

Lower 6 investigate cell transport in beetroot membranes



Lower 6 have been investigating the transport mechanisms across the cell membrane in biology and have had practical opportunities to investigate this further. The pupils had to explore the effect of temperature on the integrity of the cell membrane and identify the point at which the proteins in the membranes were denatured. At this point the beetroot cells are unable to contain the purple pigment in the cells and it leaks out at a rapid rate to the surrounding water. They measured how much light could be transmitted through the pigment stained water at different temperatures using a colorimeter in order to plot a graph and make conclusions. Apart from a few purple stained fingers in the process, the practical was a complete success!

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