This year saw the second annual Young Scientists Journal Photography Competition. We invited students aged 18 and under to take photos using any camera, phone, or other device to compete for prizes according to their age group, related to a scientific theme. These included: the general theme of ‘Medicine in Culture’ open to anyone under 18, ‘Science in detail’ for those aged 16-18 years, ‘Networking’ for those aged 12-15 years and ‘Speedy Science’ for those under 12 years of age.

The panel of judges consisted of – Miss Christina Astin (Head of Science at The King’s School, Canterbury), Mr Cordeaux (Director of Art at The King’s School, Canterbury), Ajay Sharman (Regional Manager of STEMnet for South East England) and Dun can Armour (Science teacher at Simon Langton Boys School, Canterbury). I would like to thank them for the time and effort they put into judging the entries. I present the winners and runners up of each category, who received prizes in the form of amazon vouchers.

This is a high magnification photograph of aspirin crystals, taken through a microscope under polarised light. Jack Campbell says ‘Aspirin is one of the most widely used medications in many different cultures throughout the world, so my inspiration for this photo was to capture this familiar drug in an unusual way that is not seen in everyday life. Capturing this photograph involved the use of a technique known as polarised light microscopy. This involves the use of two polarising filters positioned perpendicular to each other in the field of view of the microscope. As the light passes from air into the aspirin crystals it refracts due to the higher refractive index of the crystals. As white light is composed of many different wavelengths of light, each wavelength is refracted to a different extent. This results in the full spectrum of vivid colours in this image.’
This is a close up photo of pollination in action. Matthew Law says ‘This photo was taken on my trip to Portugal. Bees have now been widely used in medicine – bee stings have been used to treat arthritis and other joint ailments. Honey is full of B vitamins and it can also be used as a topical salve to treat burns and wounds, due to its antibacterial qualities.’

Zhang Zhuoxin says ‘This is the heart and soul nebula, at the edge of the distant horizon, hidden in the depths of the mystery of the universe, such a beautiful heart of the universe. I spent a week’s time to take it and a month’s time to deal with it. Finally I got such a beautiful photo. I used my teacher star Observatory CSP devices.’

Henry Orlebar says that ‘this photo is centred around a large padlock which is surrounded by small locks which are signed and have messages on them. It is in order to represent people leaving their mark of emotion on the surrounding people who read and acknowl-
edge their feelings, in the same way as Face-
book and Twitter, these padlocks are people
 statuses. This picture was taken on the Pont
des Arts, Paris. This bridge is covered with
‘Love-locks’ stating people’s love for one
another. I took this when on my holiday to
Paris.’

Once Liwen Yang saw that the theme of the
competition was going to be ‘Networking’,
she ‘came up with two words – nature, and
humanity.’ She chose the latter, and says that
‘networking gave a lot of people the hope of
life, people from all over the world are linked
together through networking, and this great
creation represents the intelligence nature
has given us. However, on the dark side,
the nun I drew represents love, virtues, happiness and
the bright side, while the devil is a symbol of
pain, hatred, revenge, and the dark side.’

This beautiful photo of two cheetahs was
taken by Jessica Bennett, who says ‘I was
inspired to take this photo because cheetahs
are amazing creatures, perfectly engineered
for speed. They are the fastest land animals
in the world, getting up to 75 miles per hour
in short bursts and accelerating to 40mph in
three strides. To maximise their speed they
are aerodynamic with a slender body, small
head, long legs, and a flattened rib cage.'
They have an enormous heart to pump a lot of blood with large lungs and nostrils for lots of air intake needed during acceleration.’

Thank you to all the photographers who submitted their photos – in many cases the judging was very close because of the high standard of photos that we received. Several photos were given a special mention which can be seen on the website.

**About the Author**

Sophie Brown is a Year 13 student at the King’s School Canterbury. She is studying Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Maths for A level and hopes to study Chemistry at University.