



---

## Royal Society of Chemistry Annual Report to the EuCheMS Division of Chemical Education for 2014-2015

### 1. Abstract

Several reviews and consultations took place in the context of existing national frameworks. The RSC published a number of resources with an emphasis on electronic and online materials. It also extended its international activities in South East Asia.

### 2. National educational policy

The Department for Education undertook the Carter Review of Initial Teacher Training in England, undertook National Curriculum reform in key stage 4 science and consulted on Teacher Professional Development. Ofqual set the grade standards of new GCSEs in England, and issued a consultation on the Assessment of Practical Work in GCSE Science. UCAS consulted on proposals to introduce a new tariff. The Welsh government undertook a survey on GCSE science content.

### 3. Events in chemical education

The Royal Society of Chemistry and the British Council ran the largest practical science lesson at the Northern Ireland Science Festival, involving 1339 students. Variety in Chemistry Education was held in conjunction with the Physics Higher Education Conference at Durham University. A meeting was held for Initial Teacher Education providers and the Secondary and Further Education Interest Group Chemistry Teachers Conference took place in Sheffield.

### 4. Activities of the Royal Society of Chemistry

The Lord Lewis Prize was awarded to John Holman at the University of York. He was recognised for his extensive influence in the area of chemistry education policy. Keith Taber received the Education Award for extensive research contribution to the teaching and learning of chemistry concepts. Mike Cole at Manchester Metropolitan University received the Higher Education Award for his outstanding contributions both regionally and nationally to employee upskilling. The Society published a Policy Statement on Primary Science: Supporting the teaching and learning of science in primary (and early years) education. The

Society has established an Outreach Fund, designed to support chemistry based events and activities for public audiences. It has obtained a licence to award Chartered Science Teacher status. The RSC prize in the National Science and Engineering Competition was won by Charlotte Duff of Whitley Bay High School for a project entitled Investigation of Potential Biomarkers for Urinary Tract Infections.

## **5. Publications**

The Royal Society has published its vision for UK education during the next 20 years. This includes a broader science learning experience for students up to age 18, raising the professional status of teachers and a new framework to include academic and vocational education. The RSC released a Periodic Table app, funded by Reckitt Benckiser and a screen experiment on titration. A screen experiment on the synthesis of aspirin has been launched as part of Learn Chemistry. New resources for higher education include a journal of the month and reading journal articles for undergraduates.

## **6. Liaison with the chemical industry**

Peter Dowding of Infineum was awarded the Royal Society of Chemistry's Inspiration and Industry Award for enthusing university students about research and colloid science. Your Life is a government campaign that is sponsored by a number of chemical companies, aimed at inspiring young people to take up STEM subjects. The RSC has developed an Industry Strategy for the period 2014-2019 to create a thriving and highly connected industrial chemical science community, in the UK and internationally, for the benefit of society and the economy.

## **7. International and European initiatives**

A Royal Society of Chemistry student club opened at Beijing University of Chemical Technology in Beijing, China. Learn Chemistry has developed a collection of resources most commonly accessed by Indian teachers and students. The first ChemCareers event was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and attracted more than 200 students.

## **8. Other events and activities**

The Royal Society of Chemistry is one of 14 bodies to have signed the Science Council's Declaration on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion. This aims to develop a scientific workforce to reflect the diversity of society. Activities taking place as part of British Science Week included Water in Scotland, practical primary teaching, the Chemical Reaction Challenge and Chemistry is Elementary. The Big Bang Fair, the largest celebration of STEM for young people in the UK, took place from 11-14 March.

## **9. Name of delegate**

Paul Yates.

## **10. Contact details of delegate.**

University of Chester.

+44 1244 512393