

welcome to issue 23

August is results month! After all the assignments and exams you get to find out if you've got your place at the university you really wanted. If you got the grades to match your offer then well done, you'll be sent a confirmation letter from UCAS.

If you are a little short, there may still be the possibility of a place. It's always best to call your first-choice university as soon as you can. If you've not quite made it, they may still take you. If you had a complete disaster, don't panic, you still might be able to get a place on a chemistry course through clearing.

Many of you will be saying goodbye to *ChemNet* too. If you have completed your studies we'll be writing to you soon with a great offer about how you can continue to get *Chemistry World* and access other benefits at university as an undergraduate member of the *RSC*.

We've included a survey with this issue of *ChemNet News*. Please take a couple of minutes to tell us what you've thought of *ChemNet* over the last year and return it in the envelope provided. We'll use the information to make *ChemNet* even better next year!



Robert Bowles – Editor



A year in industry

CAREERS SPOT

Getting work experience can be a real challenge, but can offer a great insight into working as a chemist. Many

companies do offer work experience but their schemes can be very competitive to get on to and are often limited in numbers. You need to start searching for placements soon. Applications will often start from September to November for placements next summer, and the application process is often like going for a real job. There are some tips you can follow to get work experience on the *ChemNet* discussion board.

Get in touch if you haven't registered for a username yet.

If you want to make more of a gap year and get some chemistry work related experience than try the year in industry website: <http://www.yini.org.uk/> They help talented pre-university and undergraduate students find the best work placements across the UK. Placements generally last about 12 months and in that time you can expect to earn a competitive salary. And you won't just be making the tea, they make sure you work on real projects which are of use to the company you are placed with.

Website of the month

<http://www.pubs.acs.org/cen/>
This site is home to *Chemical and Engineering News*, published by the *American Chemical Society*. And it hosts exactly what it says it does, news from the chemical and engineering worlds. Most of it

is all about the latest chemical engineering research but it does have a few more oddball items, such as the chemistry of bowling balls and killer golf trolleys. Sounds intriguing.

TEXT US
ON 07825
186 304

chemnet events

Meet the Universities in July was a huge success. 165 *ChemNet* members came making it our biggest event yet and many parents also attended. Thanks to everyone who came and I hope you all found it useful.

Well, on to the next school year. We've got the following events confirmed at the moment and more coming soon;

Newcastle University
10th September

Birmingham University
23 September

**Talk by John Emsley at
Catalyst Science
Discovery Centre,
Widnes**
11 November

**Visit to Clariant Ltd,
Leeds**
12 November

Let us know if you want more details about any of them or want to book your place at:
chemnet@rsc.org.

If you live near any of these areas you'll get an invite in the post. Look out for them, they fill up fast.

chemistry on the web

The RSC produces a book called *Elegant Solutions* about ten beautiful experiments in chemistry. Here is a link to someone else's book with his top ten experiments:

<http://www.sciwrite.org/glj/10refs.html>

At first glance, this web page is just a list, but click on the links related to the experiments to discover the world hidden beneath.

Here's another top ten for you. This one has video clips, the top ten amazing chemical reactions:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/39mva>

YouTube's great isn't it? And now the exams are over you can waste as much time on it as you like with a clear conscience.

And while we're on the subject of *YouTube* make sure you check out the new videos of the elements here: <http://www.periodicvideos.com> Each element has its own video prepared by the School of Chemistry at the University of Nottingham. The site also has a link to its sister site: <http://www.test-tube.org.uk/> which is the home page for Brady Haran - filmmaker-in-residence for Nottingham Science City. He's been making lots of great videos about science, which are all available on his site.

Chemistry in the news



Nanotechnology is always worth keeping an eye on!

Here's a great article on yet more applications for nanotechnology which really shows how chemistry, and in this case biology, compliment each other when working in nanotechnology. The bionic eye, ok, ok, it's not a whole eye, it's just a contact lens fitted with some extremely small light emitting diodes (LEDs), which could help to turn a contact lens into a sophisticated personal display. <http://www.tinyurl.com/6p8glm>

It's interesting that the article contains a counter argument about the actual practicality of the application of this technology, almost a strong rebuke really. It's always good (if a little rare these days!) to see balanced reporting of science in the

media. Does this report represent a case of technology looking for an application or is it driven by real need? Are you doing something because you can rather than because you should or because it has a real use?

It's a great discussion to have. I'd like to hope that we can continue to have both types of research, pure "blue-sky" research with no apparent immediate use in mind, but which can lead to massive advancements in the future, and other targeted focused research which has a real achievable goal. The discovery of DNA and the invention of the internet have both spawned whole industries that Watson and Crick and Tim Berners-Lee never dreamed of, but it's just as important to continue to make steady progress in specific areas.

If you want to register to use the discussion board email chemnet@rsc.org

“To book a place on a ChemNet event email: chemnet@rsc.org or call 01223 432340”

free stuff!



This month we have yet more *MolyMod* chemistry kits to give away. *MolyMod* produce excellent molecular modelling kits, take a look here: <http://www.molymod.com> The winners of the *MolyMod* kits last month were Gareth Richards from Cheltenham and Stephen Cochcrane from Chesterfield. Well done, you'll be getting them soon.

To win a *MolyMod* kit this month, answer the following question by 15 August; *In what year did Lord Rayleigh win a nobel prize for the discovery of argon?* Email your answers to: chemnet@rsc.org or call 01223 432340.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Would you like to see your article in the next issue? If it's good enough we'll print it! Submit your article to chemnet@rsc.org

CHEMISTRY FACTS

On 1st August 1774 Joseph Priestly heated red mercuric oxide to produce "dephlogisticated air". You may have heard of it as oxygen. Volume 1 of his publication "*Experiments and Observations on Different Kinds of Air*" outlined several other discoveries including nitrous oxide and ammonia.



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