

### Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower 6th

Thank you for participating in the 2021 Chemistry Challenge for Lower Sixth (year 12). This has again been a very challenging year for students and teachers throughout the world and we have been very mindful of the challenges that everyone has encountered as we all attempt to keep some degree of normality in the education process. We have been very heartened by the many messages to us from schools, telling us how important the C3L6 paper is to their students and we have very much enjoyed seeing the high quality of work that many young people have produced under a whole range of difficult conditions. The paper was sat both remotely and face-to-face in schools and we would like to thank all those teachers who have worked hard to ensure that all work was completed in as fair a way as possible.

After the year of difficulties in 2020, the mark ranges for the different awards have returned to those seen in the previous years of our competition. We feel confident, therefore, that the award of Roentgenium certificates again this year is both valid and fair. The only difference in the spread of the 7270 non-zero marks that we observed this year was that there were far more students who scored very few marks (<5). We wonder whether this was caused by students giving up too easily and being unwilling to search the paper for the easy marks that always exist. That said, this has not affected the proportion of students being awarded the different levels of certificate. As in previous years, we have moderated the marking of all the top-scoring scripts to ensure fairness across the cohort; this is always a mammoth task and we thank all those teachers who entered all the required data carefully and accurately into the newly-designed website. This makes our job of correlating student scores with schools so much more manageable! That said, mistakes in school or candidate name inevitably end up being automatically transferred through to the certificates that we print.

We hope very much that Government and University rules will allow us to invite the Roentgenium award holders to the camps in Cambridge later in the year and we will be contacting schools with these details in due course. A breakdown of the marks awarded this year can be found overleaf.

#### Supporters of C3L6



St Catharine's College  
Cambridge



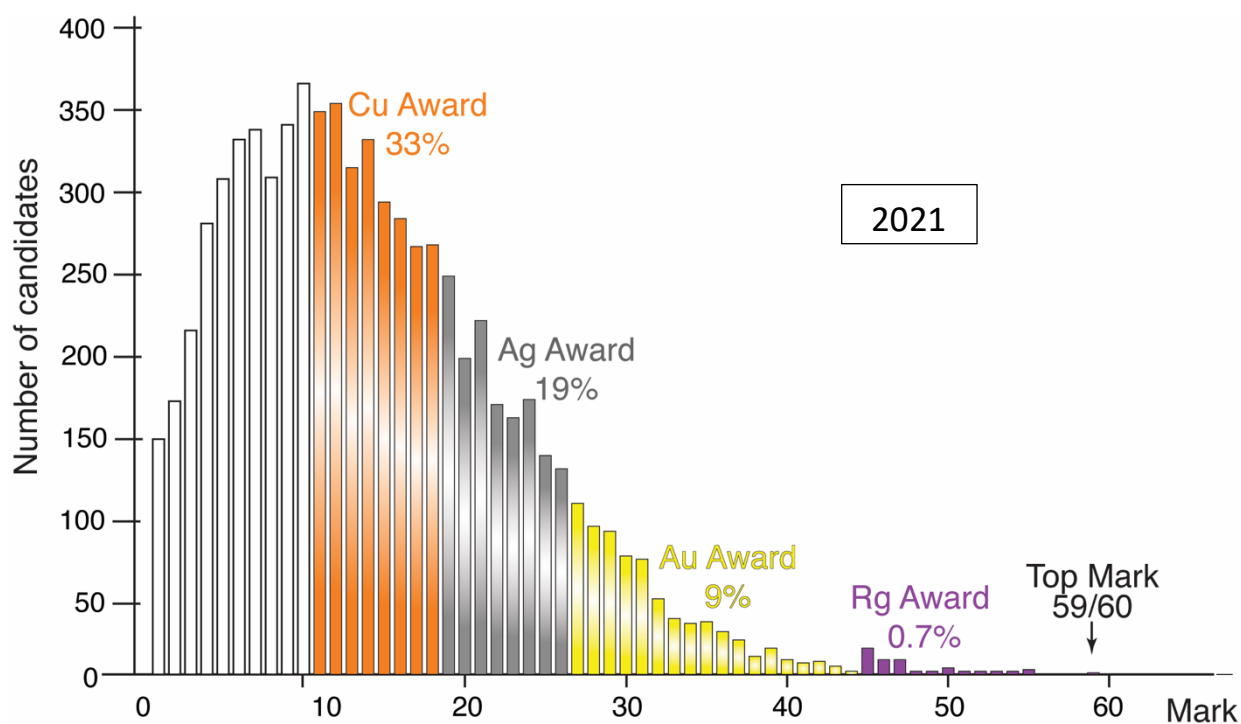
University of Cambridge  
Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry

#### The C3L6 committee

Andrea Chlebikova  
Joe Cooper  
Tim Hersey  
Dean Holt  
Kathryn Scott  
Andrew Worrall  
Peter Wothers

## Results Summary

Award	Mark	Number of Students	Percentage
Roentgenium	45-60	54	0.74%
Gold	27-44	671	9.2%
Silver	19-26	1394	19.2%
Copper	11-18	2407	33.1%
No award	0-10	2744	37.7%



Shown below are the profiles from last year's high-scoring online paper, and from the 2019 paper (which was marked out of 64). All previous profiles were similar to the 2019 set of results.

