Message from the Project Office

Dear All

Another busy year has passed and we welcome both established and new users to the revised course. We hope you are enjoying the revised course with the new materials. This Newsletter aims to bring you up-to-date with the changes for the A2 year (first teaching from September 2009). As well as the usual information regarding important dates there is an extended notice from Hannah Feirn, our new subject officer, an outline of the changes to the course, answers to some of the most common queries regarding suppliers and information regarding the availability of resources to support the teaching of the A2 year. There is also information about a series of one-day regional dissemination events for teachers who have taught the course for at least one year (i.e., have taught the new AS by the summer of 2009).

We would also like to inform you that the Salters Advanced Chemistry website will undergo a reconstruction that should be completed by the end of the academic year.

Wishing you well for the forthcoming year

Chris Otter and Sandra Wilmott

Important Dates

Residential courses at York 2009
Technicians Tue/Wed 7/8 Jul
Teachers AS Mon/Tue 13/14 Jul
Teachers A2 Thu/Fri 16/17 Jul

Download application forms from SAC website.

A2 Dissemination meetings at:
St Thomas More RC High School, Tyne & Wear Fri, 24 Apr
Greenhead College, Huddersfield, W Yorks Wed, 29 Apr
The Grammar School for Girls Wilmington, Dartford, Kent Fri, 1 May
Newent Community School, Glos Wed, 6 May
St Olaves School, Orpington, London Tue, 12 May
Plymouth High School for Girls, Devon Fri, 15 May
Wycombe High School, High Wycombe, Bucks Mon, 18 May
Esher College, Surrey Wed, 3 Jun
Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School, Sheffield, S Yorks TBA
Dyffryn Taf, Whitland, S Wales TBA

Application form enclosed and available on SAC website:
website: www.york.ac.uk/org/seg/salters/chemistry/

Examinations
2848 Wed 3 Jun 09 (am)
2849 Thu 11 Jun 09 (pm)
2850 Wed 3 Jun 09 (am)
2854 Thu 18 Jun 09 (am)
F331 Wed 3 Jun 09 (am)
F332 Wed 3 Jun 09 (am)

14 Feb - Open Book paper available in centres.
From 13 Mar - Advance Notice Article available on OCR website and Interchange
15 May - Deadline for submission of F333 to moderator

OCR INSET
10 Mar 09 (London)
25 Mar 09 (Birmingham)
For details please see:
website: www.ocr.org.uk/training
The new specification
Copies of the new specification are available from the OCR website.
The first examination on the NEW specification is the F331 examination which was available in January 2009. F332 will be available for the first time in June 2009. From June 2009 F331 and F332 will be available each January and June. F333 will only be available in June each year.
For A2, the first examination on the NEW A2 specification is the F334 examination which is available in January 2010. F335 will be available for the first time in June 2010. From June 2010 F334 and F335 will be available each January and June. F336 will only be available in June each year.

The Advance Notice Article for F332
Unlike the open book paper, the Advance Notice Article for F332 will not be delivered to centres. The Advance Notice Article for June 2009 will be available for download from the OCR website and the Chemistry B (Salters) page on Interchange from the 13 March.

The Practical Skills Tasks for F333
The new specification AS Coursework is undertaken as a series of Practical Skills Assessments which involve undertaking Practical Skills Tasks. Detailed guidance on these Practical Skills Tasks is found in the Practical Skills Handbook. (Available from the OCR website)

F333 FAQ
Where do I find the Tasks?
All Tasks, Mark Schemes and Instructions for all AS F333 Tasks offered for 1 June 2008 to 14 May 2009 are on Interchange and available for download. Please refer to pages 8, 9 and 10 of the Practical Skills Handbook, if you are still having problems accessing this material.

How do I get updates when pages on Interchange change?
To be added to an e-alerts system when any changes are made to Task material, please email a contact name and email address, along with your centre number and centre name and the name of the specification for which you would like to receive updates (Chemistry B (Salters)) to GCEScienceTasks@ocr.org.uk

How do I assess Skill I and can I use the assessed Tasks for assessment of this Skill?
Skill I can be assessed based on any practical work performed by the student. Some centres may choose to do this almost entirely based on assessed Tasks (assuming that they do at least six) and some may do this entirely based on non-assessed practicals. It’s totally up to the centre to decide. The competence card should be used as an aide memoire for teachers to record comments (or marks) that will help them award a mark that is a summary of their performance over the year. They can use any experiment for this purpose, including Tasks.

Will the tasks provided on Interchange for Skills II, III, IV and V be valid for use next year, or will they all be different?
No. There will be a new set of 12 tasks available next year, some of these may, or may not be, identical to those available for this year. Some may be incredibly similar but slightly ‘tweaked’ and some may be completely new. It is important that each cohort of candidates sit tasks which have been downloaded and are the tasks which are dated for the appropriate year. All tasks remain live assessment material throughout the life of the specification and must be kept secure at all times. If a task is available one year, but not the following year, it is still possible that it may be used in another subsequent year.

