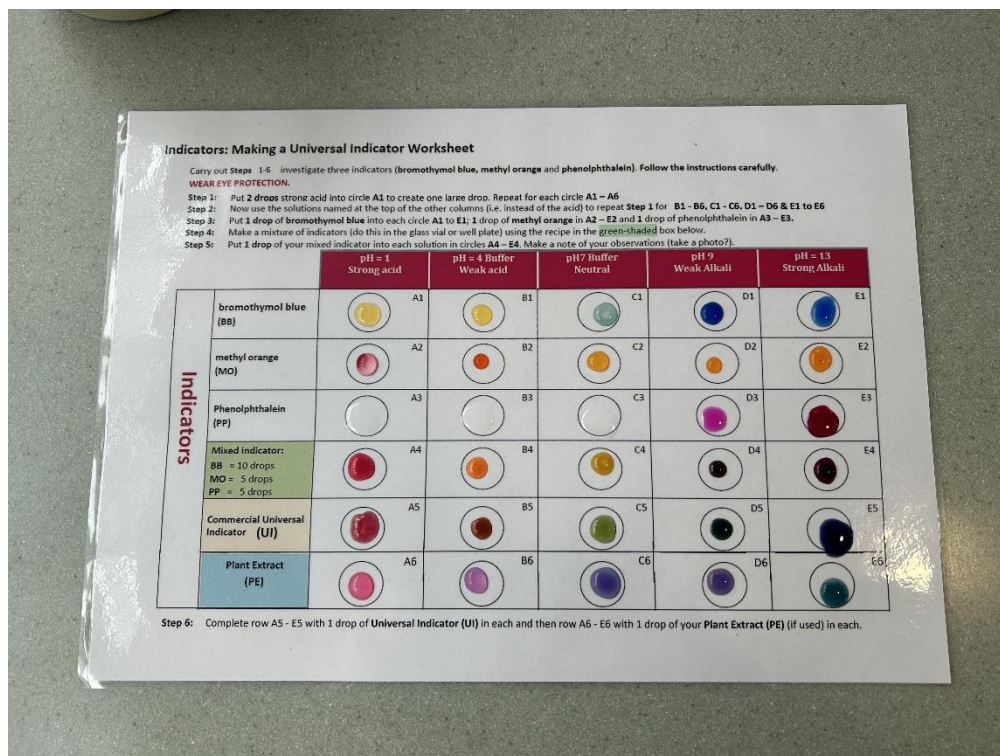


Colourful chemistry



As part of the recent A Level taster day, some Upper 5 budding chemists looked at colourful chemistry. We discussed the metals that caused the colours in fireworks and ignited some hydrogen filled balloons dipped in coloured metal ions to give some lovely colourful explosions. We then went on to investigate the colours made by different indicators when mixed with acids and alkalis of differing strengths.

The pupils used a range of different commercial indicators, then mixed these together to make a universal indicator. They then extracted the colour from red cabbage and used this as well. As can be seen in the results board above, they developed a range of colours with all the different indicators which gave rise to a lovely patchwork of shades.

Mrs Sophie King