

Welcome to your 2020 Chemistry Alumni Newsletter



Dear alumni,

The recent effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have been profound for the world and for each of us. Some of us have lost loved ones, and we all worry about key and essential workers among our families and friends who look after our communities. Our thoughts remain with them and with those who encounter this novel coronavirus. Equally as profound in this global crisis are the positive acts of kindness, charity and forbearance we witness.

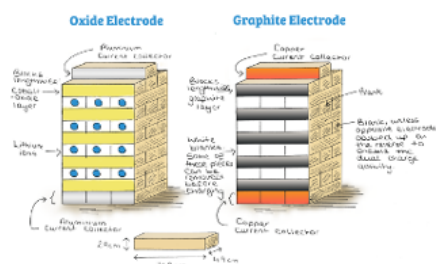
[Read more from Rachel O'Reilly](#)



National award for bringing chemistry to life in schools

A project that uses real-world research to bring chemistry to life for school pupils, linked to the science curriculum, has been recognised with a national award from the Royal Society of Chemistry.

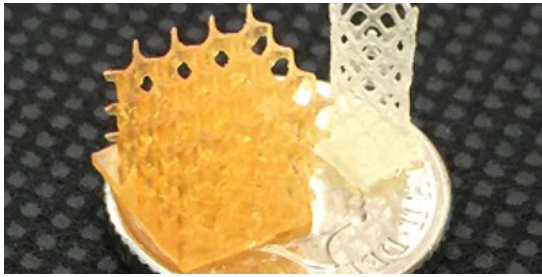
[Find out more](#)



Article Using Jenga to explain lithium-ion batteries

Tower block games such as Jenga can be used to explain lithium-ion batteries to schoolchildren, creating a better understanding of the power source that has become so vital to everyday life.

[Find out more](#)



New spin-out to market novel biomedical 3D printing resins

4D Medicine Ltd launched to commercialise a new class of materials – liquid resins that can be printed into solid 3D scaffolds to help patients recover from major medical procedures more quickly.

[Find out more](#)



The fate and sustainable future of plastic

Due to the environmental impact of their improper disposal, there is growing pressure to rethink our use of, and dependency on, plastics - especially single use plastics.

[Find out more](#)



Birmingham Plastics Network

The University of Birmingham has established the Birmingham Plastics Network, an interdisciplinary team of more than 40 academics. This unique team, led by our very own Professor Andrew Dove, brings together chemists, environmental scientists, philosophers, linguists, economists, artists, writers, lawyers, and experts in many other fields, to address holistically the global plastics problem.

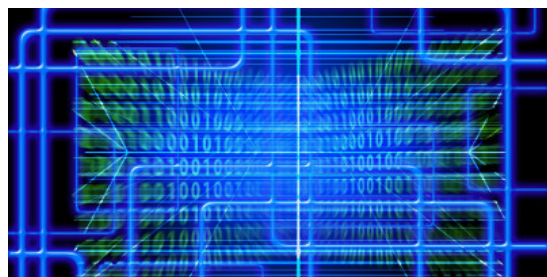
[Find out more](#)



Preventing the spread of infection and disease

It is predicted that by 2050, antibiotic-resistant bacteria could cost the global economy \$100 trillion. We are creating cutting-edge solutions to stop the spread of bacterial, viral and insect-borne diseases.

[Find out more](#)



University spin-out company named one to watch

Co-founded by Professor Jon Preece, Irresistible Materials Ltd is included in the 'Silicon 100: Emerging Start-ups to Watch' for developing materials for the next generation of microchips.

[Find out more](#)



Our response to the COVID-19 crisis

From making hand sanitiser to improving the design of face masks, our researchers are contributing to the global effort to counter the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. Staff and students in the School and wider College of Engineering and Physical Sciences are also supporting the NHS by volunteering their time to fight the outbreak.

[Find out everything we're doing to support the global effort](#)



ChemSoc raise thousands for the Teenage Cancer Trust

Joining forces with staff and the Maths Society with an incredible team of 57, ChemSoc participated in the Birmingham Running Festival in February to raise now more than £5,000 for a very worthy cause!

[Find out more](#)



A very special Virtual EPS Societies' Awards

Sadly we weren't able to hold the usual celebrations for our remarkable student groups, but not to be hindered by a pandemic we took the event online for a unique virtual Awards ceremony.

[Watch the Awards ceremony](#)



Birmingham, STEM Ambassadors and Me

Yvonne Baker, alumna and Chief Executive of STEM Learning, delivered the 2020 EPS Distinguished Lecture in March. Best known for founding the national STEM Ambassadors volunteering scheme, Yvonne is passionate about encouraging school pupils to see the every-day science around them. In her talk, she reflects on her favourite Birmingham memories and shares her thoughts on how we can continue to make science, technology, engineering and maths attractive to the young and not so young.

WE ARE BIRMINGHAM ALUMNI

Share your story and help inspire our students

From recent graduates to industry leaders, you are making important things happen. You can inspire young people and offer an insight into the opportunities awaiting them. Anyone who submits a profile will receive an Old Joe fridge magnet. Never have your stories been more valuable.

[Share your Birmingham story](#)



Helena Dodd: How Birmingham shaped me

As a student Helena was involved in numerous projects championing diversity in science, including founding a Girls in STEM tutoring scheme. Now Lead Judge for the Big Bang Fair she says the opportunities Birmingham presented her with helped shape her into the person she is today.

[Read more about Helena](#)

MENTORING

Could you mentor a student?

We're looking for enthusiastic alumni and professionals to provide expertise and advice to help our students start their careers. Mentoring makes a real difference; we all know the benefits of having someone to bounce ideas off, particularly in these current uncertain times. Your advice is invaluable. If you'd like to be that person, please get in touch.

[Email Grace to become a mentor](#)

News roundup

It is with great sadness that the University of Birmingham has learned of the death of our much-loved friend and former colleague [Dr Colin Patrick](#), aged 90.

MRI scanning assists with [next generation battery design](#).

Led by Professor Jon Preece, spinout company [ChromaTwist](#) has been named 'one to watch' in a competition recognising University-bred entrepreneurs bringing the hottest scientific discoveries into practical applications in medicine and technology.

[New graduate Sabeeka Qureshi launches a careers blog](#) offering advice to students and graduates looking for a jobs or internships in lockdown.

New plastic biomaterials could lead to [tougher, more versatile medical implants](#).

[Professor Rachel O'Reilly](#) receives the Royal Society of Chemistry's Corday-Morgan Prize.

Why did the U.S. crack down on [fruit e-cigarette flavours](#), but not menthol?

A new technique in chemistry could pave the way for producing [uniform nanoparticles for use in drug delivery systems](#).

UK and China scientists developing [new drugs to fight tuberculosis](#).

The [Nobel Prize-winning chemistry](#) in your pocket.

[Malaria Vaccination](#) – The prize is priceless.

Did you graduate in the last 5 years? You're eligible to enter the [6th China International College Students' "Internet Plus" Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition](#).

University of Birmingham [appoints leading computational scientist as Pro-Vice-Chancellor](#) and Head of College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Do we have the correct contact details for you?

Make sure you update your details to ensure you receive the latest news and information about events in your area. [Update now](#)



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