



Manchester Schools' Analyst Competition 2011



This year's Manchester heat of the Schools' Analyst Competition saw 18 schools competing for first place and the opportunity to represent the NW region at the national final, which will take place at Reading University on the 21-22 June. The competition was held at the School of Biology, Chemistry and Health Science of the Manchester Metropolitan University on Friday 6th of May 2011, with generous sponsorship from: RSC Analytical Trust Fund; AstraZeneca, Chemicals Northwest and Melford Laboratories Ltd.

This year the students were asked to determine the mass of aspirin in tablets by back titration and by HPLC. Students also had to determine the identity of a trace amount of white powder using FTIR and a database of known compounds.

The winners of this year's Manchester heat were:

1. Withington Girls School
2. Manchester Grammar School
3. Alderley Edge School for Girls

The competition was followed by lunch and two very enjoyable talks. Craig Bruce from Astra Zeneca and a ChemNet Ambassador gave a presentation about the variety of careers for which chemistry knowledge is required and in particular about his own experience as a computational chemist. Andrew Skae, a firearms expert from the Firearms Unit of the Manchester *Forensic* Science Service gave an interactive presentation on what it is really like to be a CSI. Students had the opportunity to race each other in dressing up for attending a crime scene.

It is fair to say that students, teachers and organisers alike had a great time.

Withington Girls School will now represent the Northwest region at the national final of the Schools' Analyst Competition. We wish them the best of luck!!!



1st: Withington Girls School

(with L to R: Elsa Faria-Billinton - NWAD; Megan McLean - NWAD & MMU, Sanja Potgieter-Vermaak - MMU, Winning Team, Craig Bruce - AstraZeneca; Andrew Skae - Forensic Science Service Manchester)



2nd: Manchester Grammar School

(with L to R: Elsa Faria-Billinton - NWAD; Sanja Potgieter-Vermaak - MMU; Megan McLean - NWAD & MMU; Winning Team; Andrew Skae - Forensic Science Service Manchester; Craig Bruce - AstraZeneca)



3rd: Alderley Edge School for Girls

(with L to R: Elsa Faria-Billinton - NWAD; Megan McLean - NWAD & MMU; Sanja Potgieter-Vermaak - MMU; Winning Team; Andrew Skae - Forensic Science Service Manchester; Craig Bruce - AstraZeneca)

