**Transitions into Higher Education**

Jacquie is very passionate about providing a supportive environment where students can develop and thrive as independent learners. She has developed and runs the Chemistry Department’s induction activities, which includes activities running during induction week and also throughout level 1. She has developed online resources to help familiarise Chemistry students with the course and the Department before they start their degree programmes.

Jacquie is also working on strategies to allow students to become more independent in their approach to their studies. To aid the transition between sixth form study and degree level, she assists undergraduates in developing their practical and mathematical skills. As a qualified teacher, she is involved in many of the department’s Outreach activities, including taking Harry Potter-style ‘potions’ lessons out to local primary and secondary schools.

Jacquie’s learning activities aim to be student-centred, inclusive and interactive. Her first year lab course takes a blended approach, combining 1:1 laboratory contact with students with a full suite of online support resources and regular contact emails and invitations for questions and queries.

Much of Jacquie’s work has focussed on setting up a Learning Mentor Scheme in Chemistry, in partnership with postgraduate student Alexandra Tyson, to support those students who come via the Supported Progression (SP) scheme, the Foundation Centre and international students. Two of the postgraduate Learning Mentors have recently taken this further to develop the ‘thrive not survive’ project, bringing undergraduate students into their research laboratories with the aim of increasing their aspirations.

She, for all students, is invaluable in supporting the transition to university and going above and beyond to help ease students into becoming independent learners.

*“Without Jacquie I would have felt a lot more lost and overwhelmed than I have this year, and she certainly deserves recognition for the vast amount of time and effort she puts into making our transition from school to university as smooth as possible, and for her exemplary organisation of a first year lab course.”*

**Isabel Dungworth, Chemistry student**

*“Her enthusiasm for the subject is obvious, though her true strength might be said to be her ability to instil such in others. Truly an outstanding lecturer, one the university, and we students, are very fortunate to have.”*

**Michael Anderson, Chemistry student**
“Personally Jacquie has been a massive source of inspiration to me, she has guided me through my teaching and outreach activities at the university with kindness and expertise and really taught me to love what I am doing. As a direct result of that course, myself and two fellow students successfully applied for funding from the RSC to set up an outreach scheme for Scout and Guide groups in the local area.

ChemSG has now been running for almost 3 years and thousands of children have been visited, this would not have happened without Jacquie.”
Beth Kazmierski, PhD Chemistry Student

For further information on Chemistry at Durham see www.durham.ac.uk/chemistry/undergraduate