with those in the chemical industries, handy if you need a work placement as part of your university course. I hope to be organising some local ChemNet events with some ChemSocs later in the year, they're all still on holiday at the moment, alright for some!

ChemNet on the web.

Been to the RSC website yet? It's huge but there's a couple of sections of it you should familiarise yourself with, because these sections are for you. The first is the ChemNet website, **www.rsc.org/chemnet**

This will have all the latest info on forthcoming ChemNet events and other useful stuff for you. If there is anything you think that should be up there that isn't let me know, and I'll get it sorted. The second site of interest is the education section: **www.rsc.org/education**

The school student section of this has loads of info on studying chemistry, some free resources, and also external links to other chemistry and more general science sites, handy for picking up revision tips, or finding some current info for coursework assignments.

Careers spot.

ChemNet is also going to help you with your decisions about your future by offering help and information about courses or universities. Our local events will be aimed at helping you make contact with people who are studying and about to pursue a chemistry career or those who are already there. These events will be great if you know what to do and want to research it; even better if you don't know where to start yet and need some ideas.

Dear ChemNet...

I've watched loads of CSI and I want to be a forensic scientist. Which forensic science course should I do?

Mr I. Solvit

(from Blackpool, the Las Vegas of the north)

Well Mr Solvit, I have it on good authority that you would have a better chance of working as a forensic scientist with a first degree in chemistry or some other pure science rather than a degree in forensic science. A report, '*Forensic science: implications for higher education 2004*', finds that forensic science employers may favour recruits with a masters degree in forensic science because these students would have done a BSc in chemistry or another similar science subject in the first instance.

Yours, ChemNet.

Got a chemistry related problem? Email us at: info@rsc.org.

R. Bowler.