



ROYAL SOCIETY  
OF CHEMISTRY

## RSC Saturday School Scholarship

### Impact report: September 2022

Maximising attainment through diversity and inclusion



Saturday  
School Ltd.

## 1. Introduction

In November 2021, Saturday School Ltd (SSL) was awarded £5000 with a further £2880 from the Royal Society of Chemistry as part of their Diversity and Inclusion Fund. This has led to the formation of the RSC Saturday School Scholarship. The additional funding (£2880) was requested due to the large volumes of applications and difficulty in reaching an awards decision. The generous additional funding meant that all twenty-six applicants were awarded a scholarship with nobody being left disappointed, and it was the strong feeling of the selection team that all twenty-six merited a place. This has since been validated by the effort, attitude and performance of all young people involved.

### **Recommendation 1:**

SSL will reapply for RSC funding in September 2022 with the aim of continuing the programme and supporting more young people; taking on new scholars and ideally offering the current scholars studying N5 the opportunity of support with Higher Chemistry should they choose to continue with the subject at school. SSL would like to explore the possibility of greater funding to increase the number of scholars it can support and also increase the number of classes and subjects scholars can attend; branching into Maths, English and potentially other sciences. SSL would also like to explore how the other learned societies may contribute to new scholarships to mirror the hugely positive impact being made by The RSC. This report and an external evaluation by PK Partners will be published to evidence the impact of our work to potential funders.

*“If the scholarship continues, many people will really gain a lot from Martin as he keeps the students motivated, interactive and the mood lively.”*

**Timilehin**



## 2. Scholarships at Saturday School

The RSC Scholarship is now the second scholarship being delivered by SSL – being run alongside [The Catherine McEwan Foundation Scholarship](#).

[The RSC Scholarship](#) offered learners fully funded attendance at 4 Weekly Lessons and 2 Grade Booster Days in N5/H Chemistry, delivered by fully qualified Chemistry Teachers of SSL. It also gives them unlimited 24/7 access to online support via Google Classroom.

[Weekly Lessons](#) cover areas such as:

- Bonding and properties of materials, Chemical formulae
- Periodicity and trends in the periodic table
- The Mole and concentration calculations
- Chemical bonding and Intermolecular forces
- Alkanes, alkenes, cycloalkanes, alcohols, Isomers, energy from fuels
- Oxidising and Reducing Agents
- Energy from fuels, calculations based on equations, Chemical analysis
- Equilibria
- Getting the most from reactants

[Grade Booster Days](#) 1 and 2 offer a two-part cumulative full course review of Chemistry in preparation for the scholar taking their N5 or Higher exam in the SQA exam diet, typically April/May each year.

### **Recommendation 2:**

Should ongoing funding be given to SSL, an increased number of classes in H Chemistry will be created to cover more course key areas; the increase will be to five Weekly Lessons. In addition, any future increased funding would be used to support scholars in relevant, associated subjects such as Maths, English and other sciences (as per recommendation 1).

*“The teacher was friendly and approachable, she really helped me to fully understand Chemistry. I don’t think I could have achieved the grade I did without her.”*

Lyla







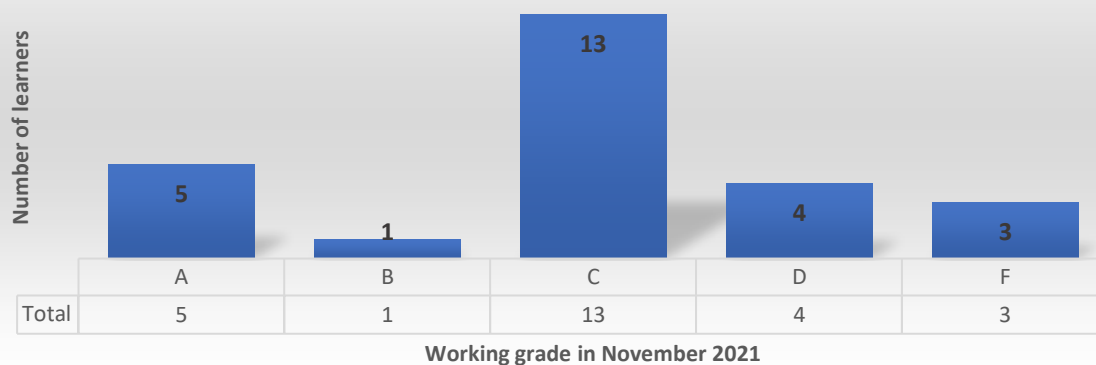
## 4. Scholars

There were twenty-six young people taking part in the RSC Scholarship: seven studying at National 5 and nineteen at Higher level in Chemistry. The cohort for year one represents twelve schools across six local authorities in the West of Scotland.

