



## CATERHAM SCHOOL

### **Caterham School Pupil to represent UK at Chemistry Olympiad in Moscow**

The Royal Society of Chemistry has selected a 6<sup>th</sup> Form pupil from Caterham School to be one of a team of four pupils who will travel to Moscow to represent the UK in the 39<sup>th</sup> International Chemistry Olympiad.

The pupil chosen is Jerry Zak who is from the Czech Republic but has been at Caterham for two years and is one of the 11% of this year's leavers who have been offered places at Oxbridge. He is planning to go to St Catherine's Cambridge to read Natural Sciences.

Begun in 1968, the International Chemistry Olympiad is a competition for pupils that is intended to promote international contacts in chemistry. This year it will be held in Moscow on 14 – 24 July 2007 and 68 countries will be taking competing. The Olympiad involves a 5-hour theoretical and a 5-hour experimental test at the Moscow State University.

The selection process organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry consisted of three rounds of challenging competition. The first round was so challenging that a number of schools did not submit any entries. Of the 372 schools registered only 265 schools took part although 1360 papers were received. In this round Jerry Zak won a Gold Certificate which entitled him to a visit to Cambridge for lectures and workshops on university-level chemistry. The second round was held at Keele University and involved a theoretical paper and an experimental paper. The tasks ranged from quantum chemistry to the biochemistry of polypeptides. Jerry emerged as one of the top candidates coming first in the theory paper and second overall. At the end of round two, four candidates were so far ahead of the competition that they were declared the winners and round three was used as practice. The other members of the team are two pupils from Winchester College and one from Latymer Upper School, London.

Jerry Zak Said: "Despite all the hard work I had a great time and enjoyed meeting chemists from other schools. I am looking forward to visiting Moscow and I shall do my best in the Olympiad and represent Great Britain to the best of my ability."

Headmaster Rob Davey said: 'The school has a well founded reputation for high academic standards across all subjects and, of course, the sciences have been a traditional strength. We believe that science is exciting, enjoyable and rewarding. Jerry is a particularly talented young man who has epitomised our philosophy and it is not surprising that he performed so well in this excellent competition. We wish him well in the Olympiad and at University.'

