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To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my reaction to my visit to the summer school in 2017, where I had been invited to give a lecture: my title was *The communication of chemistry*. I had also been asked to interact with the participants. I spent two days at the school, and had plenty of time to see classes in action and to interact with the participants in the informal setting of the communal meals.

I was uncertain what to expect, as 'high school' means so many different things depending on the country, and there was a wide mixture of nationalities present. The students were totally committed to their projects and the broader activities of the school, and exhibited a level of sophistication that I found impressive. They clearly knew a great deal more about their activities than I did, and although I went as 'instructor' I felt present as 'student'. In the event, I was humbled. The members of the staff were also totally engrossed in their involvement with the students.

It should be clear that I was most impressed. The fact that the scale of the school is quite small means that the staff can interact intimately with the students, and engender a serious attitude to their studies. The students, who seemed well chosen, worked together and clearly learned not only science but social and scientific interaction. That earlier students return as instructors was a component of this success, for they knew what works and what doesn't.

Small scale it might be, but it is impressively intense and effective. I hope funds are made available for its continuation, for it is a jewel among all the laudable efforts to encourage the young into science.

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