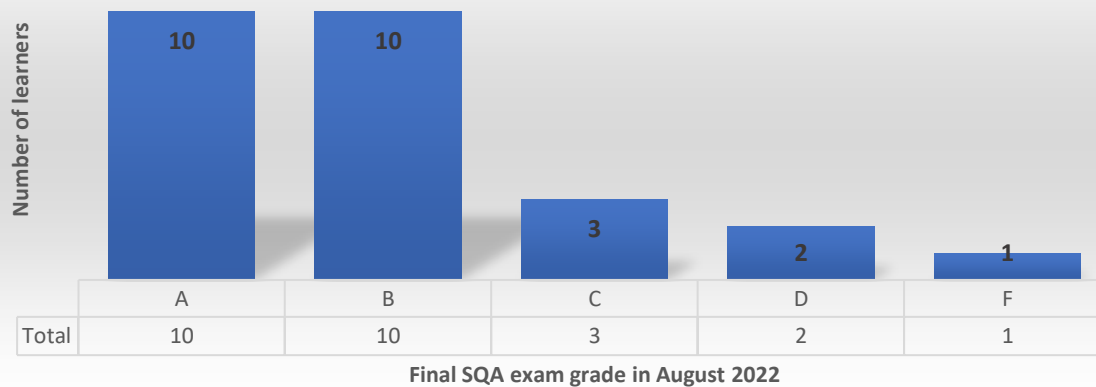
Table 1 - A breakdown of demographics, characteristics and attainment grades:

Scholar (name removed)	Decile	Student gender identity	Student ethnic identity	Level of study	Learning barrier, disability, ESOL	Pre-scholarship working Grade	Final SQA exam grade
1	1	Male	Black Scottish	H	No	C	A
2	1	Male	Pakistani	H	No	C	A
3	8	Female	Asian	H	Yes	F	A
4	9	Female	Black British	H	No	C	A
5	1	Female	Black African	H	No	A	A
6	4	Female	White Scottish	N5	Yes	A	A
7	9	Female	White Scottish	N5	No	C	A
8	9	Female	White	N5	No	A	A
9	2	Female	White	N5	No	A	A
10	10	Female	Persian	H	Yes	C	A
11	7	Male	White Scottish	H	No	D	B
12	8	Female	Black Scottish	H	No	C	B
13	10	Male	Scottish	H	ESOL	B	B
14	1	Female	Asian	H	ESOL	C	B
15	9	Female	White	H	No	D	B
16	9	Female	White	H	Yes	D	B
17	1	Male	Ghanaian	H	No	C	B
18	9	Female	White	N5	No	C	B
19	8	Female	Nigerian	N5	ESOL	A	B
20	8	Female	White	N5	No	C	B
21	9	Female	Scottish Pakistani	H	No	C	C
22	3	Female	White Scottish	H	No	C	C
23	9	Female	White Scottish	H	Yes	C	C
24	3	MALE	White Scottish	H	Yes	F	D
25	6	Female	White Scottish	H	No	F	D
26	1	Female	White	H	No	D	F

## Pre-scholarship working grades of learners - Nov 21



## Final exam grades of learners - Aug 2022



*“The scholarship helped my confidence in Chemistry which then helped me perform throughout the whole year and in my final exam.”*

**Sarah**

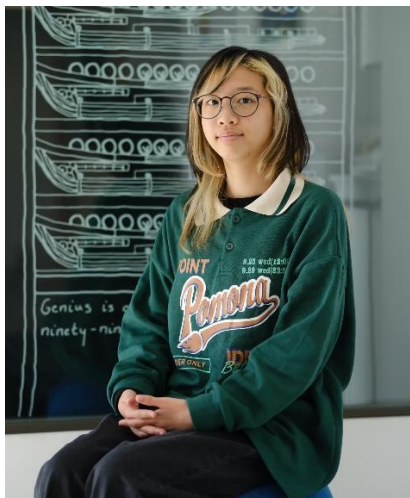


**Recommendation 4:**

SSL welcomes the thoughts of RSC in terms of how well the cohort meets the aims of their Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and how the above results satisfy attainment targets for learners.

