

In having been given the opportunity to work in the AMBER exploring materials course for a week, I was given the opportunity to gain a valuable insight into the world of researchers and was able to work with some of the leading scientific researchers in the world. It is such a rarity for students as young as ourselves to be immersed into a world such as that of the phd researchers.

For example, upon our arrival in St. James's hospital on Tuesday afternoon we met Laura Kickham. Laura is currently researching, and is extremely close to, finding a cure for leukaemia alternate to chemotherapy. This works on the basis that cells have adhesive properties that allow them stick to surfaces, in this instance, veins. However Laura's research has found away to lessen the cell's adhesive properties unsticking them from the vein wall. This allows the cells to be then targeted in the blood stream. Hopefully when the research is completed it will be able to be applied to all types of cancer.

Another aspect of the course I enjoyed greatly was the focus and emphasis on careers and third level courses in science. On Wednesday morning we had a talk called Smart Futures in which we were told all about the career and third level prospects in science. The talk on Wednesday afternoon about how to start up a business was also a very good indication of how to find a career in science.

Overall the week was a great experience. Obviously for the incredible scientific work that we were involved in, but as well because it let us see what college life is like. To be able to soak in the wonderful atmosphere of Trinity college and it's surroundings. That in itself is a week well spent. Then to add in all the things we did makes for quite an amazing week. As I said before, it is not often that a TY student will be given an opportunity such as this and I would urge anyone with the slightest interest in science to apply.

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