Can my candidates undertake the Tasks in any order?
The Skill IV of any Task cannot be undertaken AFTER the Skill V for this Task. If you wish your candidates to sit their Skill V before their Skill IV the Skill IV undertaken will have to be from a different Task and the Skill IV associated with the Skill V which was sat will become invalid for assessment. Other than this the Tasks may be sat in any order.

For further information please refer to the Practical Skills Handbook or email the dedicated Task address at GCEScienceTasks@ocr.org.uk

The legacy specification (3887/7887)
The final examinations on the legacy AS specification (3887) will take place in June 2009. These examinations are intended for re-sits, and no further examinations on the AS course of this specification will be available. The final examinations on the legacy A2 Specification (7887) will take place in June 2010, again this is intended for re-sits and there will be no further opportunity to sit these examinations beyond this date.

Please be advised that the legacy and new specifications are not compatible, and it is not possible to certificate an AS or GCE qualification with a mixture of legacy and new modules. For example, if a candidate has achieved an AS in the legacy specification and wishes to use these modules towards an A2 qualification it would be necessary for them to take their A2 modules also in the legacy specification. Their final assessment opportunity will be June 2010. Should they wish to re-sit beyond this point it would be necessary for them to sit ALL AS and A2 modules from the new specification.

The 2852/01 Open-Book Paper
The topic for the 2009 Open-Book paper is chemistry in F1 car racing and intermolecular forces. These papers were delivered to centres for the 14 February based on provisional entries. If you have not yet received these papers please ensure that you have made provisional entries for this unit.

Hannah Feirn
Subject Officer
Changes to the A2 course

There have been a number of significant changes to the assessment, content and resources relating to the A2 course. What follows is a summary of the main changes.

General points for information
- Synoptic components are in all A2 teaching modules (they are clearly identified in the specification and in 'Check your knowledge and understanding' activities)
- 'How Science Works' is integrated into the stories and supported by activities
- Storylines have been updated but remain broadly familiar
- There has been a comprehensive update of activities, using more 'Assessment for Learning' activities

A2 assessment remains broadly the same (see table below). For last availability of legacy examination units and first availability of new examination units see 'News from OCR (page 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit F334</th>
<th>Unit F335</th>
<th>Unit F336</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry of Materials</td>
<td>Chemistry by Design</td>
<td>Chemistry Individual Investigation (internal assessment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What's in a Medicine</td>
<td>Agriculture and Industry</td>
<td>Eight practical skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Material Revolution</td>
<td>Colour by Design</td>
<td>The Oceans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Thread of Life</td>
<td>Medicines by Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15% of A level</td>
<td>20% of A level</td>
<td>15% of A level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written paper</td>
<td>Written paper</td>
<td>Internal assessment of skills using generic guidance provided by OCR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hr 30 min</td>
<td>2 hrs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Individual Investigation
What follows is a brief outline of what has changed and what has stayed the same with the Individual Investigation. You are advised to read the student and teacher notes in the A2 support pack and the Practical skills handbook (available for download from the OCR web site) for further details.

What's the same?
- Candidates choose their subject
- Teacher advises
- Four-week time period with 18 hours practical work
- Internally assessed by teacher
- Internal and external moderation

What's different?
- Eight skill areas (A-H) with generic descriptors (see specification for detail)
- New skill area (H) gives credit for demand
- 'Best fit' assessment rather than hierarchical
- New mark criteria have broadened the nature of appropriate investigation. (See 'Practical Skills handbook')

Stages in the process
- After planning draft section 1 of the student report is authenticated and returned to the student
- After practical work is complete the student hands in section 2 of their report and keeps a copy for themselves
- Student hands in final completed report for authentication and marking

How marking links to the student report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Area</th>
<th>Maximum Mark</th>
<th>Description of skill area</th>
<th>Section of student report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chemical Ideas</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Observation and measurements</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Analysis and interpretation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Manipulation</td>
<td>observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Demand</td>
<td>all</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Availability of resources for teaching A2 from September 2009

Prices quoted are list prices. Please contact your local Heinemann representative to find out if there are any deals available.

#### Student books
- **Chemical Storylines A2** £15.99  Now available
- **Chemical Ideas AS/A2** £22.99  Now available

#### Teacher Resources
- **Support Pack A2** £125.00  April 2009
  (Ring binder & editable CD-ROM)

#### Electronic Resources
- **Interactive Presentations A2** £295.00  April 2009
  (CD-ROM) + VAT

#### Revision Guides
- **Revise A2 Chemistry for Salters** £6.99  June 2009

The first two A2 modules of the A2 Support Pack materials will be made available on the Heinemann website from mid-March (in advance of publication of the full pack in April) in order to assist with planning.

