



45th Chemistry Education Conference Programme on Saturday October 24th 2026 in the University of Limerick

‘Sustaining Good Practices in Chemistry Education in Times of Change’

9.45 Welcome

10.00 Plenary lecture

‘Curious teachers: investigations in secondary chemistry’

[Dr Lynda Dunlop](#), Director of Education, Environmental Sustainability,
University of York, UK

Recent structural changes to the Leaving Certificate Chemistry specification foreground inquiry through the controversial introduction of the Chemistry in Practice investigation. This talk will examine international research and practice on investigation in chemistry, sharing stories of curious teachers and curiouser students, identifying creative reactions to practical challenges faced by schools committed to inquiry in chemistry.

10.45: ‘Chemistry Simulations for Senior Cycle’, Dr. De Van Vo, Postdoctoral Fellow.
IRC/ EPI-STEM/Eli Lilly Limerick

11.15 Coffee break and exhibitions

11.45 Workshop session 1

Royal Society of Chemistry Ireland	Bernal Institute/ Rinn, UL	EPI-STEM / School of Education, UL	Department of Chemical Sciences, UL	OIDE, Department of Education
<i>Make and Take Rates of Reaction for AAC's</i> Dr. John O'Donoghue	<i>Health & Safety</i> Dr. Martin McHugh, Rinn, UL	<i>Chemistry Pedagogy</i> Associate Professor Aishling Flaherty & Assistant Professor Pat Dundon	<i>Chemistry Magic in the Classroom</i> Eoin McNamara, UL	<i>OIDE Chemistry Support Demonstration</i> Sean Kelleher, OIDE

12.45 Lunch break and exhibitions

13.30: 'Engaging Students in Chemistry: Approaches and Experiences from my Classroom', Conor Eivers, Sacred Heart Secondary School, Drogheda.

13.50 Workshop session 2

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14.45: **‘The Elements of Change - Assessment of Leaving Certificate Chemistry’**, Dr. Lisa Darley, Chief Examiner Leaving Certificate Chemistry, State Examinations Commission

15.15: **‘Transform ED and Beyond: Reframing Science Education in Northern Ireland’**, Aoife Ryan, Education Coordinator for Northern Ireland at the Royal Society of Chemistry.

15.30: **Chemistry Education-Industry**, Michael Kilkelly, Senior Executive EHS Biopharmachem Ireland, IBEC

15.45 **Panel Discussion** facilitated by **Professor Geraldine Mooney-Simmie** [Director EPI-STEM the National Centre for STEM Education and Professor of STEM Education University of Limerick], and **Dr. Peter Childs** [Emeritus Associate Professor Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Limerick]

16.30 **Close of conference**

EXHIBITORS

Folens Publishers	OIDE	RSCI
Lennox	Ocon Chemicals	EPISTEM