



Area News - Chemistry

What have we been up to?

Just before Christmas, **Year 2** students set off on an *epic* science adventure to **Switzerland!** Their first stop? **CERN** — the home of the worldfamous Large Hadron Collider and some of the biggest scientific discoveries ever made. They spent a whole day exploring cutting-edge physics, then headed back to the lab to build their very own **cloud chamber**, capturing the tracks of cosmic particles like real particle physicists.

But it wasn't all science and atoms — they also enjoyed a full day discovering the magic of **Swiss chocolate** and **cheese making**. And the highlight? A traditional Swiss **fondue feast**, complete with lively folk music. Yes, there were actual **cowbells** and a **flugelhorn**... and yes, it was as brilliantly weird and wonderful as it sounds!

Meanwhile, both **Year 1 and Year 2** have been challenging themselves with the **2026 Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad**. This competition is seriously tough — the kind of challenge that pushes even top students to think differently, stretch their brainpower, and show off their chemistry superskills.

These students aren't just learning chemistry... they're *living* it!



Recently in lessons we have been ...

Since Christmas, **Year 2** have been on a full-on science adventure, diving deep into the colourful world of **acids, alkalis, and pH!** They've been getting hands-on with the **state-of-the-art pH meters** in the lab — the kind of tech that makes you feel like you're running your own top-secret chemistry mission. Every experiment means more chances to test, tweak, and discover how even tiny changes can shift the pH scale. It's basically chemistry superpowers... but real.

Meanwhile, **Year 1** have been exploring one of the coolest maps in science: the **Periodic Table!** They've been decoding the patterns in **Group 2** and **Group 7**, uncovering why these elements behave the way they do — from explosive reactions to colourful compounds. Using their GCSE knowledge like expert investigators, they've been piecing together how **structure and bonding** explain the properties of different materials. Why do some things melt easily? Why are some flexible? Why do others snap like a twig? They now know.

Both year groups have levelled up massively — curiosity boosted, skills unlocked, and confidence powered up.

Chemistry isn't just a subject... it's an adventure waiting to happen!