Local school children had the chance to find out where an A level in chemistry could lead them in an event organised within the School of Chemistry, Food Bioscience and Pharmacy. The event, organised jointly by staff in the School and Dr Rachel South from the Widening Participation office, aimed to give Year 12 students an idea of some of the exciting careers available to them by studying the chemical sciences to a higher level.

Over forty pupils from local Aim Higher schools spent the day at the university taking part in a number of hands-on activities including making their own pharmaceutical cream, taking fingerprints and blood analysis as a forensic scientist and discovering the antioxidant properties of chocolate.

The pupils also attended a “Question time” style session in which current students from each Department talked about their experiences of university life, with questions ranging from why they chose their subject or career pathway, to the best things about the university social life.

The event was very well received by both pupils and teachers with many comments such as “it was good to be able to try out something new that we would not normally be able to” and “we enjoyed being able to take part in the activities instead of just sitting and listening”.

The event was part funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry’s “Chemistry: The Next Generation” initiative which aims to promote the excitement of chemical sciences as a subject and demonstrate good career opportunities to schools and college students that are under represented in Higher Education.