Top of the Bench is a national competition run by the RSC for 14-16 year old students. The competition starts in the RSC local sections where competition heats are organised for schools in the local area to select a team to represent the local section in the UK Final.

The teams should consist of two students from Year 9, one from Year 10 and one from Year 11. The Bristol Section would like to encourage as many schools as possible to take part in the heats. However we are limited to only 12 teams due to space restrictions!

**Format of the Heats**
There will be two practical exercises and a chemistry knowledge quiz both of which rely on team work. Students are encouraged to bring their own lab coats and safety glasses. If notified in advance Bristol ChemLabS will be able to provide these.

A demonstration lecture will follow the competition and will precede the competition results (more details to follow).

**Refreshments** will also be available.

**BA Science Communicators Award**
Participation in this event may be counted towards four hours of a BA Science Communicators Award. For further details please see:

http://www.the-ba.net/the-ba/ResourcesforLearning/Sciencecommunicators/

**The Finals**
The Final is normally held the following March/April at the Science Museum in London and is organised by the Education Department of the RSC. It comprises three events:

- A short test of factual chemical knowledge,
- A practical chemical problem solving team exercise
- An information gathering exercise in the Science Museum.

Prizes are given for the best overall school performance (the Top of the Bench Team) and for the five runner up teams, plus the Jacqui Clee Award for an outstanding individual contribution to the day.

**Entry details**
If you are interested in entering the local heat at the University of Bristol on 7 November, please email: Sue Williams (sue.williams@bris.ac.uk) as soon as possible (we regret that due to space restrictions we will have to operate on a first come, first served basis!). You will then be sent an entry form.