Fire Precautions

In the light of recent events, I would be grateful if all readers who work in a lab area could check their workplace urgently for fire safety:

1. Are there unnecessary flammable materials present in the lab that can be removed? Used packing materials should always be removed from the lab as soon as they are finished with and taken to the external waste store. Do not keep piles of empty cardboard boxes, plastic packing or film or waste paper in a lab (or indeed in an office area). Excess lab coats should also be removed.

2. Do not keep large stocks of flammable items such as paper towels, gloves, plastic syringes and containers in the lab. Only take the minimum amount required out from the store at any one time. In the event of a lab fire, the presence of large amounts of such “fuel” makes things very much worse.

3. Storage of flammable solvents is critically important. They should be inside a fire-proof cabinet at all times except while being dispensed. The common practice of having a 5 litre plastic bottle of acetone beside each sink for washing up is not allowed. You can fill (max 500 mL) wash bottles from the 5L container but it must be kept in the fire-proof cabinet. If anyone has seen a 5 litre bottle of acetone burn in a lab they would understand why.

4. Again, please control the stocks of solvents in labs to a reasonable level. There is no reason to have more than one bottle of each solvent in use at a given time. Storage of, for example, 4 x 5 litre bottles of acetone in a single small lab is inexcusable. Also, please limit the amount of waste solvent present by taking bottles down to the store as soon as they are full.

We will be monitoring compliance in this area over the coming weeks.

RAA
School Safety Coordinator

BBC Children in Need

Donating your cash to BBC Children in Need will help change the lives of children and young people throughout the UK. The BIG Spotacular week for BBC Children in Need starts on Monday, 13th November and we would like you to get involved.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OLD ROUND POUNDS?
Check your jam jars, money boxes and down the back of the sofa to see how many you can find. Get involved and put your round pounds to good use.

TIME TO GO QUACKERS
Donate £2 and pick a duck. Your chosen duck will be put in a hat and drawn on the 17th November at 1.00 pm. There is a prize for the winning duck. James Pond, Jemima-in-a-Muddle Duck, Ra-pond-zel and Freddie Flapper are just a few of the 20 ducks available to choose.

WEAR SOMETHING DOTTY on Friday, 17th and donate £1.
Feel free to choose all, one or none of the above, it’s all just for fun.

Come and choose your duck or donate your cash in the General Office (room 211) before Friday, 17th November at 12.00 pm.

School of Chemistry Colloquium

EaSTCHEM Colloquium
Please note change of usual time
Wednesday 15th, 2.00 pm, Lecture Theatre C
Prof Sylvia Draper (Trinity College, Dublin) – The ‘Opti-mystic’ Tailoring of Conjugated Light-emitting Materials
New Faces

Tanvir Imam comes from Bangladesh and obtained BSc and MSc degrees at Shahjalal University there. He then did a PhD at the University of Warwick, followed by postdoctoral work at Texas A & M University. He is currently researching applications of artificial metalloenzymes in homogeneous catalysis with PCJK/ADS and has interests in travel, music, sports and cooking.

Vanessa Pimenta comes from Portugal and completed a BSc degree there, followed by masters and PhD degrees in France, the latter at the Université du Maine in Le Mans. She carried out postdoctoral work in France before coming here in July to work with REM. She has interests in cooking, travel and visiting museums and art exhibitions.

External Colloquia

Public Lecture
Monday 13th, 5.15 pm, Physics Lecture Theatre A
Rev Prof John Chryssavgis (Theological advisor on environmental matters to Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew) – A Christian Response to the Ecological Crisis

Museums, Galleries and Collections Institute Annual Lecture
Friday 24th, 6.30 pm, Upper College Hall, Old Quad
Alissandra Cummins (Director, Barbados Museum and Historical Society) – Plantation to Nation: Museums and Caribbean Identity

The lecture will be preceded by a drinks reception at 5.30 pm in the School of Art History, 79 North Street.

All are welcome but an e-ticket is required. Please go to: https://goo.gl/CA7h3T to obtain the ticket and bring it along to the event.