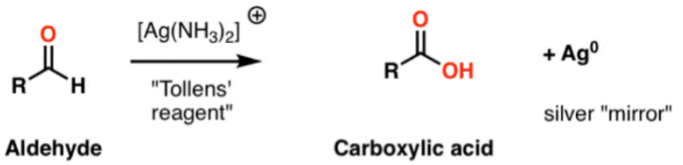
Silver mirrors



This week, the Lower 6 chemistry group were involved in the intriguing task of synthesising organic compounds. Their experiment focused on the conversion of ethanol, a common type of alcohol, through oxidation using potassium dichromate as the oxidising agent. To refine the resulting product, they utilised the process of distillation. Subsequently, they carried out tests to verify the occurrence of partial oxidation.

One notable test they performed, known as the 'silver mirror' test, acquired its name from the distinct outcome it yields: a delicate silver coating forms on the inner surface of the test tube. This chemical procedure holds historical significance, reminiscent of early mirror-making methods. Interestingly, this technique can be traced back to the pioneering work of German chemist Justus von Liebig in 1835, celebrated for his contributions to condenser technology. Liebig developed a process for depositing silver on the rear surface of glass, which revolutionised mirror production during his time. However, modern mirror manufacturing has advanced beyond this outdated technique.

Mr Ali Bahcaci