

Lower 6 respect the rhubarb



Lower 6 have been investigating the transport mechanisms across the cell membrane in Biology and this week they have had practical opportunities to investigate this further. The pupils had to extract sections of rhubarb tissue that were just one cell thick and then investigate the movement of water across the membrane by placing them in different concentrations of salt solutions. When rhubarb is placed in high concentrations of salt, water moves out of the cell by a process called osmosis causing the cell membrane to pull away from the cell wall. This can be observed in individual rhubarb cells. This year's practical was particularly more interesting; under advice from our new technician, Mr Sigsworth, he suggested that we use rhubarb instead of onion as the colour in the rhubarb is so pronounced. We were all very impressed with the results and the impact of salt on the cells was very clear.

Below are some photos of the cells we obtained. Thank you Mr Sigsworth for this modification - we respect the rhubarb!

Dr Sara Newton