Centres that purchased the first edition of the A2 Interactive Presentations can purchase the new edition for £50. Please consult your representative, if you haven’t received a letter from Heinemann giving details of this.
Handy suppliers

If you have suppliers for some of the more difficult to get items for the course, or conversely you are struggling to find suppliers for particular items please contact us here at the project office.

PR4.5 Water soluble laundry bags made from poly(ethenol) film can be used for activity PR4.5. They can be obtained from Winhealth Ltd. They can be contacted on www.win-health.com, tel 01835 864866, fax 01835 863238.

EL1.4 If you are struggling to get hold of the appropriate pasta use M&M sweets. They have M&M written on only one side, so students can count the number of sweets falling ‘face up’ each time.

A2.2 You might like to use light sensitive beads or light sensitive paper in this activity. You can obtain these from http://store.sundancesolar.com/enbeaduvsenb.html.

AS activity tips

EL1.4 Pasta - ditali lisci - available from Tesco.

EL2.2(2) Use different coloured card and laminate before cutting up.

EL3 (Old activity EL1.) Alternative or before – copper iodide experiment. Must use new copper foil each time.

DF3.2 Tube must be very hot – use two large bunsen burners. Takes practice to get the technique right. ‘Draw out’ teat pipettes to elongate them.

DF4.4 Liquid paraffin, used for oil baths, works well when soaked into the mineral wool.

DF6.1 Just use the laminated sheet as a reaction vessel, with a petri dish as a cover for each set of reactions. Simply rinse and wipe the sheet dry at the end. It works faster, but still safely, with 2M sulphuric acid and 50% nitric acid.

DF7 Alternative, or as well as. Weigh a small butane burner (camping gas or paint stripping burner). Attach a rubber tube and collect 1 litre of gas, over water, using a large measuring cylinder. Reweigh. Subtract weighings. Multiply by 24 to arrive at Mr. It should be just under 58, as it contains some propane.

ES6.3 Be very careful when mixing the alcohol and conc, HCl. Do not shake at first - gentle swirling and release the pressure. Then gradually shake more vigorously.

A3.2 The amount of hexane can be reduced to 10cm³ without affecting the result. This is green chemistry in action as it reduces the amount of solvent, that has to be disposed of, considerably.

A3.4 Can be done as a demonstration, using a large beaker or conical, larger volumes of solution and placed on an OHP.

A6.2 It works very well if you clingfilm both beakers, one with carbon dioxide in and the other with air, before putting under lamps. Lead shot is an alternative to lead discs.

PR1.2 Alternative (if you lack the space or you have several groups or you need to save time). Put samples of common polyalkenes (LDPE, HDPE, polystyrene and polypropylene) in a black plastic sack. Using individual whiteboards get the students to identify each plastic by its use. Finally ask the students to complete a table with the following headings – name, formula monomer, polymer repeating unit or formula and uses. This exercise only takes 15-20 minutes, including completing the table.

Dave Newton
formerly of Greenhead College

Please note: These tips have been provided by Dave Newton. Before adopting any changes to the activities you must ensure you produce an appropriate revised risk assessment.
New Subject Officer

We have a new subject officer for Salters Chemistry. Hannah can be contacted regarding any aspect of assessment of the course.

Hannah Feirn
Qualifications Leader GCE Chemistry B (Salters)
OCR Qualifications Division
I Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU, UK
Tel: 01223 553998
Email: science@ocr.org.uk

Salters Advanced Chemistry Prizewinners

Prizes are awarded annually to the candidates who have achieved the highest grades in the Salters Advanced Chemistry examinations.

Prizewinners are invited to the Salters' Hall for the prize giving during the Autumn Term.

The picture shows last year's prizewinners, who are:

Samuel Smith – St. Edwards School, Oxford
Luke Evans – King Edward VI College, Stourbridge
Jonathan Wheatcroft – Bay House School, Gosport

Salters Curricula Book Grants

The Salters' Institute is committed to encouraging schools to benefit from following the Salters’ Curricula therefore we offer grants of up to £500 for the purchase of course books for:

- Salters-Nuffield Advanced Biology
- Salters Advanced Chemistry
- Salters Horners Advanced Physics

Applications can now only be made online at www.saltersinstitute.co.uk. For further information please contact the Publicity Co-ordinator at publicity@salters.co.uk or telephone: 020 7628 5962 ext. 260

SAC Workshops at York 2009

Remember to get your applications in before 31 March after which date there is a late booking surcharge.

See front page for dates.

