



Liverpool College

DEC 2010

Top of The Bench 1

Caption Competition 1

Tropical Encounters 2

Phenomenal Pheromones 3

# The College Scientist

## Top of the Bench *by Anna Parry & Hope Lappin*

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2010 four members of Liverpool College attended a Chemistry challenge – ‘Top of the Bench’ – at Liverpool John Moore's University. Our first task was to make a poster on whatever topic we wanted – ours was the Chemistry of Food. With some last minute adjustments to our poster we set off for a whole day of Chemistry.

We arrived late but got off to a cracking start – quite literally. We were given some Calcium Carbonate, Hydrochloric Acid and pure water as well as a set of equipment. Then we had to produce a powder that could neutralise acid soil, an acidic solution and an alkaline solution with a written explanation of our method.

Two broken test tubes later and all hope of enjoying our day off had gone. However once we had ‘cracked’ the code. Things got a little easier. We managed to create an alkaline solution and understood the method behind creating the powder that could neutralise acid soil and an acidic solution. With more time we were confident we could have fully completed the task. However, we completed our method notes and had a few laughs here and there, especially when the lady hosting the day said very politely - “You do realise there is a hole in that test tube”.

After lunch all members of the group took an hour test. It was difficult and challenging, but we all tried our hardest. Despite not walking away with gold we are confident that we did our best and knowing that in the future, even if we don't quite understand something fully in the beginning, it will eventually, with perseverance, become clear!



### “Who’s a pretty boy then” Caption Competition.

This photograph of Mr Hall was taken during a Science Faculty Trip to the science festival held at John Moores University, Liverpool.

Send all entries to  
[jtraynor@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:jtraynor@liverpoolcollege.org.uk)

There will be a prize for the winner and all the best entries will be posted on the intranet

# Tropical Encounters by Amy Lowey

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, Y9 went to John Moores University for the Science Festival. Throughout the day, we listened to four lectures; Phenomenal Pheromones, Now Hear This, The Science of Football "Bend it like Beckham" and Tropical Encounters.

My favourite Lecture was Tropical Encounters, where we had the chance to meet some animals that had been rescued and nursed back to health. There was a parrot, a snapping turtle, a reptile, a snake, a skunk and a meercat. Some lucky people were chosen to hold and pet the animals and everyone got a chance to stroke them.

I think this was the most interesting lecture, as it allowed you to do something completely different, that you would not normally be able to do. It's not often that you have the chance to meet and greet such weird and wonderful animals in a safe environment.

I think the whole of year nine thoroughly enjoyed the day, as the lectures explored areas of science that would interest our age group and did it in a way in which we could all get involved.



# Phenomenal Pheromones by Anna Parry

The second talk we went to was called *Phenomenal Pheromones*. None of us had a clue what a pheromone was before the talk and we were all intrigued at what one could be. The lecturer explained that a pheromone was a type of chemical used for communication. Some are used to attract members of the species whereas others are a sign of danger or a guide to food.

He showed us examples of different animal culture such as bees and moths, that use these chemicals and we got a chance to smell each pheromone – some of them were disgusting! However others had nicer lemony smells and he explained that this was because they had some of the same molecules that are in some fruits.

It was a very interesting talk and he made a complicated concept easy to understand and humorous.



Useful Websites for revision/pastpapers/exam timetables  
<http://www.chemguide.co.uk/>  
[http://web.aqa.org.uk/admin/qp-ms\\_library.php](http://web.aqa.org.uk/admin/qp-ms_library.php)  
<http://www.biologymad.com/>  
<http://www.freeexampapers.com/>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>  
[http://store.aqa.org.uk/admin/t\\_table\\_pdf/TT-GCSE-SUM10.PDF](http://store.aqa.org.uk/admin/t_table_pdf/TT-GCSE-SUM10.PDF)