

Author: Wendy Winnard

Priestley Chemistry Students Enjoy Some Real Analysis

subtitle

As a result of generous funding from the Royal Society of Chemistry NWR-AD, Priestley students and their teachers were given the valuable opportunity of visiting two Russell Group Universities and carry out some real analytical chemistry.

On the 25th June 2013 15 students and teachers Wendy Winnard and Steve Pennington set off from Warrington Central station to join over 200 other students in STEM master classes at the brand new teaching hub at the University of Liverpool. Students experienced the chemistry of pain as they carried out the synthesis and analysis of benzocaine. They were given hands on experience of using IR for the first time. In a session entitled "Let there be light" they investigated the kinetics of a reaction involving TiO_2 in the photocatalytic decomposition of organic material using spectrophotometers.

On 27th June a further 15 students travelled to the University of Manchester to experience Synthesis, Spectroscopy and Chromatography. Lead by Chemistry's Curriculum Manager Barbara Schofield and Steve Pennington the students were welcomed by Dr Frank Mair and given a tour of the facilities including X-ray and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy. Students were then given the chance to synthesise and analyse diphenylmethanol from benzophenone. As with Liverpool students they analysed their product using TLC and IR spectroscopy

There's a first time for everything!

Priestley Chemists at Warrington Central



Brandon Stewart and Matt Rostron in the new labs at Liverpool



Amy Garcha and Abigail Lewis using IR Facilities at Liverpool



Priestley Students using IR facilities at Manchester



Priestley Chemistry students and staff would really like to thank RSC NW AD and in particular Stuart Forbes Team Leader Spectroscopy, Separations & Thermal Analysis at Shell for their help in making these visits possible.