Booking forms available on our website
User Groups

Bucks/Herts  Malcolm Churchill  01494 523961
Wycombe High School
E: mchurchill@whs.bucks.sch.uk

North East  Stuart Oakey  0191 2006333
St Thomas More High School
E: soakey@stmschool.org.uk

Derbys/ Miles Thomson  01246 412372
S Yorks  The Dronfield School
Mthomson@dronfield.derbyshire.sch.uk

Surrey  Diane Graham  020 83352514
Esher College
E: dgraham@esher.ac.uk

Devon/ Sue Kendall  01752 208308
Cornwall  Plymouth Girls School
E: skendall@phsg.org

Wales, S  Tony Galvin  01994 242100
Ysgol Gyfun Dyffryn Taf, Whitland
E: tony@galvin.wanadoo.co.uk

Essex  Rona Gottesman  01245 440232
Chelmer Valley High School
E: rgott@chelmer.essex.sch.uk

Glos  Ashley Mortimer  01531 820550
Newent School
E: mortchem@hotmail.com

Isle of Man  John Kinley  01624 826500
Castle Rushen High School
J.Kinley@crhs.sch.im

Kent  Michael Busfield  01322 226351
The Grammar School for Girls Wilmington
E: smbusfield@gsgw.org.uk

London  Petrina Garton  01689 820101
St Olaves Grammar School
E: pgarto@saintolaves.net

Overseas Groups:

Sweden  Christer Engstrom
Tullinge Gymnasium
S-146 80 Tullinge, Sweden
E: kemisten@telia.com

Germany  Thomas Schlenger
Gymnasium am Kurfürstlichen Schloss
55126 Mainz, Germany
E: tschlenger@verwaltong.schloss-online.de

Germany  Maria Reiner
Are-Gymnasium
53474 Bad Neuenahr, Germany
E: maria.reiner@gmx.de

If you would like to be a User Group coordinator for your area/county, please contact the project office.

User Group Dissemination Day
A2 Changes for September 2009

Salters Advanced Chemistry (SAC) Dissemination Days are for current SAC teachers preparing to teach the new A2 2009 course. These meetings are being hosted and led by our User Group Coordinators, who are experienced SAC teachers in their own centres. They will start at 0900 (except for Esher College, which will start at 1000) and finish at approximately 1530. The meetings will give current SAC users the opportunity to review the changes to the specification and materials. There will be the chance to consider the new scheme of assessment and its implications for teaching the SAC course.

The two centres showing dates TBA will be put on our website along with a downloadable copy of this letter and application form.

There is a £75 fee for the meeting to cover the costs, which include a sandwich lunch.

Teachers/technicians new to the course should attend the residential workshops at York
Your questions answered

One of the good things about Salters Advanced Chemistry is the network of support available for both teachers and technicians. Help is always at hand if you need it. There are three main sources of information depending on the nature of your inquiry and contact addresses are given below. These addresses, and much other information about the course, are on the Salters Advanced Chemistry web site: www.york.ac.uk/org/seg/salters/chemistry/

The Project Office: For enquiries about the course materials and implementation in your school or college, information about the training workshops for teachers and technicians held at York, please contact:

Sandra Wilmott  
Project Administrator  
Salters Advanced Chemistry  
Science Education Group  
Alcuin D Block  
University of York  
York YO10 5DD  
t: 01904 432601  
f: 01904 432605  
e: slw5@york.ac.uk  
web: www.york.ac.uk/org/seg/salters/chemistry/

The Publishers: For enquires about the availability or purchase of the course materials, including information about discounts for bulk purchases, please contact:  
Customer Services  
Heinemann  
Halley Court  
Jordan Hill  
Oxford OX2 8EJ  
t: 01865 888080  
f: 01865 314029  
e: enquiries@pearson.com  
web: www.heinemann.co.uk

The Examinations Board: For copies of specifications, past examination papers, mark schemes and the Teacher Support: Coursework Guidance Booklet for Chemistry (Salters), please contact:  
OCR Publications, PO Box 5050, Annersley, Nottingham NG15 0DL  
t: 0870 7706622  
f: 0870 7706621  
e: publications@ocr.org.uk

For enquiries about INSET meetings please contact:  
OCR Training, Mill Wharf, Mill Street, Birmingham B6 4BU  
t: 0121 6282950  
f: 0121 6282940  
e: tcs@ocr.org.uk

For enquiries about examination entries or results, please contact: OCR, GCE Chemistry B (Salters), 1 Hills Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU  
t: 01223 552552  
f: 01223 553377  
e: helpdesk@ocr.org.uk

For specific enquiries about the examinations and assessment please contact: Hannah Feirn, Qualifications Leader, Chemistry B (Salters), OCR  
t: 01223 553998  
f: 01223 553998  
e: science@ocr.org.uk