

In entering into this week I knew I was interested in science, but by visiting the likes of St. James Hospital, RCSI and The Advanced Microscopy Labs, to see the remarkable work they are doing, I have no doubt about pursuing science at third level and later into a full time career. Using equipment such as the SEM and FIB is something I never thought I'd get a chance to do. To see the amazing research being done in the cancer research facilities in St. James, about how the cancerous cells interact and that the work researchers are doing will all come to aid the eradication of this terrible disease in time to come, isn't something everyone can say they've seen. The visit to RCSI was probably one of the best parts of the week. We got to see how the researchers there were making scaffolds out of collagen and other chemicals and materials, it was extremely fascinating how they can manipulate the materials. Nanoscience was included in almost all the activities and being able to observe how the nanowires and other nanomaterials work and interact was phenomenal. The week contained aspects of physics, chemistry and biology which gave us a feel for all the categories of science instead of being specific in one area. It has completely opened my mind to a variety of courses and careers I could obtain by choosing a science course.

I thoroughly enjoyed the whole learning experience from the AMBER Exploring Science TY programme and would strongly advise any TY student with an interest in science to apply as it will really stand to you when picking your subjects for Senior Cycle and your future career in science.

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