

Year 8 Visit Salters' Festival of Chemistry

On Thursday 22nd March, Year 8 students Lucy, Grace, Lex and Lucas visited the University of Cambridge Chemistry Department to represent St Faith's at the annual Salters' Festival of Chemistry. Over the course of the day, teams from twenty different schools attempted to complete two practical challenges with judges from Biochrom Ltd, Astra Zeneca and the University of Cambridge looking out for great teamwork and communication skills, strong practical techniques, a tidy work area and an excellent final lab report.

The day began with the Salters' challenge, with teams using their analytical and practical skills to solve 'the mystery of the missing centenary cup'. The team had the opportunity to explore and implement techniques used by forensic scientists such as chromatography and codebreaking. After a quick lunch break, the afternoon activities began. The second challenge of the day was set by the University of Cambridge and the teams were tasked with finding out the iron content in a multivitamin tablet.

Lucy, Grace, Lex and Lucas were then joined by their Year 8 peers for the spectacular 'it's a gas!' lecture delivered by the inspirational Dr Peter Wothers. They were mesmerised by giant exploding hydrogen balloons, exploding jelly babies, iodine clouds, dry ice and carbon dioxide snow and much more!

The day concluded with the presentation of prize and I am pleased to report that the St Faith's team were awarded third place in the university challenge. Congratulations to Lucy, Grace, Lex and Lucas for their excellent work throughout the day and for being super ambassadors for the school.

