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Park student wins chemistry gold

A chemistry student from Park College has been awarded a gold certificate in a competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Jo French, 18, who lives in Hastings and previously attended Grove Park School, obtained a gold certificate in the Chemistry Olympiad, one of only 166 students in the United Kingdom to achieve this standard.

The Olympiad involved taking a challenging written test of chemical knowledge. Mike Dixon, Head of Park College, said: "We are tremendously proud of the work Jo has done at Park. She has also done exceptionally well in the National Maths Challenge and she makes the effort to support students around her who may find science and maths a little more demanding than she does."

Jo is currently studying for A levels in biology, physics, chemistry and further maths at Park and has been offered a place at Keble College Oxford to study maths in September.

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Student embarks on journey of a lifetime



A Sussex Downs College student is about to embark on the journey of a lifetime to Namibia, Lesotho and South Africa.

Tom Evans, 17, who lives in Eastbourne and is studying Art and Design National Diploma, is one of 24 young people across the UK who has been chosen to by the

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Journey of a Lifetime (JoLt) trust to take part in a challenging expedition. Every two years JoLt organise trips to far flung destinations all over the world for groups of young people with significant disadvantages.

The trips are not designed to be easy, but taxing journeys in harsh environments that demand a great deal from the young people and those who accompany them. But they are also hugely rewarding, leaving participants with lasting memories of amazing places and a real sense of achievement. The planned itinerary includes travelling through remote regions, quad biking, sand sledging, rock climbing, bush experiences and visiting local schools amongst other activities.

Tom, who has restricted growth syndrome and has spent much of his life in hospital, was nominated for the challenge by his tutor Louise Bell.

Louise explained: "I nominated Tom because of his amazingly positive attitude towards life, despite having spent so much time in hospital Tom really embraces everything in life as a challenge and has worked hard to complete all his GCSEs and his college course. The charity stated that the young people they chose would need to be able to contribute to the group and get something out of the trip and I knew Tom would do both and gain from the trip on so many different levels."

Tom has been offered a place at Buckinghamshire University to study furniture design in September and explained: "I am going to use the trip for research purposes for my course and I plan to document my trip through photography which is a great opportunity for me."

Tom concluded: "I've never done anything like this before and I'm really looking forward to the challenge".

To make the trip possible each young person is expected to raise a proportion of the overall cost of the trip. Tom needs to raise at least £600 for the charity before he goes in July and has so far received donations from individuals and local businesses. Tom has pledged to give anyone who sponsors him £20 or more a disc of his favourite photos from the trip. Anyone interested in sponsoring Tom should email Louise Bell at louise.bell@sussexdowns.ac.uk or post cheques (made payable to JoLt) to Louise Bell at Sussex Downs College, Cross Levels Way.

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