*“The classes are really wonderful and useful in my academic studies in Chemistry.”*

**Staria**



*“The teacher brought an energy and passion into the subject that I had never seen before, she made the subject so engaging and vibrant and made me view it in a whole new way.”*

**Freya**

*“The teachers at Saturday School have the ability to teach us the same stuff (as school) but from a different viewpoint, this really helped soak in the knowledge.”*

**Daniela**



*“The scholarship really helped me achieve the grade I got in the exam, it allowed me to improve and get a different approach from school.”*

**Michelle**



## 5. Mid-term data capture

At the end of March 2022, RSC Scholars were asked to take part in a brief survey to capture feedback on how the programme is impacting them. The feedback from scholars at that point was very encouraging with some notable points below:

- Forty-six per cent strongly agree and 46% agree that the RSC Scholarship is sending a message that chemistry is for everyone
- A combined 96% of scholars strongly agree or agree that the RSC scholarship is positively changing perceptions on who can study chemistry, with the same combined figure strongly agreeing or agreeing that inclusion and diversity in science is being promoted
- The scholarship is also showing a high impact on subject performance for our young people with 97% of scholars showing an increase or remarkable increase in subject confidence, 100% reporting an increase in the Knowledge and Understanding aspect of chemistry, seventy-four reporting the same impact in their Problem Solving.
- Fifty-eight per cent of our scholars are now more interested in a future in chemistry as a result of taking part in the programme and all bar one of these young people strongly agree that the scholarship should continue for future years. The Survey export is below (please note questions 1 to 4 were on personal data: first and last name, postcode and school; therefore not shown for GDPR and safeguarding reasons).



5. The scholarship sends a message that "chemistry is for everyone".

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> strongly agree	12
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> agree	12
<span style="color: green;">●</span> neither agree or disagree	2
<span style="color: red;">●</span> disagree	0
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> strongly disagree	0



6. The scholarship is positively changing perceptions on who can study chemistry.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> strongly agree	14
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> agree	11
<span style="color: green;">●</span> neither agree or disagree	1
<span style="color: red;">●</span> disagree	0
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> strongly disagree	0



7. The scholarship is promoting inclusion and diversity in chemistry/science.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> strongly agree	18
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> agree	7
<span style="color: green;">●</span> neither agree or disagree	1
<span style="color: red;">●</span> disagree	0
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> strongly disagree	0



8. I would like to see the RSC Scholarship continue so that more people can benefit in future years

[More Details](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> strongly agree	23
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> agree	2
<span style="color: green;">●</span> neither agree or disagree	1
<span style="color: red;">●</span> disagree	0
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> strongly disagree	0



9. The scholarship has increased my general confidence in chemistry.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

strongly agree	16
agree	9
neither agree or disagree	1
disagree	0
strongly disagree	0



10. As an RSC Scholar, my knowledge and understanding in chemistry is

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

remarkably increasing	4
increasing	22
staying the same	0
decreasing	0
remarkably decreasing	0



11. As an RSC Scholar, my problem solving skills in chemistry are

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

remarkably increasing	4
increasing	18
staying the same	4
decreasing	0
remarkably decreasing	0



12. As an RSC Scholar, my grades in chemistry (tests, assessments, homework) are

[More Details](#)


[Insights](#)

remarkably increasing	6
increasing	16
staying the same	4
decreasing	0
remarkably decreasing	0



13. In terms of your future career/study, how big a part will chemistry play?

[More Details](#)


 Insights

- Significant - I aim to work/stu... 5
- Some - I aim to work/study in ... 19
- None - I don't see myself stud... 2



14. Based on your answer to question 12, how has the scholarship affected your future career/study plans?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

- Made me more interested in a... 16
- No real change 10
- Made me less interested in a f... 0



## 6. Next steps

This report, along with an independent impact report and evaluation by PK Partners will be published and shared online in September 2022. Saturday School will continue to develop this and other existing scholarships whilst seeking funding to add new offers to the scholarship portfolio. It is hoped that in the years to come, SSL will have a broad suite of scholarship offers which support many more young people.

*“Attending SSL has helped to significantly improve my grades in higher Chemistry. My tutor was very supportive and helpful, giving us new ways to remember things and improving my understanding.”*

**Tiana**



For more information on any aspect of this report or the wider work of Saturday School Ltd, contact [info@saturdayschoolscotland.com](mailto:info@saturdayschoolscotland.com) or visit [www.saturdayschoolscotland.com](http://www.saturdayschoolscotland.com).