

# Top of the Bench Competition 2016

To: the Head of the Chemistry Department

This national competition is for 14 - 16 year old students studying chemistry and you are invited to enter a team from your school.

The competition begins with a chemical knowledge written test sent to you by the Royal Society of Chemistry Birmingham & West Midlands Local Section to select the top 6 teams for a regional final. The **regional final will then take place at Birmingham University on Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup> 2016** to select a team to represent Birmingham & West Midlands in the UK final at Loughborough University on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

The regional final will test factual knowledge as well as practical and problem-solving skills where teamwork will be an essential factor.

Teams must consist of:

- two students from year 9
- one from Year 10
- one from Year 11.

The national final, organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry, includes:

- a short test of factual chemical knowledge
- a practical chemical problem-solving team exercise.

First prize is awarded to the best overall school performance, with five teams receiving runners up prizes. The Jacqui Clee Award is given to the student who has demonstrated an outstanding individual contribution to the day.

In 2015 the team from King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys Birmingham won both our regional final and the national final. Our regional final was very close fought with only 1½ points separating the top 4 teams. The top 3 teams in the regional final are awarded book tokens and the national winners are awarded the Top of the Bench trophy and £500 for their school to spend on chemistry equipment, as well as a gift voucher for each team member.

**To find out more and apply to take part please contact the Local Section Secretary Mr L Cheriton before 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 on [les.cheriton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:les.cheriton@blueyonder.co.uk).** The chemical knowledge test will then be sent out to participating schools which should be returned before the October half term.